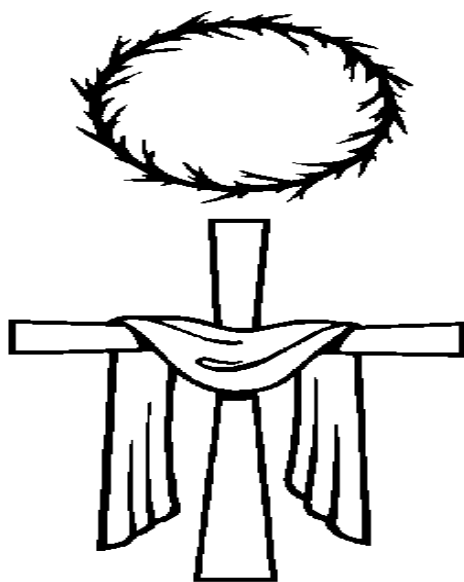


PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



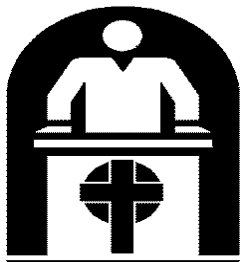
SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Breinigsville, PA

FEBRUARY 2021



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,

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent on February 17th. It is a 40 day journey to Easter. Hear the word of the Lord: “The Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart” (Deuteronomy 8:2). God set the Israelites free from slavery in Egypt and

brought them through the Red Sea. He led them through the desert for 40 years, testing them and shaping them as his people. At the end of their journey, they stood ready to enter the Promised Land.

Hear again the word of the Lord: “Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil” (Luke 4:1-2). As he began his earthly ministry Jesus was baptized by John. Stepping from the waters of the Jordan River, the Savior was led by the Spirit into the desert for 40 days to be tested by the devil. At the end of his journey, Jesus emerged triumphant over Satan’s temptations, prepared to take up his road to the cross.

Lent is a 40 day journey beginning on Ash Wednesday, a journey to the cross. We will follow as Jesus enters Jerusalem, celebrates the Passover with his disciples, prays in Gethsemane and suffers betrayal and arrest. We will see him condemned to death – for us. Lent is season of repentance, as we acknowledge that it was our sins Jesus carried in his own body to the cross.

Lent is a 40 day journey of worship, prayer and study, a time to grow in faith as we consider the cost of our salvation. We meet together to praise our Savior, confess our sins and receive his forgiveness. We pray and study God’s Word, encouraging and building up one another in faith.

At the end of 40 years in the desert, the people of Israel stood at the border of the Promised Land. At the end of 40 days in the wilderness, Jesus stood triumphant over Satan’s temptations. At the end of these 40 days of Lent, after following Jesus’ path to the cross, we will stand with joy before his empty tomb.

May God be with you on your journey in Lent.

Blessings,
Pastor Miller

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

We will have an Ash Wednesday service on **February 17th at 10:00 a.m. in the parking lot.** It will be an abbreviated service with Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes. The Imposition of Ashes will occur at the end of the service and will be administered as you drive out of the parking lot. Pastor Miller will be on one side of the car and an assistant will be on the other side of the car. They will use a Q-tip to administer the ashes and will dispose of it after its use. Only one Q-tip per person will be used.

In the evening of **February 17th, from 7:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. we will have “drive-by ashes.” You may come anytime in that half hour.** This means that there will not be a service. People will come into the parking lot guided by an usher to drive around to the front of the church where Pastor Miller and another assistant will administer the ashes on either side of the car. As described above, only one Q-tip per person will be used.

THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 21st after the 10:00 a.m. worship service. It will be different this year as it will be held in the parking lot and there will not be a potluck meal. Please plan to attend the meeting. Reports will be available at the meeting.

If there is bad weather, the snow date is Sunday, February 28th.

SNOW/CANCELLATION INFORMATION



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

LENTEN OFFERING ENVELOPE

Enclosed in the newsletter is the Lenten Offering Envelope. Extra envelopes are available from a parking lot assistant.

CALLING ALL KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS!

The new year has begun, and unfortunately, we are still unable to gather together for worship and fellowship. So why not utilize this downtime to put our talents to work! After much discussion, we decided on our next charity knit/crochet project for 2021. We will be making hats and cowls for Seafarer's International House – a Lutheran-run hospitality house that serves seafarers and sojourners. The program is called Christmas at Sea – where they collect hats, cowls, scarves – and make care packages for the seafarers. If you go to the Web site <https://www.sihnyc.org/christmas-at-sea>, you will find knit and crochet patterns for hats and cowls. We will make these items during the year, and in November, send off what we have for their Christmas 2021 distribution.

The patterns call for wool or wool blend yarn. There is some wool in the yarn collection at church. Also, there are inexpensive options out there – Lion Brand's Wool-Ease and Woolspun, I Love This Wool, Yarn Bee's Must Be Merino, Paton's Wool Worsted, to name a few. And I know that even though the preference is for wool or wool blends, they will accept items made from acrylic.

If you are unable to access the patterns, you can email Steph at stepbillwagaman@rcn.com with your preference for knitted and/or crochet patterns, and I will email you the PDFs. Also, you can stop by the church and pick up printed patterns on the table in the Narthex.

In the future, we may want to expand our efforts by getting a Thrivent grant and putting together goody bags with the other items – sweatshirt, t-shirt, socks, snacks – that go with the knitted items. But for now we will concentrate on crocheting and knitting.

If you have any questions, contact either Steph (610-395-0355 stepbillwagaman@rcn.com) or Peggy (610-481-9086 peggyekern@gmail.com).

Stephanie Wagaman
Peggy Kern

PARISH NURSE NOTES

Catherine Waltemyer RN

Continuing the COVID 19 discussion; in this month's article I would like to focus on the COVID-19 vaccine and hopefully address some concerns people might have.

- Coronavirus isn't new, but THIS coronavirus strain is. Several companies started looking into coronavirus vaccines back when SARS and MERS emerged in 2003 and 2012. Both of these syndromes were caused by other coronaviruses. As a result of research into SARS and MERS some of the work was already in progress or completed when this particular coronavirus (COVID 19) emerged.
- How does this vaccine work?
 - The COVID vaccine is an mRNA (messenger RNA) vaccine.
 - mRNA vaccines DO NOT contain live or inactivated virus.
 - mRNA vaccines DO NOT cause disease in the vaccinated person.
 - mRNA vaccines work by telling the cells in your body how to make a protein that triggers an immune response.
 - mRNA does not enter the nucleus of your cells (where your DNA is) and it does not do anything to the DNA of your cells.
 - Your cells break down and get rid of the mRNA soon after they finish using the instructions delivered by the mRNA.
- Is this vaccine approved?
 - Vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna have been released by the FDA under an emergency use authorization (EUA).
 - EUA is issued by the FDA to allow access to critical medical products—in this case the vaccine—that may help during a public health emergency. This is different from approval or licensure.
 - in the past EUA's were issued for other emergencies such as anthrax, ebola, enterovirus, H7N9 influenza, and Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERs).

Continued on next page

- Who should get the vaccine?
 - Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is recommended for persons 16 years of age and older.
 - Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is recommended for persons 18 years of age and older.
 - if you are not sure if you should get the vaccine please speak with your health care provider.
- Are the vaccines effective?
 - both vaccines were found to be greater than 95% effective in preventing COVID 19 infection.
- Are the vaccines safe?
 - the rate of adverse effects was low and there were no safety concerns after an average of 2 months of monitoring.
 - most common reactions were injection site pain, fatigue, headache, muscle aches and joint pain.
 - There were NO concerns that the vaccine would cause infertility in males or females.
- Is there a difference between the two vaccines?
 - Both the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines are nearly identical.

For information on the vaccine phases for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Vaccine.aspx>

There are quite a few myths circulating on social media and elsewhere regarding the COVID 19 vaccine that I would like to dispel.

Continued on next page

Myth: The vaccine is not safe because it was developed and released too quickly.

Fact: The current Pfizer and Moderna vaccines were able to get released so quickly due to an incredible and historic global response. There was huge support from all over the world with over 70,000 volunteers in a short amount of time. It typically takes years to enroll that many people in a drug trial. Additionally the skyrocketing rates of COVID-19 in the US and other countries where these vaccines were being tested allowed enough infections to occur to give rapid answers to whether the vaccine would work.

Myth: The COVID-19 vaccine was developed to control the general population either through microchip tracking or “nanotransducers” in our brains.

Fact: Brain nanotransducers only exist in the movies. There is no microchip or nanotransducer in the vaccine. The vaccine will **NOT** track people or gather personal information into a database.

Myth: The vaccine will alter my DNA.

Fact: There are no permanent affects on your own genetic material from these vaccines. These vaccines are messenger RNA vaccines **NOT** DNA vaccines.

Myth: COVID 19 vaccines were developed using fetal tissue.

Fact: Current mRNA COVID-19 vaccines do not require the use of fetal cell cultures (or any other cell culture for that matter) in the production process.

Myth: COVID-19 vaccines must be stored at extremely low temperatures because of the preservative in the vaccines.

Fact: Both vaccines contain messenger RNA (mRNA) that is fragile and can break down easily. Because of this the vaccine requires an ultra-cold environment to keep them stable and safe. There are no preservatives in either vaccine. (continued on next page)

Myth: Vaccines cause autism.

Fact: Multiple studies have shown that vaccines are incredibly safe and effective.

More information can be found at:

www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/concerns/autism.html

For more information on the vaccine:

<https://www.slnh.org/covid-19/protect-yourself/covid-19-vaccine>

<https://www.lvhn.org/faqs-covid-19-vaccine>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety.html>

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Vaccine.aspx>

From: COVID-19 Vaccine information and COVID-19 Vaccine Myths and Facts from St Luke's University Health Network and with input from Rachel Waltemyer-Pharmacovigilance Officer Vertex Pharmaceuticals.

BULLETIN SPONSORSHIPS

We are starting to take bulletin sponsorships for 2021. Because the building is closed for worship and we are only having one parking lot service, we are dropping the price to \$10.00. When the building opens again the price will return to \$20.00.

Call the church office to pick a date to sponsor. I ask that you wait to pay for the bulletin until that date. Just in case you pick a future date and we open, it will save you from having to write another check. Don't worry if you forget to pay, I give reminder calls.

VETERAN'S WREATHS

Enclosed in the newsletter is the list of sponsors who contributed to the Veteran's Wreaths placed on St. Paul's U.C.C. Cemetery at Christmas. We thank everyone who purchased a wreath in memory of a veteran or a loved one.

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.



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.

THRIVENT T-SHIRTS

A few Thrivent T-shirts were found in the storage closet. They are various sizes. If you are interested, call the office or speak with a parking lot assistant.

ASH WEDNESDAY

The Season of Lent begins with ashes and ends with alleluias. It is a season of spiritual growth, beginning on February 17th and concluding six weeks later with the brilliant white colors of Easter. The first day of Lent is Ash Wednesday named for the practice of imposing ashes, a practice that many Lutheran congregations have found quite meaningful.

Ashes symbolize several aspects of our human experience. First, ashes remind us of God's condemnation of sin, as God said to Adam, "Dust you are and to dust you shall return." Second, ashes suggest cleansing and renewal. Ashes were used anciently in the absence of soap, and on Ash Wednesday ashes are a penitential substitute for water as a reminder of our Baptism. Third, ashes remind us of the shortness of human life, for one day the words "We commit his/her body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust" will be said over our bodies. Fourth, ashes are a symbol of repentance, as expressed in Luke 10:13 and the hymn "Savior, When in Dust to Thee." Services will be held at 10:00 a.m. February 17th in the parking lot and 7:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. ("drive-by" imposition of ashes only). Please join us to begin the season of Lent.

ALWAYS CHOOSE LOVE

God wants us to choose to love him freely, even when that choice involves pain, because we are committed to him, not to our own good feelings and rewards. He wants us to cleave to him, as Job did, even when we have every reason to deny him hotly. That, I believe, is the central message of Job.

Satan had taunted God with the accusation that humans are not truly free. Was Job being faithful simply because God had allowed him a prosperous life? Job's fiery trials proved the answer beyond doubt. Job clung to God's justice when he was the best example in history of God's apparent injustice. He did not seek the Giver because of his gifts; when all gifts were removed, he still sought the Giver.

--Philip Yancey, *Where Is God When It Hurts?*

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.

WHY WE LAMENT

In 2020, the coronavirus pandemic struck America during the middle of Lent, a season associated with deprivation. Some people made light of the shutdowns, joking, “I didn’t mean to give up *this* much for Lent!” Others asked why the suffering was occurring in the first place.

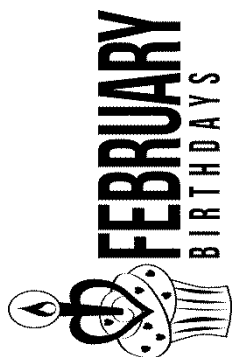
Professor N.T. Wright, in an essay for *Time*, explains that asking “why?” but receiving no answer is key to biblical lamenting. Adding to the mystery, he says, is that God also laments — grieving at the wickedness of humans, despairing over Israel’s unfaithfulness. Jesus cries at a friend’s tomb; the Holy Spirit groans in anguish.

“Part of the Christian vocation,” Wright concludes, is not being able to explain why but lamenting instead. “As the Spirit laments within us,” he says, “so we become, even in our self-isolation, small shrines where the presence and healing love of God can dwell. And out of that there can emerge new possibilities ... new hope.”

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTION

The following memorial contribution has been received in memory of Roland Grammes:

Melanie Dimovitz



5 Nolan Parker	14 Mary Schneider
5 Dick Steltz	15 Amanda Mesko
6 Kathy Shryock	17 Cindy Mount
8 Zack Dimovitz	17 Priscilla Wiswesser
9 Rosalie Gallagher	18 Denise Trainor
9 Avery Thompson	21 Skip Eisenhard
10 Tom Kellogg	21 Cindy Krasnansky
10 Carey Miller	24 Mark Maslany
12 Lacey Edwards	28 Charlie Whitt
12 Lillian Sicher	29 Alan Brumbach



FEBRUARY
ANNIVERSARIES

22 Hughey & Claudia Haughney

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

Carole Beck	Frank Bennighoff	Brooke Brumbach
Helen Kessler	Heather Sedlak	Larry Schneider
John Thomas	Marilyn Thomas	Ginny Wingard

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

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

Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Beidleman
John & Laurel Kegley
Rosemary Lehman
Stella Nemeth
Mary Ann Spengler
Frank & Judy Szukics
Bruce & Sandi Wagaman
Steph Wagaman

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTION

The following memorial contribution has been received in memory of Warren Schlenker:
Rosemary Lehman

WOMEN OF THE ELCA NORTHEAST PA SYNOD

Although our St. Paul's W-ELCA has not met since last March, the Northeast PA W-ELCA Board has been meeting and discussing how we could have our Justice Event and Convention in 2021.

- Bold Women's Day is the 4th Sunday in February which is the 28th.
- Proposed June 5 for Convention and Justice Event.
 - Would have convention in a.m. and justice event in the p.m.
 - p.m. would be a bible study on racial unity. Peter and Cornelius from Acts chapter 10.
 - Possibly a catered lunch.
 - The board is expecting to know by March if we can have an in-person event.

The triennial has been cancelled for August 2021.

- More information will come as to how the registration fees will be handled.

Board Outreach

The board reached out to a family that lost their home in an explosive fire in September to give their children a nice Christmas. Hope Trinity Lutheran Church had adopted the family and have an angel tree. Since the family lost everything, their Christmas was brighter when things were replaced.



CELEBRATING LOVE

For 80 years, a couple in Ecuador was an exceptional example of marital love. Julio Cesar Mora Tapia, 110, and Waldramina Maclovía Quinteros Reyes, 104, were wed on February 7, 1941. Until Julio's death last October, they were reportedly the world's oldest married couple. Their large family includes nine great-great-grandchildren!

Good News Network recounts: "Julio Cesar fell in love with Waldramina's beauty, her conversation, and her big heart." Meanwhile, she found in him "a poet with a young spirit." The couple says the formula for a lasting marriage is "love + maturity + mutual respect," as well as patience, compassion and hard work.

That calls to mind Paul's words, often read at weddings: "Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth" (1 Corinthians 13:4-6, ESV).

THE PARABLE OF THE LOST RING

Only three years after Paula and Joe Walter married, her wedding ring was lost as she played catch with their son. Naturally, she was heartbroken. Over the years, whenever family and friends gathered in the back yard, she urged everyone to look for the ring — but to no avail. Because the yard borders on woods, Paula feared the ring had flown into the trees, never to be seen again.

But just before the couple's 40th anniversary, landscapers hired to do work in the yard brought her a surprise: They'd found the ring — right where Paula had been playing with her child so long ago! Like the woman in Jesus' parable who finally found her lost coin (Luke 15:8-10), Paula rejoiced. God too searches until every person who has strayed or been flung away from the faith is found.

Sometimes the place we rediscover faith is right where we've looked before. What makes the difference? A different person helping us search? Light shining in a different way? We may never know. We simply rejoice — and so does God.

—Heidi Mann



A famous friendship

In the Bible, Ruth and Naomi are known for their loving friendship.

Directions: Using the key, fill in the blanks to see what Ruth says to Naomi.

“

J Q U W U B C O E E E
 J E O O E E ' U N O J Q U W U
 B C O N L U O B E J E O O
 N L U O B B C O O N W E N O W
 J E O O E W F O
 N W E N O W U N O
 B C O O E C O
 F O E C O "

RUTH 1:16, NIV



W	A		E	T
B	U	H	D	O
G	R	L	Y	I
	N	S	P	M

Answer: "Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God." Ruth 1:16, NIV

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT
NEWSLETTER IS
FEBRUARY 14, 2021**

**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

FEBRUARY 2021 St. Paul's Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																										
	1	2  Groundhog Day	3	4	5	6																																										
7 5 TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 10:00 a.m.-Parking Lot Worship	8	9	10 7:00 p.m.-Council	11	12  Lincoln's Birthday	13																																										
14 TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD 10:00 a.m.-Parking Lot Worship 	15 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED  <i>Presidents' Day</i>	16	17 10:00 a.m.-Parking Lot Worship 7:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Drive-By Ashes Distribution <i>ASH WEDNESDAY worship</i>	18	19	20																																										
21 1 ST SUNDAY IN LENT 10:00 a.m.-Parking Lot Worship Congregational Meeting In The Parking Lot Following Worship	22  Washington's Birthday	23	24 6:30 p.m.- UCC/Lutheran Cemetery Meeting	25	26	27																																										
28 2 ND SUNDAY IN LENT 10:00 a.m.-Parking Lot Worship (SNOW DATE For Congregational Meeting In The Parking Lot Following Worship)						<div> March 2021 <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			
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PARKING LOT WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FEBRUARY 2021

If you cannot fulfill an assigned duty, please call the church office at 610-398-7000 or the Council Person of the Month - Jennifer Bentsen - 484-226-5227.

Sunday, February 7, 2021

10:00AM

Jennifer Bentsen
Tom Kellogg
Angie Kropf
Peggy Saylor
Sandi Wagaman

Sunday, February 21, 2021

10:00AM

Jennifer Bentsen
Calvin Fetherolf
Bob Nickisher
Peggy Saylor
Sandi Wagaman

Sunday, February 14, 2021

10:00AM

Frank Bennighoff
Calvin Fetherolf
Angie Kropf
Richard Hartley
Bob Nickisher

Sunday, February 28, 2021

10:00AM

Frank Bennighoff
Sharon Bortz
Anita Eisenhard
Richard Hartley
Angie Kropf

Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021

10:00AM

Sharon Bortz
Anita Eisenhard
Tom Kellogg
Daisy Pearson
Carl Seibert

7:00PM (Drive-Through)

Bob Nickisher
Judy Noll

Wreaths Placed on Veterans' Graves St. Paul's Cemetery 2020



SPONSOR

Charles Ackerman	A wreath in memory of WWII Veterans
Sheri Adams	A wreath in memory of father, Allen Adams
Margaret Apgar	A wreath in memory of David Apgar
Sandra Bachman	A wreath in memory of Albert C. Bachman, US Navy A wreath in memory of Thomas A. Bachman – US Air Force
Robert and Elizabeth Bastin	A wreath in memory of all Veterans
Linda Buesgen	Two wreaths in memory of all Veterans
Lynn Crowell	A wreath in memory of all Veterans
Jeff and Barbara Ebert	A wreath in memory of all Veterans
Mark and Marianne Fegely	A wreath in memory of father, Ted Reitz A wreath in memory of brother, Jim Reitz
Calvin Fetherolf	Four wreaths in memory of all Veterans
Dale and Beverly Frizzell	A wreath in memory of all Veterans, past and present
Gary and Lisa Gehman	A wreath in memory of father, George F. Gehman A wreath in memory of uncle, Byron E.H. Fry
Diane Gorr	A wreath in memory of all Veterans
Martin and Julia Gorr & Family	A wreath in memory of all Veterans, past and present
Garry and Shirley Gruber	A wreath in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Spohn
Dennis W. and JoAnn Hein	A wreath in memory of Donald Bieber A wreath in memory of Ernest Bieber A wreath in memory of Lester Smith <i>Wreaths are placed in their memory at the 9/11 Memorial and at the Memorial Monument at the flagpole</i> Two wreaths in memory of all Veterans

Tom and Ellen Held	A wreath in memory of all Veterans
Joanne Infanti	A wreath in memory of husband, Carmine Infanti
Diane Karpeuk	A wreath in memory of Irwin Seidel A wreath in memory of all Veterans
Ken and Sue Keefer	Five wreaths in memory of all Veterans
Rev. Rainelle A. Kimmel	A wreath in memory of father, Raymond G. Kimmel
Barbara A. Kitson	A wreath in memory of Frederick Kitson A wreath in memory of Robert Grim
Elda Laudenslager	A wreath in memory of Robert Laudenslager
Beryl Loch	A wreath in memory of all Veterans
Gary and Diane Marchetto	A wreath in memory of Fred Lentz
Carey and Nancy Miller	Two wreaths in memory of all Veterans
Betty Moyer	A wreath in memory of William H. Moyer A wreath in memory of all Veterans
Linda (Miller) Moyle	A wreath in memory of Arlen Miller A wreath in memory of Ralph Miller A wreath in memory of Raymond Faust
Pauline Muth	A wreath in memory of John L.G. Muth
Joe and Amy Mutis	A wreath in memory of Joseph M. Mutis A wreath in memory of Ezio Bonomo
Robert C. Nickisher	A wreath in memory of Franklin C. Nickisher, USN WWII
John and Dorothy O'Connors	Two wreaths in memory of all Veterans
Edwin and Daisy Pearson	A wreath in memory of Robert Count A wreath in memory of Alfred Pearson
Randall D. Perry	A wreath in memory of all Veterans <i>Wreath is placed at the 9/11 Memorial</i>
Dean and Marie Rissmiller	A wreath in memory of Wilson Rissmiller, Sr. A wreath in memory of Wilson Rissmiller, Jr.
Elaine Ruch	Two wreaths in memory of all Veterans
Monroe and Faye Ann Rohrbach	Two wreaths in memory of all Veterans
Barry and Sandy Sanders	A wreath in memory of Dale Eisenhard Four wreaths in memory of all Veterans
Bruce and Peggy Saylor	A wreath in memory of all Veterans
Larry and Mary Schneider	A wreath in memory of all Veterans
Glen Sell	A wreath in memory of Richard Clay
Susan Sherry	Two wreaths in memory of all Veterans

Susan Shetter and Ellen Truitt	A wreath in memory of father, Ira Shetter A wreath in memory of all Veterans
Sheila Sloyer	A wreath in memory of Bruce A. Smith
Sheila and Ray Sloyer	Two wreaths in memory of all Veterans
Alethia Smith	A wreath in memory of Richard E. Smith, Sr. A wreath in memory of Harold Bastian A wreath in memory of Linford Bastian A wreath is placed at the flagpole in memory of Owen M. Bastian, Jr. A wreath in memory of all Veterans
Marion E. Smith	A wreath in memory of Gladwyn C. Smith
Dale Snyder	A wreath in memory of Harold G. Snyder A wreath in memory of Gerald Spohn Two wreaths in memory of all Veterans
Frederick and Gloria Snyder	A wreath in memory of brother, Frederick Greenawald A wreath in memory of all Veterans
Stein Family	A wreath in memory of Franklin Wright
Carolyn Stein	A wreath in memory of Kermit Wright A wreath in memory of Carl Wright A wreath in memory of Kenneth Wright Two wreaths in memory of all Veterans
David Terfinko	A wreath in memory of Gladwyn Smith Nine wreaths in memory of all Veterans
John and Marilyn Thomas	A wreath in memory of all Veterans
Mary Thompson	A wreath in memory of husband, Bruce Thompson A wreath in memory of LeRoy Geisinger A wreath in memory of Donald Geisinger A wreath in memory of Russell Meckley
Shirley Yeager	A wreath in memory of husband, Paul C.A. Yeager, Jr A wreath in memory of Sterling Yeager
Steph Wagaman	A wreath in memory of all Veterans
Yenser Family	A wreath in memory of Robert W. Yenser A wreath in honor of John J. Paul, III A wreath in honor of Robert C. Yenser

**Thank you to the following businesses and St. Paul's Lutheran Church
who helped our mission to Remember and Honor our Veterans.**

J.S. Burkholder Funeral Home, Inc. Carl Schmoyer III A wreath in memory of Horace Eisenhard A wreath in memory of John Muth Eight wreaths in memory of all Veterans
Fritch, Inc., Bethlehem (Heating and Air Conditioning) Anthony J. Mauser A wreath in memory of Harold Mauser, WWII, Staff Sergeant E-6 Nineteen wreaths in memory of all Veterans
Harned Durham Energy and their Employees, Macungie (Fuel) A wreath in memory of Ralf Harned A wreath in memory of Robert Leauman Twenty wreaths in memory of all Veterans
Jacob Gerger and Sons, Warrington, PA (Organ Technician) Peter Gerger, Jr. Four wreaths in memory of all Veterans
Good Will Fire Co., Trexlertown Thirty-four wreaths in memory of all Veterans
Master Supply Line, Macungie Kevin and Barbara Master A wreath in memory of Paul Decker A wreath in memory of Jeremy Master
Schmoyer Funeral Home, Breinigsville Twenty wreaths in memory of all Veterans
St. Paul's Lutheran Church Collection Three wreaths in memory of all Veterans

Our apologies for any omissions, misspellings
and/or incorrect information.

SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA



ISSUE NO 2 | FEBRUARY 2021 | VOLUME 29

From Our Bishop: Vital Signs for Now

As I write this in January, I have no way of knowing what our situation – national, state, or local – will be like. But I have no doubt in two truths. First, God will be with us and for us. Second, the big challenges will still be upon us. As people who believe in and follow Jesus, we always have these promises: *Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again*. This means, wherever we are, and wherever we're headed, that nothing "will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:39).

In the midst of all we face, across this Synod – our congregations, leaders, members and ministries – are playing *vital roles* in God's work to bring life out of death, love out of hate, hope out of despair, and joy out of sorrow. The Holy Spirit is revealing *vital signs* in our midst because of what Christ has done for us on the cross. So, I ask you: as part of the Body of Christ, *what are our vital signs right now?* How are we doing these three things:

Healing the hurting? Loving the land? Engaging the stranger?

As a Synod going forward, I'm calling these three, our *Vital Signs for Now*. Ways we are called by our God to address this moment through which we are now living:

- **Heal the Hurting** can include helping all of us, suffering through this pandemic. Those who are facing economic struggle. Those who are also ill from other afflictions, including addiction, anxiety and depression. Those having a hard time finding health care and security. And those in pain and fear from our large divides over politics.
- **Love the Land** can include the realities of climate change. The need to make our communities more livable for everyone. And deciding what is best to do with our buildings and properties, to bring more life to our neighbors as well as ourselves.
- **Engage the Stranger** can include anyone who feels estranged, inside and outside our churches. It includes all the ways that have made us estranged from each other and our core Christian values: the lack of welcome for all people, especially foreigners and our LGBTQIA+ siblings; racial injustice and white supremacy; the disregard of facts and the lack of listening to the "other side".

In these first days and weeks of 2021, as a Synod, let us work on these three things. And let us share with each other, what is working and how the Spirit is moving and leading. Let's tell each other and ask your pastors and councils to share with our deans and Synod staff. We will then share with the whole Synod. Let's go and grow more alive and vital, together, as church, by the grace of our great God.

Bishop Christopher deForest

Vital Signs!

When Pastor Michele Kaufman decided she wanted to have Palm Sunday and Easter services in-person last spring at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Mountaintop, she and members of the congregation decided to hold drive-in services on the church grounds. Jim Doxsey, a member of the congregation, purchased a low-frequency FM radio transmitter so members could listen to the service inside their vehicles. The concept worked well, and the outdoor services continued throughout the spring and summer.

In the spring, the congregation completed work on a prayer garden at the rear of the church where Pr. Kaufman conducted the services. Recently, the church moved its 9 a.m. service indoors, but kept the 11 a.m. gathering outside. As late fall arrived, the congregation came up with an idea to allow the pastor to continue to conduct the outdoor service, even in inclement weather.

They built her a Pastor Pod.

"The 9 a.m. service was moved indoors, maintaining social distancing and requiring masks," Pr. Kaufman said. "But we wanted to keep one of our services outdoors because several members of the congregation were dealing with cancer and other health problems. We wanted to make sure they could attend services but be safe."

The approximately 6x8 foot "Pastor Pod" is located adjacent to the church parish hall. It was constructed using two-by-four supports, has a platform, and a roof – the entire structure enclosed in plexiglass.



The congregation and surrounding community embraced the concept of the Pastor Pod with great enthusiasm. "We have people from as far as 25+ miles traveling to worship with us. We have several families from neighboring congregations and different Christian traditions attending on a regular basis because of the safety factor. The creativity and **innovation and resilience** this congregation has displayed in these trying times has been an inspiration. It has been our modern-day Reformation! We are church in every sense of the phrase!" reported Pr. Kaufman.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Mountaintop

Born and raised in Richmond, VA, I graduated from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, VA with a public policy and economics degree. After a year of itinerant youth ministry in the Midwest and 18 months as an inventory analyst, I admitted that the rustling in my gut was not indigestion but a call to sacramental service in the Church. I went to Southern Seminary in Columbia, SC, where I learned to appreciate the rhythm of daily life, shrimp and grits, theology, and Friday night cookouts. Since ordination, I've served St. James, Hobbie and St. John, Mohnton. I continue to be gobsmacked for the gift to be about what God is up to in the world—to point out Jesus, crucified and risen.

Pastor Rachael Dietz



I cheer for the Steelers and Packers passionately, stretch daily, roast coffee regularly, and travel through life curiously.

The Rev. Nelson Quinones, Dean
The Rev. Jean L. Huber, Assoc. of the Bishop

610-653-5858
610-704-5133

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

484-550-0057
610-437-9927

March 2021 LMD NL news will be due February 12, 2021. E-Mail any information to me at lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com.

****REOPENED – Thursdays 9:30-11:30am. Clothes Closet - In NEED of Volunteers** – St. Luke's, 417 N 7th Street, Allentown, PA 18103. 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)

Thank you for helping our 2020 Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk raise **\$30,329.50** to help our neighbors in need locally and around the globe! What an incredible accomplishment during this pandemic! As a result of your faithful efforts, the Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank and Lehigh Conference of Churches Soup Kitchen each received \$3791 for their vital ministries.

Save These Dates!

Greater Allentown **CROP Hunger Walk: Sun., Oct. 10, 2021**, 1:30 p.m., with registration beginning at 1:00 p.m. at St. Timothy Lutheran Church, 140 S. Ott St., Allentown, PA 18104

CROP Recruiters' **Pizza Party/Kick-off: Sun., Aug. 29, 2021**, 1:30-2:30 p.m. (to receive materials, ideas, and inspiration for yourself and your congregation) at St. Timothy Lutheran Church, 140 S. Ott St., Allentown, PA 18104.

For more information about Church World Service/CROP, go to <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/page/about-the-walk>

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.

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.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO TRAVELING WITH YOU AGAIN IN 2021. WE PLAN TO STARTUP OPERATION SUNSHINE AGAIN IN JUNE 2021.

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.

On behalf of our new Bishop Christopher deForest, the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, and the Lehigh Mission District Council, we want to express our gratitude and appreciation to The Rev. Kurt E. Garbe for his 36 years of ministry.

Pastor Garbe served 24 years as associate to the bishop, 12 years with Bishop David Strobel and 12 years with Bishop Samuel Zeiser. We want to bid Pastor Garbe Godspeed as he journeys into his retirement!

We welcome The Rev. Jean L. Huber, Associate to the Bishop. Pastor Huber is the Synod Staff Liaison in the Lehigh Mission District. Pastor Huber also oversees the Bethlehem-Easton Mission District. She serves at Arndt's Lutheran Church in Easton. Her phone number is above on the newsletter head. Congratulations and welcome to the Mission District!

On January 12, Bishop deForest held a ZOOM Meeting, "Conversation with the Bishop." In attendance there were 133 registered people through their electronic devices.

Bishop deForest gave a 6-year-plan vision for the future ministry within the Synod that includes the new Synod staff. The 6-year-plan is a 3+3 Vital Sign journey expressed through Growing Young, Gaining Strength, and Going Beyond.

Each of these 3 Vital Signs aim in:

Growing Young

- Nationwide Movement
- Church-wide Support
- NEPS Implemented

Gaining Strength

- Leaders
- Congregations
- Adaptive Leadership

Going Beyond – "Going Beyond Death to Life"

- Pull Together
- Build a new Strategy
- Assess results

Bishop deForest expressed these 3 Vital Signs forms the vision in a 3+3 year implementation along with the new staffing positions.

Support Staff

- Laurie Christmas, Synod's Receptionist
- Debbie Frey, Assistant to the Bishop for Ministry Coordination
- Eric Gombert, Director of Operations
- Debbie Skinner, Benevolence Clerk

New Positions

- Mike Bennethum, Executive Associate of the Bishop for Innovations
- Rachael Dietz, Executive Associate of the Bishop for Leadership
- Travis Woodfield, Director of Legacy and Purpose

Growing Young

- Sammy Kelly with Rachael Dietz

Gaining Strength

- Mike Bennethum with Rachael Dietz

Going Beyond

- Travis Woodfield with Mike Bennethum

This brief outline summarizes Bishop deForest's conversation on staffing and vision. I invite you to click nepasynod.org to hear detailed specifics found under "Bishop deForest Talks About Staffing and Vision for the Future".

Part-time Associates of the Bishop serving as Synod Staff Liaison with mission districts:

- The Rev. Kathleen Ash-Flashner, Schuylkill Mission District
- The Rev. Lauren Wolfe Blatt, Synod communications and event planning
- The Rev. Charles H. Grube, Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Mission District
- The Rev. Jean L. Huber, Bethlehem-Easton and Lehigh Mission District
- The Rev. Niels H. Nielsen, Pocono Mission District
- The Rev. Carl Shankweiler, Hazleton-Lehigh Mission District

Bishop deForest believes that as a Synod we are moved by faith and are supportive, and inventive while seeing the future of the church.

In faithful assurance,

The Rev. Nelson Quiñones, LMD Dean