

PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



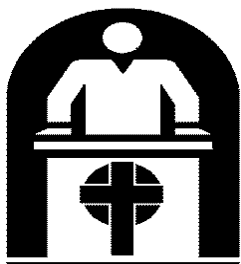
SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Breinigsville, PA

APRIL 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,

“Jesus Christ is risen!” “He is risen indeed!” This refers to Christ’s resurrection. But we are going through another kind of life transition. I don’t know if we are risen from the pandemic, but maybe I can say we’re rising(?). It is still with us, we are obviously not back to “normal,” but things are getting better. Some restrictions are

loosening. More people are getting vaccinated. Iron Pigs and Phantoms are allowing fans in the stadium and arena! Yes! Baseball and hockey are back. There is hope!

This message, “Christ is risen. He is risen indeed.”, is like Ezekiel’s image of dry bones. God is breathing life into us. The bones are shaking and signs of the resurrection are occurring, but it is not without growing pains.

Gerald Hughes in his book, “The God of Surprises” mentions three features in the resurrection accounts. One is that many people were in a negative mood: the women came to embalm Jesus, the disciples on the road to Emmaus were sad and disillusioned, the disciples in the upper room were afraid and living behind closed doors; and Thomas was in doubt. But in each case our Lord’s love met them in their despair and that led to a transformed life.

The second feature is that those who were transformed by the resurrection message, it often happened slowly. It took a while for the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. So, if your spiritual progress is slow, don’t worry, you’re in good company.

The third feature of the resurrection accounts is that those to whom Christ appeared are to go and tell others. We are to witness to the grace of giving and serving others in our daily lives. As Christ lives in us may we be empowered to carry out his mission. May the miracle of the resurrection continue in each and every one of us. “Christ is risen!” “He is risen indeed!”

Glorious Easter blessings,

Pastor Miller

RESUMPTION OF INSIDE WORSHIP

Upon recommendation of the Back to Worship Committee and the approval of the Congregation Council we **are resuming worship inside the church** beginning *Easter Sunday, April 4th, at 10:30 a.m.* (We will continue to have **parking lot services at 9:45 a.m.**) However, there will be the same protocols and guidelines in effect as there were before when we were back in the church in the fall: 1) Masks will be worn. 2) Your temperature will be checked. 3) We will be physically distanced. 4) We will celebrate communion the same way we do at the parking lot services. 5) You will be guided to your pew; the first arriving will be seated toward the front. 6) The back pews will be dismissed first. 7) We ask that if you want to have a conversation with someone that you have it outside, not in the narthex.

On April 4th, Easter Sunday, our first Sunday inside; the last hymn, “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today” will be sung by the congregation outside. We will gather in the parking lot, physically distanced, and sing the hymn with organ and voice accompaniment.

WORSHIP & MUSIC

The choir took advantage of the seventy degree day this month to have another social distanced gathering outside. It was good to catch up with friends. Of course, the magic question was “When do you think we will be back to singing?”. Although we have no definite answer at this point, we were all encouraged by the fact that most of the choir has gotten at least one dose of the Covid vaccine.

AN EASTER PRAYER

From the grave’s depths, Lord Jesus Christ, you emerged, breaking the hold of sin, death and hell, that those who trust in you might share in your righteousness, life and beloved community with God the Father and all God’s children. We bow in awe before your majesty, giving thanks for your grace extended so bountifully to us. By the power of your Spirit who lives within us, may we share the astonishing news of your resurrection with others, that they also may know your saving grace. Amen.

PARISH NURSING NOTES

April 2021

Peggy Saylor, RN

Spring is finally here and if you are like me, you are looking forward to spending more time outside. Usually this is the time when most individuals start to think about exercising more and getting back into shape after the long winter (not to mention a pandemic!) It is proven that active people tend to feel and look better. Over a long period of time, regular physical exercise can help prevent diseases like cancer, heart disease and diabetes as well as improve mental well-being.

As with any subject, there are facts and myths about exercise. Test your knowledge with the true and false questions below:

1. _____ **Recommended levels of activity decrease for individuals as they age.**
2. _____ **A long brisk walk every day is enough to stay healthy.**
3. _____ **If you have back pain or arthritis, it is best to relax and avoid moving painful body parts.**

1. **False.** Recommendations do not vary by age. It is recommended that everyone who can should aim for an hour total of moderate activity per day and one hour of vigorous activity per week. To clarify the difference: moderate activity, like a brisk walk, causes light sweating or a moderate increase in breathing and heart rate while vigorous activity like tennis, causes heavier sweating and rapid breathing and heart rate.
2. **False.** Walking is good aerobic exercise, which can improve the strength in your legs and endurance. However, research indicates you also need strength training and stretching to stay fit. Strength training can counteract and even reverse muscle and bone loss, while stretching can keep you limber.

3. **False.** Lower back pain and arthritis are common reasons for not exercising, but inactivity may worsen these problems. With an appropriate training program, people who suffer from these afflictions can become stronger, more flexible and suffer less. Swimming and water aerobics are good low-impact choices for people with these conditions. It is a good idea to check with your physician before starting any exercise program.

Please enjoy the warmer weather that Spring will give us. God exercises our spiritual body – it is up to us to exercise our physical body!

PRAYER SHAWL GROUP REMINDER

This is a reminder that we have a supply of Wool-Ease yarn available to you for making hats and cowls for the Seafarer's Christmas at Sea Project. In addition to the Wool-Ease, there are some Merino 100% Wool skeins, which are more suitable for knitting because of yarn weight. The yarn is at church – on the pew in the Narthex. So if you are planning on making hats and cowls for this project, stop by church and pick up some yarn. The print-outs of knitted and crocheted hat and cowl patterns are also there.

More information about Christmas at Sea can be found on their Web site <https://www.sihnyc.org/christmas-at-sea>. We will make these items during the year, and in November, send off what we have for their Christmas 2021 distribution.

IRONPIGS GAME



Announcing the IronPigs game, Sunday, June 27, 2021. Game time is 1:35 p.m. Gates open at Noon. We again will be in the PenTeleData 3rd Base Party Porch. We have a limit of 30 tickets and the price is \$37.00. Mark your calendars. A sign-up sheet will be on the table in the Narthex or you can call the church office at 610-398-7000.

BULLETIN & ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORSHIPS

We are take bulletin sponsorships for 2021. Because the building is opening for worship on Easter sponsorships will be for both the parking lot and inside services. The price is \$20.00. Call the church office to pick a date to sponsor or check the bulletin board for available dates. Fill out the white slip with your name, date you are sponsoring and the wording and place it in the folder under the sign-up sheet.

Altar flowers Sponsorships will start on Easter. One vase is \$22 or both vases at \$44. If you are sponsoring both bouquets, **PLEASE** sign your name to **BOTH LINES**. Fill out the blue slip with your name, date you are sponsoring and the wording and place it in the folder under the sign-up sheet. Call the church office to pick a date to sponsor or check the bulletin board for available dates.

WHEN GOD GIGGLES

More churches lately have been resurrecting (pardon the pun!) the early-church tradition of celebrating the second Sunday of Easter as Holy Humor Sunday, affirming the season's joy. Need some jokes for April 11? Try these:

Easter is the only time when it's perfectly safe to put all your eggs in one basket.

Knock knock. *Who's there?* Hatch. *Hatch who?* God bless you!

What should you do after eating so many Easter treats? *Eggs-ercise!*

Why shouldn't you tell an Easter egg a joke? *It might crack up!*

An irate subscriber called the newspaper, demanding to know where her Sunday edition was. "Ma'am," said the employee, "today is Saturday. The Sunday paper isn't delivered until Sunday." After a brief pause, the caller spoke with a ray of recognition: "So *that's* why no one was in church today."

EAGLE PROJECT FLYER

Hello, my name is Christopher MacDonald. I attend Emmaus High School and Lehigh Career Technical Institute. I am a Boy Scout with Troop 80 in Emmaus PA. I have been in Scouts for 8 years and I am currently working on my Eagle project. My Eagle project is Ancestry Data with St. Paul's Cemetery Association. They have purchased a cloud-based cemetery management program and need to collect pictures and verify data and enter it into the program.

My Eagle project will focus on gathering the information from the Old section of the cemetery. I will be taking pictures of gravestones and linking the data to the new database. So all of the records can be available to the public.

I am raising money for supplies that will be needed for gathering the information and to provide food and beverages for the volunteers for my Eagle project. My goal is \$500.00. Any donation will be truly appreciated. Any donations can be made out to St. Paul's Cemetery Association. (please write Eagle Project on the memo line) **Donations can be placed in the collection plate during worship service or mailed to St. Paul's Cemetery Association, PO Box 560, Trexlertown, PA 18087.**

If there are any questions you can reach me by email (chrismac03@gmail.com) or phone (484-353-2159).

BELIEVING IN

Sometimes we get caught up in thinking we need to understand God in order to have faith. But faith is more about trust than knowledge; it's more about believing in someone than believing information. A child, for instance, doesn't have to know the precise roads to Grandma's house; he only needs to believe *in* his parents and their ability and desire to get him there safely. Similarly, we need not understand all the intricacies of how God works; we can take a cue from the disciples and let belief *in* the risen Christ transform and empower us. In the words of Madeleine L'Engle (*The Rock That Is Higher*): "The disciples did not bother to try to understand the resurrection body. They doubted, and then they believed. They believed something so wonderful that it changed this broken, fragmented, beaten-down little group of men and women in a moment from depression to enthusiasm, from despair to new life, vibrant and unafraid."

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.

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.



Even though we are opening the church, we will still be 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.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA NORTHEAST PA SYNOD CORRECTION ON CONVENTION DATE FOR 2021

- Proposed June 12 for Convention and Justice Event.
 - o 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.
 - There will be a catered lunch.
 - o The board has decided to have an in-person and virtual event. If attending in person, weather permitting it will be outside.

THANK YOU NOTE

Dear St. Paul's Endowment Fund,

Thank you for your generous support of Meals on Wheels and our clients in need. Below is the list of your contributions given during 2020:

5/13/2020	\$500.00
11/16/2020	\$250.00

Meals on Wheels of the Greater Lehigh Valley is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located at 4240 Fritch Dr., Bethlehem, PA 18020. Your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowable by law. We certify that no goods or services were provided by Meals on Wheels in return for this contribution.

With gratitude,

Cori Rolón, CFRE

Director of Development and Communications

THANK YOU NOTES

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Lehigh Conference of Churches, thank you for your \$300.00 contribution for the year of 2020 to support our neighbors in need.

For more than 60 years, the Lehigh Conference of Churches has brought together area congregations like yours in responding to the needs of “the least among us” while building ecumenical and interfaith partnerships and fostering unity within the body of Christ. With your commitment of support, we can carry out the work of God well beyond church walls, providing healing, housing and hope to people struggling through tough times. This most generous gift allows us to continue our efforts, which touch the lives of individuals and families—more than 14,000 people throughout the Lehigh Valley each year—who are living in poverty.

The Conference is most grateful for your support. I look forward to continuing and deepening our partnership in ministry.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Genie Watson

Dear St. Paul's Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift to Bear Creek Camp! We are thankful & blessed to be partners in ministry with you! We'd love to visit your church, in-person or virtually, to talk about summer camp. Call us to schedule a visit with us! Thank you again!

Karissa Elser



3 Nick Bellucci	17 Frank Szukics
4 Dick Hartley	18 Peggy Kern
5 Kimberly Sicher	26 Finley Cope
10 Brooke Brumbach	26 Bob Nickisher
10 June Kellogg	29 Ayden Flores
15 David Walters	30 Bruce Saylor
17 Janine Ritter	



24 Larry & Mary Schneider

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

Carole Beck	Brooke Brumbach	Helen Kessler
Martha Lindenmuth	Larry Schneider	Kathy Shryock
John Thomas	Marilyn Thomas	

GENERAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The following general contributions have been received in memory of Lois Bortz, Roland Grammes, Ina Knoll and Esther Nolf by:
Tom & June Kellogg

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTION

The following memorial contribution has been received in memory of Esther Nolf by:
Melanie Dimovitz
Ann Fox
Rosemary Lehman
Barbara Monarek
Parkway Manor Elementary School Staff
Dick & Nancy Steltz
Bruce & Sandi Wagaman

FUNERAL

Pastor Carey officiated at the grave side funeral of Warren Schlenker on March 19, 2021.

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT
NEWSLETTER IS
APRIL 21, 2021**

**PLEASE HAVE YOUR
ARTICLES SUBMITTED TO
THE CHURCH OFFICE
BY THIS DATE.**

CHRISTIAN SYMBOL

LILY—The lily that blooms around Easter is a symbol of Christ's resurrection because it rises from a seemingly lifeless bulb decaying in the ground. It is also used as a symbol of Christ himself. The lily, a symbol of purity, is often used to represent the Virgin Mary.



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

April 2021 St. Paul's Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																								
				1  Maundy Thursday Watch the service on our website	2  GOOD FRIDAY Watch the service on our website	3																																																								
4 EASTER DAY/THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD 9:45 a.m.-Parking Lot Worship 10:30 a.m.-Inside Worship 	5 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	6	7	8	9	10																																																								
11 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER 9:45 a.m.-Parking Lot Worship 10:30 a.m.-Inside Worship NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	12	13	14 7:00 p.m.-Council	15	16	17																																																								
18 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER 9:45 a.m.-Parking Lot Worship 10:30 a.m.-Inside Worship	19	20	21 6:30 p.m.-UCC/ELCA Cemetery Board Mtg.	22	23	24																																																								
25 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER 9:45 a.m.-Parking Lot Worship 10:30 a.m.-Inside Worship	26	27	28	29	30	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">May 2021</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></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr> <td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr> <td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr> <td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr> <td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr> <td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	May 2021							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

April 2021

If you cannot fulfill an assigned duty, please call the church office at 610-398-7000
or the Council Person of the Month - Bob Nickisher 610-481-0887

Maundy Thursday, April 1, 2021

Online service only

Good Friday, April 2, 2021

Online service only

No Easter Vigil Service

Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021

9:45AM PARKING LOT 10:30AM INDOOR

Jennifer Bentsen	Jennifer Bentsen
Frank Bennighoff	Frank Bennighoff
Sharon Bortz	Sharon Bortz (Reader)
Bob Nickisher	Bob Nickisher
Peggy Saylor	Peggy Saylor

Sunday, April 11, 2021

9:45AM PARKING LOT 10:30AM INDOOR

Anita Eisenhard	Zack Dimovitz
Calvin Fetherolf	Rosemary Lehman (Reader)
Richard Hartley	Madeline MacMechan
Angie Kropf	Frank Szukics
Tom Kellogg	Judy Szukics

Sunday, April 18, 2021

<u>9:45AM PARKING LOT</u>	<u>10:30AM INDOOR</u>
Daisy Pearson	Daisy Pearson (Reader)
Janine Ritter	Ken Ritter
Ken Ritter	Carl Seibert
Carl Seibert	Bruce Wagaman
Sandi Wagaman	Sandi Wagaman

Sunday, April 25, 2021

<u>9:45AM PARKING LOT</u>	<u>10:30AM INDOOR</u>
Anita Eisenhard	Zack Dimovitz
Calvin Fetherolf	Rosemary Lehman
Richard Hartley	Madeline MacMechan
Angie Kropf	Frank Szukics
Tom Kellogg	Judy Szukics
	Dick Steltz (Reader)

SYNOD NEWS

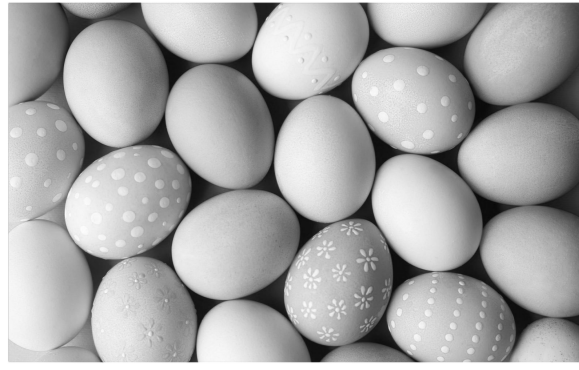
NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA

Growing Young & Vital: June 4&5, 2021

Registration for the 2021 Virtual Synod Assembly will run from the beginning of April through May 17, 2021. Our theme for this year is "Growing Young and Vital," which engages three different lanes: loving the land, healing the hurt, and engaging the stranger. We are a church in three expressions, Churchwide, synods, and congregations. In each expression of the church we seek to find joy and vitality in ministry with people of all ages.

This year we'll welcome Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton to participate in the installation of our Bishop, Christopher deForest! We'll also elect members of our synod to attend the Churchwide Assembly (CWA) as voting members in 2022.

Along with electing voting members to the CWA, we will be engaging important issues



"So then if any person is in Christ, that person is part of the new creation. The old things are gone away, and look, new things have arrived".

2 Corinth. 5:17, CEB

New Life and Vital Signs

We are resurrection people living in the hope and promise of eternal life in Christ. For us as Christ's followers, new life follows death, and there are signs of new life everywhere!

Sometimes, it feels as if we have been in a place between sleep and waking for these past twelve months, but new life is happening! If last spring was a time when we experienced more closely than ever the kind of fear and sadness the disciples may have felt at the death of Jesus, this year, while there is still much grief and weariness of these difficult days, we are also experiencing the newness of life, in powerful ways, as we head toward the empty tomb and lives of liberation, aliveness, and joy of the resurrection!

Some of the most moving moments of new life for me in recent weeks has been visiting people in local nursing homes for the first time since last year. It was wonderful to be physically present and spending time with God's people.

There is much energy and new life at **Christ Lutheran**

and topics, attending to the business of our synod as outlined in the constitution, and participating together in festival worship.

While we talk about, wonder about, and carry out our theme: Growing Young and Vital, we'll be setting the stage for asking congregations and ministries throughout our synod to identify their vital signs and places they're healing the hurt, engaging the stranger, and loving the land!



BISHOP INSTALLATION

You're invited to worship with us as we install our Bishop, Christopher deForest. This will take place after the synod assembly. Whether you attend the synod assembly or not, you're invited to participate fully in the Installation Worship! We will broadcast the installation worship live for all to participate and witness this truly joyous occasion. More information will follow letting you know how to connect to the worship and specific start time. Please plan to attend as we connect all three expressions of the church!

Conyngham, and it feels exciting, like when the beautiful spring flowers pop out of the thawing ground in spring. Some of the new and renewed life, includes getting started with **Growing Young**, and having our first get together this week to dive into the book and the six essential strategies so that we might continue to engage people of all ages in the life of the church. We hope to create excitement and vitality for people of every age on the disciple's path engage in leadership, and God's ministries in action. For Easter there are various exciting things happening... Among them, Christ Lutheran will have its first Outdoor Sunrise Easter Service, and stations of the cross set up in the outdoor areas. We've invited people from the congregation and community to pick up a devotional, and take a self-guided prayer walk any day during Holy Week. **We are also re-establishing a congregational care team** and adding some new ways for folks to minister to one another. We also experience new life in getting back to many of the already established life-giving ministries here! Thanks be to God for new life, new creation, and new beginnings!

Meet Eric Gombert

I was born and raised in the Lehigh Valley where I graduated from Whitehall High School. College years found me at Westminster Choir College, completing my degree in Sacred Music with a concentration in organ. During the thirty plus years since, I've taught both piano & organ, directed a community chorus, performed with regional ensembles, worked in business with roles including payroll, accounts payable, & technology, and served both part-time and full-time as musician for Lutheran congregations. All of this has come together to a place in my life when I am actively utilizing my gifts in both the musical & administrative areas. As **Director of Operations at the Synod**, I am responsible for overseeing building resources & technology, & the functions of bookkeeper and financial administrator. My husband, Matthew, and I have been together since 2000 & married since 2015. We are actively involved with raising our Great Dane puppy, wiping dog drool from everything, including the ceiling, roasting coffee, and tending our organic garden.



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

May 2021 LMD NL news will be due April 15, 2021. E-Mail any information to me at lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com.

****REOPENED** – Thursdays 9:30-11:30am. Clothes Closet - St. Luke's, 417 N 7th Street, Allentown, PA 18103. Volunteers are needed to come in 1 or 2 mornings a week to organize donations for two hours (Tuesday or Wednesday mornings).** 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).

LEHIGH MISSION DISTRICT ASSEMBLY:

The Mission District Spring Assembly is scheduled for Sunday, April 25th, 2021, starting at 6:00 P.M. The speaker for the evening is our new Bishop Christopher deForest. The ZOOM Invite will be provided as we get closer to the event.

CHRISTMAS INGATHERING UPDATE:

Last year it was decided to postpone the 2020 Christmas Ingathering. This year it was the hope of the Christmas Ingathering Volunteers to host the Christmas Ingathering in July. Unfortunately, the passing of one of the co-chairpersons, along with only a few congregations open for in-person worship due to the pandemic have made this event challenging. At this time, the Christmas Ingathering is postponed until further notice. Christmas Ingathering Committee

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

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>

The CROP Hunger Walk Pages are Live!

Please find your NEW Walk page on our new OneCause Platform at www.crophungerwalk.org/allentownpa

Another great opportunity coming up is our Annual Northeast CROP Hunger Walk Leadership Day! March 20th – this live ZOOM event will give you a chance to meet other CROP Hunger Walk Leaders in the Northeast and to share your ideas and ask questions. Please invite your team captains and walk planning team members.

Thank you for all that you do! Last year, even during the Pandemic, we had over 500 CROP Hunger Walks across the nation. Here are the Top Walks in our Area. **Please see attached flyer**

Christ is Risen!

Dear Lehigh Mission District.

On behalf of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod and the
Lehigh Mission District

Council, you are invited to mark your calendars.

ZOOM Lehigh Mission District Spring Assembly

Sunday, April 25th , 2021

6:00 P.M.

Speaker: Bishop Christopher deForest

The Synod Office will be sending out the ZOOM invite as
we get closer to the date.

One Year

What do we make of this one year mark of the
Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the United States? It sounds
crazy to think of this pandemic as an anniversary. However,
we do tend to mark our life by a timeline. For some people
that mark was a surgery they had. For others it was the
death of a loved one. Still for others that may have been a
war or a natural disaster.

One year later on March 14, 2021, according to the
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports
531,766 deaths in the United States as a result of COVID-
19. Certainly, this tragedy marks a time in our life time to
be remembered into future generations.

Why do we mark our years based more on tragedies in
life? We don't seem to have that same affinity when it
comes to remembering wedding anniversaries and birthday
celebrations. We now can take comfort in being reminded
by modern technology via a text reminder of a festive
anniversary.

This Season of Lent marks the time of preparing with our
discipline of prayer, fasting, and praise. To this end, we
come to our Lenten journey to meet the One who allowed
his body to be marked. That's why Thomas wants to see
the marks of Jesus' body. Thomas remembers that
tragic day. He saw the nails making a mark. He saw the
spear making a mark. Jesus was marked. Thomas was
marked. We have been marked in baptism: marked with the
cross of Christ forever.

Jesus' resurrection is the mark of the beginning of life. His
marks didn't impair Jesus from going out to seek his
disciples, to eat fish with them, to walk again with them.
Jesus walks from death into life.

**Wishing you a Happy Easter,
The Rev. Nelson Quiñones, LMD Dean**

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**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
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