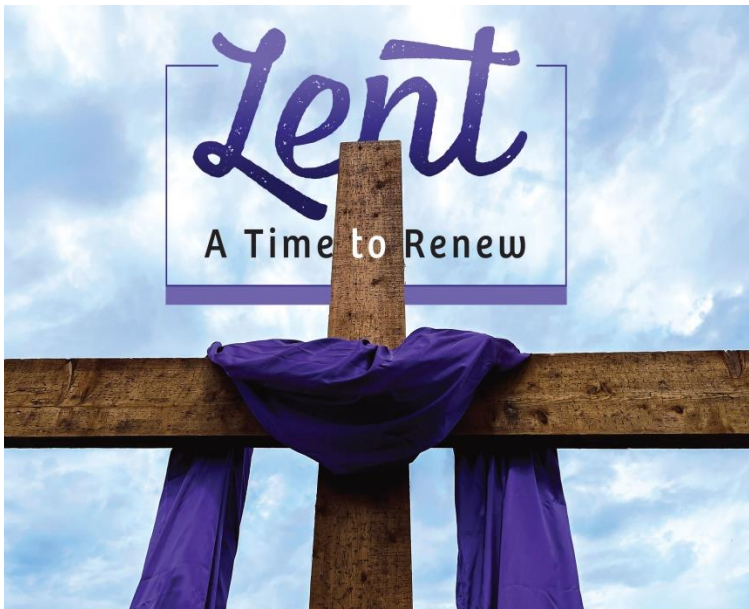


PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



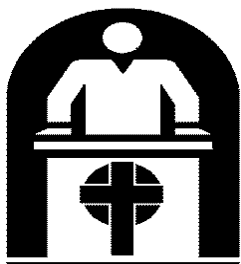
SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Breinigsville, PA

MARCH 2023



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 in the beginning weeks of Lent. One of the first lessons after Ash Wednesday is Jesus' temptation in the wilderness. After his baptism, Jesus spent 40 days in the desert, fasting and praying. Satan tempted Jesus, trying to turn the Savior from the saving work that lay ahead. But each time Jesus resisted the devil with the Word of

God. Our 40 day season of Lent from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday (not counting Sundays, each of which celebrates Jesus' resurrection), is patterned after Jesus' days in the wilderness. We fast, pray, repent, worship and oppose the tempter with the Word.

During Lent we live by the Word of God, spending time in personal devotions, Bible study and worship. We feast on the Bread of life, and receive his body and blood in Holy Communion.

The people of Israel were warned against sin and rebellion. "You shall not put the Lord your God to the test." At all times, and especially during Lent, we repent of our sins. We come before God's throne in humility and trust, confident that our sins are washed away in the cross.

Jesus resisted every temptation of Satan. All glory and authority would be his, but it would be won on the cross. During Lent and always, we worship God, who "has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." (Colossians 1:13-14).

May this Lent be for you a time of reflection, turning around (repenting), study, sacrifice, and devotion.

Pastor Miller

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.

SILK FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH

Because there are many Sundays when no one sponsors the flowers in the flower stands in church (and because it is an expense of \$44.00 for two flower arrangements) we have decided to use an arrangement of silk flowers to adorn our church when there are no sponsors. There will be at least two silk flower arrangements available (possibly more to come at a later date) to put in the flower stands.

When there are two flower arrangements that are sponsored, the flowers will appear as usual in the flower stands. When there is only one flower arrangement sponsored, it will be placed on the organ or piano and the two silk arrangements will be placed in the flower stands. When there are no flowers sponsored, the two silk flower arrangements will be placed in the flower stands.

NO LONGER HAVE A LAND LINE? HAVE A NEW CELL PHONE # OR EMAIL?

From time to time, the church office needs to be in touch with members of the congregation - either by phone or by email. In conversations with several members over the past month, we learned that they no longer have a land line (home phone).

If you have gotten rid of your land line, changed your cell phone number or changed your email address, please let Cindy know so she can update the church records. You can call the church office at 610-398-7000, or put a note on Cindy's desk on Sunday morning when you are at church. Thank you – very much appreciate it!



ANNUAL BASKET SOCIAL

It is again time to announce our annual basket social. We had a very successful event last year and are looking forward to an even better one this year. It will be held September 23, 2023 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Like last year, we are **asking for donations of baskets, paper products, and regifting items.** You responded very well last year and we encourage you to do the same this year.

There will be a significant grand prize and some special baskets in addition to the regular baskets. Something new this year – we will have a 50/50 raffle in addition to food from our kitchen and donations of baked goods. Bring those baskets, bring those items or a completed basket. Let's make this a great event.

A GOD WITH SCARS

If anyone has ever asked you why a loving God allows suffering, you've probably developed a theodicy. That's a fancy word for defending belief in divine goodness despite evil's existence. Theologians who tackle this profound mystery note that God himself wasn't spared from pain. Despite his sinlessness as true God, Jesus endured crucifixion as true man. As proof of that sacrifice, his body was scarred.

Those marks feature in a poem by English pastor Edward Shillito. Seeing wounded combatants return from World War I, he wondered how the Gospel could seem like good news to them. When Shillito realized that Christianity alone features a God who suffered, he wrote "Jesus of the Scars" to offer comfort and hope. The poem concludes:

The other gods were strong; but thou wast weak;
They rode, but thou didst stumble to a throne;
But to our wounds only God's wounds speak;
And not a god has wounds, but thou alone.

SIGN-UP SHEETS FOR BULLETIN & ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE FOR YOU

We are in need of bulletin sponsorships for 2023. Bulletin sponsorships will be for both 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 signup sheet.

Altar Flower Sponsorships are: one vase is \$22.00 or both vases are \$44.00. If you are sponsoring both vases, **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 signup sheet. Call the church office to pick a date to sponsor or check the bulletin board for available dates.

USHERS/WORSHIP ASSISTANTS ARE NEEDED

We are in need of people to help with the 10:30 a.m. worship service. For the service, worship is the same as before Covid 19 – i.e. hymns are sung, offering is collected in the pew, and communion is taken at the altar. You will be handing out the bulletin, helping to collect offering, and directing the congregation to the altar and handing them a communion cup. If you would be willing and interested in helping, please contact Steph Wagaman at 610-395-0355 or stepbillwagaman@rcn.com or call the church office at 610-398-7000.

PRAYER SHAWLS AVAILABLE



Prayer Shawl Ministry

If you would like a prayer shawl, or know of someone who is struggling and could use a prayer shawl – please see Peggy Kern or Steph Wagaman.

WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AMERICA

Our monthly meeting was on February 8th where our business discussion was about -

- *The Flame*, which was been mailed to individuals and churches in the NEPA synod.
- Spring Fling and Service Event scheduled for April 28, 29 at Kirby House. Flyer and registration details were included in the NEPA W-ELCA synod mailing. Please give this priority attention if you would like to join your sisters for an overnight event as the facility will only accommodate 25 guests.
- NEPA W-ELCA Convention is scheduled for June 14 at St. Paul's, Breinigsville. More details forthcoming in the next two months.
- The 12th annual Triennial – September 21-24 in Phoenix; more details forthcoming as soon as website is updated.
- Fall Justice Event – October 14, TBD. The Justice Committee is working on this event.

Our monthly bible study was the first session of four parts: *The Ten Commandments: Reviving the soul*, session two, *Rhythm and respect* (Commandments 3 and 4) by Christa von Zychlin. This second Bible study session we considered the “hinge commandments” - - rules that work both ways, helping us to love and serve God and the neighbor. It was disheartening to find that in a survey *keeping the Sabbath* was the voted the least important commandment. The study also covered honoring our parents.

Mark your calendar and please join us on March 8th at 9:30 a.m.
ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME!!!!

SOUPER BOWL!!!

Thank you for your support to the SOUPER BOWL to support the Allentown Food Bank with your donations of cash and non-perishable food.



A nice amount of food was collected. A total of \$175.25 was collected. Both will be sent to the Food Bank.

LOOKING FOR HELP ON AN OUTREACH PROJECT

Judy and I are considering joining an outreach project that involves making sleeping mats out of plastic bags – for donation to the homeless. The mats are crocheted out of plastic bags that are cut into strips, tied together, and then wound into a ball - called “plarn.” Even if you can’t crochet, you can help by creating the plarn for us to crochet. We can train you on the process, and it is a great way to get rid of plastic bags! If you are interested in helping out, see us at church or contact us –

Judy: disneyjudym@gmail.com or 610 914-7782;

Steph: stepbillwagaman@rcn.com or 610 395-0355.

Judy Noll

Steph Wagaman

ARE YOU BEING CALLED TO SERVE???

If you are called to serve, embrace the opportunities and the responsibility that come with that calling, because it will make a profound difference in your own life and in the lives of others. LEAD FROM WITHIN: The call to serve can come anytime, anywhere.

Our church is looking for one person to serve on the *St. Paul’s Cemetery Association*. The board is comprised of 3 people from each church, and we currently only have 2 to represent our church.

The board meets quarterly and currently meets here at St. Paul’s. Meetings for 2023 are scheduled for April 18, July 19, and October 18 [third Wednesday of the month] and start at 6:30; generally last about an hour. If anything comes up that needs to be addressed, there might be a meeting called.

Current board members are Sharon Bortz and Cal Fetherolf. Bob Nickisher and Bruce Wagaman have also been involved on the board in the past.

I ask that you put it to prayer and see if you are being called to serve!!!!

EASTER FLOWERS

Easter is April 9th and it is time to place your order for your Easter flowers. Lilies, Hyacinths, Tulips, and Daffodils are available to pick from. Order forms are available in the newsletter and on the table in the Narthex of the church.

DEADLINE TO PLACE YOUR ORDER IS SUNDAY, MARCH 19TH.

As the Post Office says at Christmas, mail early. I am asking you to order your Easter flowers as soon as possible.

Flowers can be picked up after the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

IRONPIGS



Mark your calendars for June 18, 2023. We have reserved the PenTeleData room again on that date for the church to go to the IronPigs game. Game time is 1:35 p.m. The opposing team will be the Toledo Mud Hens. More information will be coming.

I WEAR IT WHEN I DUST

Some churchgoers chatted about their customized T-shirts from a service project, sharing compliments they'd received while wearing them in public. One chimed in, saying, "I wear mine when I dust." Two nearby staff members raised their eyebrows, likely thinking it wasn't the outreach strategy they had in mind.

Jesus gave us all a "service project" via the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20). Tasks include telling people about Jesus, baptizing and teaching his commands. In a way, we all received a Great Commission T-shirt at our baptism. When do you wear yours? And how are your projects going? Whether you're serving in the community or at home (even by dusting), remember Who you represent!

—Julie Lee

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.



We have opened the church, and 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. We will send a card signed from the congregation.



4 Kevin Clark	12 Betty Moyer
9 Julie Sanchez	17 Mitzi Younger
9 Dawn Wertz	20 Pamela Zahour
10 Bruce Wagaman	25 Matthew Morgenstern
11 Rita Miller	27 Joyce Bastain
12 Ruth Berghold	27 Liam Nemeh
12 Avie Cope	28 Ellie Pisaurro
12 Susan Ferguson	



31 Westley & Laurin Mironov

GOD AMONG OUR BROKENNESS

I am not the only one who sees the underside and God at the same time. There are lots of us, and we are at home in the biblical stories of antiheroes and people who don't get it; beloved prostitutes and rough fishermen. ...

It was here in the midst of my own community of underside dwellers that I couldn't help but begin to see the Gospel, the life-changing reality that God is not far off, but here among the brokenness of our lives. And having seen it, I couldn't help but point it out.

—Nadia Bolz-Weber, *Pastrix*

LEHIGH ZION CEMETERY SHAREHOLDERS MEETING

April 17, 2023 the Lehigh Zion Cemetery Association will have their annual shareholders meeting.

Anyone having a plot on the cemetery is a shareholder.
Officers are elected at this meeting.

APRIL 17, 2023, 7 P.M.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, BREINIGSVILLE, PA


Please see Sharon Bortz if you have any questions.





A seasonal reminder


Signs of spring remind us of God's promises.


Directions: Use the picture code and clues to complete Isaiah 61:11, NIV.


 plants grow here

 to coil and jump
(also a season of the year)

 to expand and get bigger


 seeds are planted in this


 when watered, these make plants

 another word for seedling

For as the _____ makes the _____

_____  come up and a _____  causes

_____  to _____, so the

_____  Sovereign LORD will make righteousness

and praise _____  up before all nations.

ISAIAH 61:11, NIV

Answer: soil, sprout, garden, seeds, grow, spring

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT
NEWSLETTER IS
MARCH 12, 2023**

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



CHURCH OFFICE: 610-398-7000

HOSPITAL CODE: #321

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE




EMAIL: office@stpaulsbyville.org

Website: www.stpaulsbyville.org

STAFF

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

March 2023 St. Paul's Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																								
			1 6:00 p.m.-Girl Scouts	2 9:30 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	3	4																																																								
5 SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT 9:00 a.m.-Worship 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship	6 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study 7:00 p.m.-Basket Social Committee	7 6:30 p.m.-Haafsville Board Meeting	8 9:30 a.m.-W-ELCA 7:00 p.m.-Council	9 9:30 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	10	11																																																								
12 THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT 9:00 a.m.-Worship 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 	13 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study 1:00 p.m.-Worship & Music Committee	14	15	16 9:30 a.m.-TOPS 12:00 p.m.-NEPA-W-elca Meeting 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:15 p.m.-Evangelism Committee 7:30 p.m.-Choir	17 	18																																																								
19 FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT 9:00 a.m.-Worship 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship	20 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study 	21 6:30 p.m.-Haafsville Board Meeting	22 6:00 p.m.-Girl Scouts	23 9:30 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	24	25																																																								
26 FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT 9:00 a.m.-Worship 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship	27 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	28	29	30 9:30 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	31	<table border="1"> <tr><th colspan="7">April 2023</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> <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></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	April 2023							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						
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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

March 2023

If you cannot fulfill an assigned duty, please call the church office at 610-398-7000
or the Council Person of the Month – Bob Bruchak 484-357-2557

Sunday, March 5, 2023

9:00AM

(Masks Required)

No Assistants

10:30AM

(Masks Optional)

Bruce Wagaman,

Altar Guild: Amy Williams

Communion Asst: Cal Fetherolf

Communion Bread: Peggy Kern

Greeter: Cal Fetherolf

Lay Asst: Rosemary Lehman

Reader: Peggy Kern

Sunday, March 19, 2023

9:00AM

(Masks Required)

No Assistants

10:30AM

(Masks Optional)

Frank Bennighoff, Richard Hartley

Altar Guild: Esther Seibert

Communion Asst: Anita Eisenhard

Communion Bread: Anita Eisenhard

Greeter: Melanie Dimovitz

Lay Asst:

Reader: Tom Kellogg

Sunday, March 12, 2023

9:00AM

(Masks Required)

No Assistants

10:30AM

(Masks Optional)

Melanie Dimovitz, Madeline MacMechan

Altar Guild: Janine Ritter

Communion Asst: Sharon Bortz

Communion Bread: Madeline MacMechan

Greeter: Janine & Ken Ritter

Lay Asst: Daisy Pearson

Reader: Lacey Edwards

Sunday, March 26, 2023

9:00AM

(Masks Required)

No Assistants

10:30AM

(Masks Optional)

Peggy Saylor, Carl Seibert

Altar Guild: Rosemary Lehman

Communion Asst: Bob Bruchak

Communion Bread: Melanie Dimovitz

Greeters: Frank & Sandy Bennighoff

Lay Asst: Sharon Bortz

Reader: Bob Nickisher



Love for the Least

.....

The Global Missions Team at the Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit, Emmaus, PA, led an advent appeal this past holiday season to support the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) at Arusha Lutheran Medical Center in Tanzania, which was established by ELCA medical missionary Dr. Mark Jacobson, and also had the opportunity to lead the church's worship services on their annual Global Missions Sunday, held this year on January 22, 2023, to share about this ministry with those in attendance.

When a baby is born prematurely in Tanzania, it is considered as good as dead. Premature babies there are often referred to as 'stillbirths.' This was not acceptable to the staff of Arusha Lutheran Medical Center. Fifteen years ago they began to offer neonatal intensive care, and pediatrician Dr. Steve Swanson joined the program in 2011. Initially they were only able to save 4% of the babies. Today they serve almost 400 babies annually, and the survival rate in 2022 was 92%.

The care at the Arusha Lutheran Medical Center NICU is the best in Tanzania, and in most of East Africa. No baby is turned away because of inability to pay or insurance status. The five doctors and 26 nurses who staff the NICU do not just care for the tiny infants, but for the parents as well. A hospital bed and meals are provided to every mother with a baby in the NICU and both parents are encouraged and coached on how to interact with their babies.

Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit raised \$3,785 from their Love for the Least appeal to be directed to the Arusha Lutheran Medical Center NICU in Tanzania, and 175 preemie knit or crochet hats were lovingly crafted for the NICU infants, which they hope to send to Tanzania. These hats can save lives by helping to keep the babies warm.

Charlotte Gross, Co-Coordinator



JUNE 1-3 2023 AT
KALAHARI RESORT

ATTENTION ALL CONGREGATIONAL LEADERS

Now is the time to figure out who will be your voting members at the synod assembly! Don't worry, it will be well worth their time and yours! Let's have a record turnout, as we gather together (in person) as a synod for the first time since the Great Disruption of 2020. If you have any questions contact the synod office, and together we'll figure it out together!

**BEING PUBLICLY INCLUSIVE OF ALL SEXUAL ORIENTATIONS IS AN
IMPORTANT STEP YOUR CONGREGATION CAN TAKE TO BE THE
COMMUNITY CHRIST CALLS YOU TO BE!**



Become a Reconciling in Christ congregation! Reach out to Stacey Burke in the synod office (stacey@nepsynod.org) for more information.

HONORARIUM UPDATE

How much should we pay a supply minister?
That question is frequently asked by
congregations in transition or when the regular
minister is away.

*Discussion by the Committee of Deans
produced the following:*

*"that beginning 03/01/2023, minimum
honorary amounts for supply
ministers be set as follows:*

**Starting
March**

One worship service	no less than \$175
Two worship services	no less than \$225
Three worship services	no less than \$250

an additional \$50 for multiple point charges

an additional \$50 for leading an adult forum or Sunday School class

*an additional \$75 if one of the services is on a day other than Sunday;
(Saturday evenings, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good
Friday, etc.)*

**FOR THE MOST UP-TO-
DATE NEWS AND STORIES
FOLLOW US ON ALL
SOCIAL MEDIA
PLATFORMS OR VISIT US
AT GODSLOVE.ORG**

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

April, 2023 LMD NL news will be due March 13, 2023. E-Mail any information to me at lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com.

Community Free Dinners – St. John's Lutheran Church, 1028 Church Street, Fogelsville. Dinners will continue the **3rd Friday, every other month** (except November, when it will be held on the 2nd Friday) from 5-7 PM. Dinners are served "to-go", while supplies last. All are welcome.

The Clothes Closet is open: We only have one person trying to help a lot of people at one time. ***Another person is needed to help people shop.*** The hours are **Thursday mornings 9:30-11:30.** We want to keep this vital ministry to the community going. For more information, please contact Leslie Talago, Parish Administrator at St. Luke's Lutheran Church at [610-434-3943](tel:610-434-3943) or email LETalago@StLukesLuth.org. Thank you to all who help contribute things!!

Allentown Collaborative Ministries
Journey Through the Lenten Season

Ash Wednesday

12PM - Muhlenberg College - Brief Worship & Confession with Imposition of Ashes

12PM - Redeemer Lutheran Church - Worship with Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes

7:30PM - Muhlenberg College - Worship with Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes

Midweek Food & Faith Gatherings

12PM - St. Timothy Lutheran Church - Lenten Series Discussion with Soup & Salad Lunch

Maundy Thursday

12PM - Redeemer Lutheran Church - Worship with Holy Communion

7:30PM - Christ Lutheran Church - Worship with Holy Communion

Good Friday

12PM-3PM - St. Luke's Lutheran Church - Open Prayer & Contemplation

7:30PM - St. John's Lutheran Church - Tenebrae Service

Easter Vigil

7:30PM - Christ Lutheran Church

CROP Thank You, Update, and Gift Idea

Thank you for helping our 2022 Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk raise **\$32262.54** (as of 1/31/23) to help our neighbors in need locally and around the globe!

As a result of your faithful efforts, the Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank and

Lehigh Conference of Churches Kitchen will each receive **over \$4000** for their vital ministries, and our food insecure neighbors who have survived floods, drought, war (including our **Ukrainian** neighbors), earthquakes (including our neighbors in **Turkey** and **Syria**), and other disasters are receiving life-giving assistance.

Let's continue to increase awareness of the need and encourage family, friends, and others to join us in helping our food insecure neighbors with **ONLINE GIFTS** at <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/allentownpa>

Alternatively, **CHECKS FOR "CWS/CROP"** may be sent ASAP to Linda Held, Allentown CROP Hunger Walk Treasurer, 3441 Devonshire Road, Allentown, PA 18103.

BIRTHDAY or ANNIVERSARY GIFT IDEA: In honor of loved ones, give the gift of life to neighbors in need with a **GIFT TO "CWS/CROP"** at <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/allentownpa>



Dear Lehigh Mission District
Why do you strike me?

"One of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face."
John 18.22 (NRSV) The Gospel of John bears witness that Jesus was struck on the face by a police officer.

Jesus was arrested and bound. He was under investigation. He was taken to the authorities for questioning at the courtyard. As Jesus answered questions, out of nowhere - Pow! Boom! Slap! - a police officer struck Jesus in the face. All because the police didn't like the way Jesus answered the authorities. One would think that while Jesus was under the custody of the authorities at the courtyard that he would be safe during the interrogation proceedings.

This police violence in the courtyard is not something of the past. Recently, police violence was caught on body cameras released by the Memphis Police Department. The footage showed five police officers brutally beating Tyre Nichols while under their custody. The nationally televised video showed five Black officers punching, kicking, tasing, and striking with batons a young Black man. Three days later Nichols died from the beating received from the five officers. It all started from a traffic stop that led to a foot chase.

From antiquity to our present day, the cycle of police violence and destruction continues in societies.

Let's be clear: we need to differentiate between good police officers who protect and serve civilians every day and the rogue officers who have created a culture of police violence and destruction.

The police violence Jesus experienced at the courtyard took place in the presence of the authorities during his preliminary hearing. Jesus was abused under the hands of the police while in front of the authorities.

The officer was out of line. Yet the authorities were silent. The officer was not reprimanded. No corrective action plans. There was no write up. No disciplinary action. No accountability. The police officer was not even removed from his post at the scene. The authorities implicitly granted the police qualified immunity. The officer was free to violate Jesus' rights in their presence. Jesus didn't stand a chance.

The courtyard scene showed a culture of police violence that embodied the personality of the authorities. These patterns of complicity between officers and their precincts continue to violate human rights today.

Jesus was a victim of police violence. As constituents cry out for police reform, the hope is for police officers, precincts, and legislators to honorably see justice.

Have a safe Lenten Journey,
The Rev. Nelson Quiñones,
Lehigh Mission District Dean

OPERATION SUNSHINE

1933 Hanover Ave.

Allentown, PA 18109

Phone: 610-435-9155

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.

Mar 15 (Wed.) – Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre – SISTER ACT: Based on the musical comedy movie, *Sister Act* tells the hilarious story of Deloris Van Cartier, a disco diva, whose life takes a surprising turn when she witnesses a murder and the cops hide her in the last place anyone would think to look – a convent! Under the suspicious watch of Mother Superior, Deloris helps the secluded sisters find their voices as she unexpectedly rediscovers her own. A sparkling tribute to the universal power of friendship, *Sister Act* is reason to rejoice!

Bus leaves St. Timothy's at 10:00 - Return approx. 5:15 PM

Cost \$117 - Payment Deadline: Thurs., Feb. 16, 2023

April 27 (Thur.) – Paper Mill Playhouse – MURDER ON THE ORIENT

EXPRESS: The exotic Orient Express is about to go off the rails! With a train full of suspects and an alibi for each one, it's the perfect mystery for detective Hercule Poirot, n'est ce pas? Adapted from Agatha Christie's masterpiece. Private Buffet Luncheon at The Stage Tavern in Mountainside featuring main courses of House-Made Cheese Ravioli, Chicken Piccata and Herb Roasted Pork Loin with Mushroom Gravy. All this served buffet style with soup and salad, some sides and assortment of desserts.

Bus leaves St. Timothy's at 9:30 AM - Return approx. 5:00 PM

Cost \$130 - Payment Deadline: Thurs. Mar. 9, 2023

MULTI-DAY TRIPS

April 20 to April 23, 2023 (Thru - Sun) – PARADE OF NATIONS AND

VIRGINIA INTERNATIONAL TATTOO: This trip includes a 3-course dinner on The Spirit of Norfolk Dinner Cruise, Reserved seats for the 70th Annual Parade of Nations, a performance of the Virginia International Tattoo Show (the term "Tattoo" here is a ceremonial performance of military music by massed bands from around the world including acrobats, choral groups, and precision military drill teams), and much more. **Call the office to receive a full itinerary and pricing. Final payment is due by March 1, 2023**

September 17 to September 23, 2023 (Sun.-Sat.) – CHICAGO WITH AN 2 OVERNIGHTS IN CLEVELAND

- Join Operation Sunshine to visit one of the great cities of the US, Chicago, IL. This fun-filled trip is packed with activity. On our way out to Chicago, we will stop for an overnight in Cleveland where we will visit the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. In Chicago, we will have a guided bus tour of the city, a visit to the Navy Pier is also in our itinerary. We will visit Chicago's famous "Skydeck," the Shedd Aquarium, the Lincoln Park Observatory, a cruise on Lake Michigan and More! Our overnight in Cleveland on the return trip will include a bus tour of the city. **Call the office to receive a full itinerary and pricing. Final payment is due by July 31, 2023.**