

PAUL'S PARISH NEWS

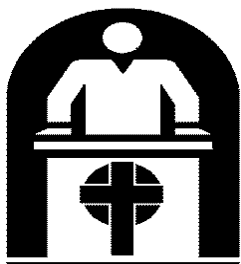


SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Breinigsville, PA

MAY 2023



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
8227 Hamilton Boulevard
Breinigsville, PA 18031
Telephone: 610-398-7000



Dear Members and Friends,

In the rush of a mighty wind and with tongues of fire, the Holy Spirit of God entered into the world on the Day of Pentecost. The Spirit's presence had immediate effect. The disciples preached with confidence. People eagerly listened to the message of the Gospel. Thousands were baptized. Promises Jesus had made were coming

true in the Holy Spirit. And we are still feeling the power of those promises coming to pass in this post-Pentecost world.

Jesus calls the Holy Spirit the Comforter, who will "bring all things to your remembrance." Whenever we are in discomfort, the Holy Spirit surrounds us with peace and reminds us of Jesus' words: "Do not worry about anything," "Do not be afraid," "I will heal," and "come to me, and I will give you rest."

The Holy Spirit who came at Pentecost is always present with us. We are not left alone to fend for ourselves in this world. The Holy Spirit is our constant companion through the ups and downs and twists and turns of life. Even in the most trying of times, the Spirit keeps us strong in our faith, and keeps pointing us to Jesus, as a faithful friend.

When we are called to defend our faith, we don't need to be concerned about what to say. Jesus says the Holy Spirit helps us to express from the heart what our relationship with Jesus means to us. The Spirit fills our mouths with words that touch hearts and minds with the Gospel.

With the arrival of the Holy Spirit we are also given a partner in prayer, when our thoughts may get muddled or we have trouble finding exact words to explain to God how we are feeling, the Holy Spirit steps in to fill in the gaps for us. The Holy Spirit enriches our prayer life and draws us into a closer relationship with our God.

May God's Holy Spirit dwell within you as you seek to serve Him in the days ahead.

Pastor Miller

JOKE ONLY A MOTHER COULD LOVE

What did the mother rope say to her child?

"Don't be knotty."

BASKET SOCIAL NEWS

We have been very busy working on baskets for the Basket Social scheduled on September 23. As of now, we have 34 baskets in house! If you are interested in putting together a basket, there are many ideas for basket themes on the table in the Narthex. You can pick up a basket tag for making a themed basket; don't forget to put your name on the sign-up sheet. The basket tag has a due date – bring the completed basket to church by that date along with a list of basket contents. You can list the contents on the index card on the back of the basket tag. We can do the basket wrapping for you.

In addition to baskets, we are looking for donations of gift cards. There are also gift card tags on the table. And we are accepting donation of items – new or nearly new items are preferred. **And we are especially in need of baskets themselves. So if you have a stash of empty baskets that you can spare, please bring them to church – we will put them to good use.**

Check out our [Basket Social Web page](#). And thanks to all who have already signed up to make a basket!

Basket Social Committee Members:

Carol-Derr-Breinig

Melanie Dimovitz

Anita Eisenhard

Rosie Gallagher

Peggy Kern

Amanda Mesko

Pastor Miller

Peggy Saylor

Becky Theodore

Steph Wagaman

PLARN-MAKING SESSION

We scheduled a Plarn-making session for Tuesday, May 2, at 1:30PM in Fellowship Hall. The Plarn is made out of plastic bags, which are cut into loops and knotted together to make one long strip of plastic material. The plastic material is then used for crocheting sleeping mats – to be donated to the homeless. Even if you can't crochet, you can help by creating the Plarn for us to crochet. We can train you on folding and cutting bags – no previous experience necessary - and it is a great way to get rid of plastic bags! Hope to see you on May 2 – the more, the merrier!

Judy Noll

Steph Wagaman

PRAYER SHAWL NEWS – TWIDDLE SLEEVE PROJECT



For those of you who are working on, or planning to work on Twiddle Sleeves – there is one yarn kit left for whoever wants it. It is in the storage closet – see Peggy or Steph if you cannot locate. We are planning to have a Twiddle Sleeve decorating session at the beginning of November, so plan to wrap up your twiddle sleeves by the end of October.

Many thanks to those who are making sleeves: Kathy Conrad, Patti Everett, Jackie Grove, Peggy Kern, Daisy Pearson, Helen Post, Sandi Wagaman, Steph Wagaman, and Irene Wenz.

Peggy Kern
Steph Wagaman

SIGN-UP SHEETS FOR BULLETIN & ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORSHIPS

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.

MARK YOU CALENDARS



A cleanup day has been set for St. Paul's Cemetery. Saturday, May 20th starting at 9 a.m. Anyone interested, just show up before 9 on the 20th.

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.

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.

WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AMERICA

Our monthly meeting was on April 12th where our business discussion was about -

- *The Convention*, scheduled for June 24 at St. Paul's, Breinigsville
 - Daisy Pearson was appointed as our voting member and there are 4 attending the convention from St. Paul's.
 - We will complete the planning for the convention for breakfast and lunch.
 - Pastor Miller will be assisting Bishop Deforest during the service.
 - *We discussed an idea to request baked goods from the congregation for the convention.*

Sandi Wagaman found an article *The Plight of Barabbas* by Pastor Jeff Dunlevy which was in The Fishwrapper [www.thefishwrapperonline.com] April 4, 2023, Vol. 8, Issue 7. We read and discussed the article which had you think about how Barabbas felt after being resigned to die and then being set free. Did he think about the innocent man that died in his place? Did he feel any remorse for his wrongdoing? Did it affect his life? A lot of questions.

Mark your calendar and please join us on May 10th at 9:30 a.m.
ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME!!!!

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. Ticket price is \$37.00 per person. Cost includes the ticket to the game, the buffet, soda and water. The opposing team will be the Toledo Mud Hens. The sign-up sheet is on the table in the narthex.

JOKE ONLY A MOTHER COULD LOVE

Why did you chop the joke book in half?
Mom said to cut the comedy.

THANK YOU

Dear Members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your support to the Allentown Food Bank and for making a profound difference in the lives of neighbors in our community. Your generous donation of \$175.25, given on 3/30/23 will be put to use to ensure that we continue to provide food to children, families and adults who are food insecure in the Allentown area.

Our client numbers are steadily increasing each month due to economic conditions. Soaring inflation costs for you and me may feel like a pinch but for our clients it is more like a punch. It is also important to note that charities like the Food Bank are not immune to the impact of inflation. Our cost for purchasing food and personal care products as well as fuel for our delivery van has increased dramatically. **Your financial support is vital** in ensuring we can provide food assistance to 1,800 + low-income households in the Allentown area every month.

We have all experienced a lot of change in the past year and a half. However, two things have not changed:

1. Many people in the area still struggle to feed themselves and their families.
2. We continue to receive generous support from our community, perfectly exemplified by your donation – **thank you!**

We will continue to work hard to live up to your expectations; to maximize the impact of your donations and provide an abundance of quantity and variety of healthy, nutritious foods to those in need.

Stay well and thank you for sharing our belief that no one should go hungry.

Gratefully,
Beverly Levenson
Executive Board Member

JOKE ONLY A MOTHER COULD LOVE

Why do mother kangaroos hate rainy days?
Because their kids have to play inside!

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.



1 Sue Bellucci	17 Peggy Apgar
6 Helen Post	18 Kyana Maslany
7 Carol Weiser	18 Kelly Morgenstern
8 Bob Bruchak	22 Sophia Mesko
11 Aubrie Pavlacka	25 Michael Morgenstern
11 Peggy Saylor	25 Joe Thompson
11 Jeff Waltemyer	



1 Susan & Al Ferguson
8 Ken & Janine Ritter
9 Nick & Sue Bellucci
18 Margaret & Ray Stoudt
21 Anthony & Katie Pisauo
23 John & Heather Caricari
24 Rosalie & Timothy Gallagher
24 Amy & Joe Williams
27 Ethan & Vanessa Eiswerth

HONOR YOUR MOTHER

Anna Jarvis, the woman who first suggested a national day to honor mothers, had an incredible mother to honor. Her mom, Ann Reeves Jarvis (1832-1905), was a Sunday school teacher and activist who helped lower infant-mortality rates in Appalachia and promoted friendship among families of Civil War soldiers.

At a memorial service for her mother, Anna Jarvis distributed carnations — her mom’s favorite flower — to attendees. Her idea to set apart one day each year for moms gained traction, and in 1914, President Wilson proclaimed the second Sunday of May Mother’s Day. It was customary by then to wear white carnations in honor of departed mothers and red carnations to honor the living.

Of the white flowers, Jarvis said they “symbolize the truth, purity and broad-charity of mother love; its fragrance, her memory, and her prayers. The carnation does not drop its petals, but hugs them to its heart as it dies, and so, too, mothers hug their children to their hearts, their mother love never dying.”

JOKE ONLY A MOTHER COULD LOVE

Why is a computer so smart?
It listens to its motherboard.

THE POWER OF (GOD’S) LIGHT

Do most people truly feel happier in spring? Is the light brighter, the sky bluer? Meteorologists say yes. The shorter, blue wavelengths of sunlight scatter more efficiently than long, red ones; as the sun rises higher in spring, the light passes through less atmosphere, making the sky appear bluer. Outdoor levels of light have proven as effective as Prozac to combat depression — and May is the sunniest month!

The Bible frequently uses light as a metaphor for God: “The Lord is my light and my salvation” (Psalm 27:1); “Let us walk in the light of the Lord” (Isaiah 2:5); “The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world” (John 1:9). Darkness isn’t bad; seeds sprout in dark soil, life begins in the dark womb, and darkness protected the Hebrews fleeing Pharaoh and the holy family fleeing Herod.

But light is one apt image for God because most of us know the joy, health and energy light brings. Both in spring and through faith in the God who enlightens all, may we “live as children of light” (Ephesians 5:8).

—Heidi Hyland Mann

COME AS YOU ARE

As a young pastor, Stan Purdum de-husked black walnuts one Saturday, not realizing his hands would be badly stained. They looked filthy, he recalls, and the marks would not wash off; they’d have to wear off. Then Purdum realized he’d be serving Holy Communion the next day.

Before distributing the elements, the pastor apologized to congregants, explaining that his hands were washed but just stained. Years later, Purdum reflected: “Now that I have a fuller grasp of theology under my belt, I think a better thing for me to say would have been, ‘Nobody comes to Communion with clean hands.’”

We’re all unworthy to receive Jesus’ body and blood, but that’s exactly why he offers it. Thanks be to God for redeeming and forgiving us — wiping away the stain of our sins!

—adapted from *The Wired Word*

FINAL EXAMS

A 96-year-old lady was a faithful attendant at my women’s Bible studies. She came with her lessons prepared and knew all the answers. One day a tactless member asked her, “Why do you work so hard on these lessons when you’re so old and it doesn’t matter?” Little Bess Elkins looked up and said confidently, “I’m cramming for my finals.”

—Florence Littauer, *Women’s Devotional Bible*



**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT
NEWSLETTER IS
MAY 14, 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@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

May 2023 St. Paul's Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																										
	1 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study 1:00 p.m.-Worship & Music Committee 7:00 p.m.-Basket Social Committee	2 1:30-p.m.-Plarn Making Session	3 11:00 a.m.-NEPA W-ELCA Mtg.	4 9:30 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	5	6																																										
7 5th SUNDAY OF EASTER 9:00 a.m.-Worship 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship	8 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	9	10 9:30 a.m.-W-ELCA 7:00 p.m.-Council	11 9:30 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	12	13																																										
14 6th SUNDAY OF EASTER 9:00 a.m.-Worship 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship 	15 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study 1:00 p.m.-Stewardship At Bruce Saylor's Home.	16 ELECTION DAY 	17	18 9:30 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers-(Last) 7:30 p.m.-Choir	19	20 9:00 a.m.-St. Paul's Cemetery Cleanup Day 																																										
21 7th SUNDAY OF EASTER 9:00 a.m.-Worship 10:30 a.m.-Worship	22 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	23 6:30 p.m.-Haafsville Board Meeting	24	25 9:30 a.m.-TOPS 7:30 p.m.-Choir-(Last)	26	27																																										
28 DAY OF PENTCOST 9:00 a.m.-Worship 10:30 a.m.-Worship	29 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 	30	31			<div> June 2023 <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></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr> <td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr> <td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr> <td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr> <td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</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	
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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

May 2023

If you cannot fulfill an assigned duty, please call the church office at 610-398-7000
or the Council Person of the Month - Zack Dimovitz 484-560-4858

Sunday, May 7, 2023

9:00AM

(Masks Required)

No Assistants

10:30AM

(Masks Optional)

Jennifer Bentsen, Madeline MacMechan

Altar Guild: Amy Williams

Communion Asst: Cal Fetherolf

Communion Bread: Peggy Kern

Greeter: Alice Bastian

Lay Asst: Daisy Pearson

Reader: Lacey Edwards

Sunday, May 21, 2023

9:00AM

(Masks Required)

No Assistants

10:30AM

(Masks Optional)

Frank Bennighoff, Carl Seibert

Altar Guild: Jennifer Bentsen

Communion Asst: Peggy Saylor

Communion Bread: Pat Spencer

Greeter: Frank & Sandy Bennighoff

Lay Asst: Rosemary Lehman

Reader: Tom Kellogg

Sunday, May 14, 2023

9:00AM

(Masks Required)

No Assistants

10:30AM

(Masks Optional)

Rosie Gallagher, Peggy Saylor

Altar Guild: Janine Ritter

Communion Asst: Bob Bruchak

Communion Bread: Bob Bruchak

Greeter: Rosie Gallagher

Lay Asst: Dick Steltz

Reader: Sandi Wagaman

Sunday, May 28, 2023

9:00AM

(Masks Required)

No Assistants

10:30AM

(Masks Optional)

Zack Dimovitz, Richard Hartley

Altar Guild: Rosemary Lehman

Communion Asst: Anita Eisenhard

Communion Bread: Alice Bastian

Greeter: Melanie Dimovitz

Lay Asst: Sandi Wagaman

Reader: Cal Fetherolf

P a l m S u n d a y





April 9, 2023, Easter Sunday Celebration

Easter Flowers, Fellowship, Special Music

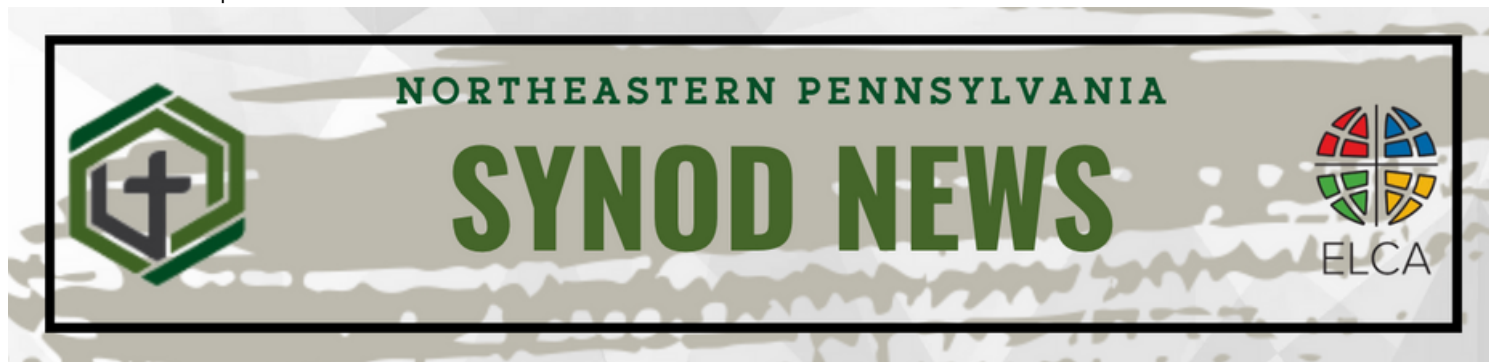


Holy Hamor Sanday



April 16, 2023





Wednesday may be a slump day for some, but at the La Crosse LuMin Lutheran Campus it's all about grace through free cookie Wednesday. Want a cookie? Take a cookie! They just give out cookies to make folks' day better — no strings attached. As he's giving out the cookies, it's not unusual for Pastor Ben Morris to be asked, "Where do the cookies come from?" The answer is Lutheran grandmas up in the bluffs and hills made them with real butter and real love. Each week congregations throughout the La Crosse Area Synod drop off 500 cookies to be given away. Pastor Ben says, "It's like manna in the wilderness; there always seems to be enough," and these cookies taste better.

LuMin La Crosse is a place to gather in worship, connect to study, grab a cup of coffee, share a family-style meal, sit in prayer, make bread for the women's shelter, take walks together, and explore places afar in service to others. They advocate for others, share space with multicultural student groups, proudly display the pride flag, and mostly reconnect with humanity and each other. Oh, and give out cookies! Like all ELCA LuMin campus ministry sites across our synods, this ministry happens because congregations share food — yes, cookies — and also through Mission Support that is shared with our synods and churchwide organization to support these vital, transformative, grace-filled ministries with students. Mission Support is just one way campus ministry is funded, so learn more, and pray for local campus ministry by checking out luminelca.org/.

WHY SHOULD I ATTEND?



JUNE 1-3 2023 AT
KALAHARI RESORT

www.godslove.org. We have also set aside more than 90 minutes in the agenda to address resolutions and motions at this meeting – more than any meeting before – with additional time we can make available as needed. **Come as Voting Member from your congregation and make your voice heard.**

The Inspiring Worship and Music. Our talented worship team has been 6 months in the planning for all elements of worship and music at this event – with more in store for this Assembly than ever. Music will be led by the celebrated group “Chasing Daylight,” with added highlights from David Scherer (known nationally as “AGAPE”). Also featured will be works of art, dance, poetry, lights and colors, and sights, and sounds to move and uplift from floor to ceiling!

The Speakers, Preachers & Presenters. **Never before have we been able to offer such an impressive line-up** for learning and bringing back ideas and inspirations for you and your congregations: A wide range of hands-on workshops led by local and churchwide experts.

- Joe Davis and David Scherer – nationally acclaimed speakers, recording artists and educators; and featured performers at ELCA Youth Gatherings. They plan to power up our workshops AND main sessions (AKA plenaries) – getting us on our feet, interacting, and understanding better some of the biggest challenges we face today: including engaging with young people; finding new energy in worship and ministry; and having conversations around tough topics, especially racism. T
- Bishop Michael Girlinghouse – author of the new book: *Embracing God’s Future without Forgetting the Past*. Drawing on more than 30 years of research and experience – Bishop Girlinghouse will show us how we and our congregations can work through our collective grief without forgetting or devaluing our past. He will offer a practical, step-by-step process for engaging and embracing God’s future for each congregation.
- AND SO MUCH MORE!

New NEPA Synod Director for Evangelical Mission

Welcome to the NEPA Synod and to the Lehigh Mission District, Deacon Kathleen Tigerman.

Deacon Kathleen Tigerman is the New NEPA Synod Director for Evangelical Mission.

In 2012, Deacon Tigerman was consecrated as a deacon by The Lutheran Deaconess Association. In 2016, Deacon Kat was rostered in the ELCA.

Deacon Tigerman undergrad is a BA from Valparaiso and a MATS from The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.

In addition, Deacon Tigerman brings experiences as an executive director with non-profit organizations.

Welcome to the Lehigh Mission District!

Construction has started at Luther Crest on their new Greenwood building. This building will hold an additional 70 independent living apartments and is estimated to be completed in early 2024. Luther Crest is also in the process of renovating their existing facilities. If you are interested in learning more, contact 610-391-8229 or visit their website at www.luthercrestgw.org



*June 2023 LMD NL news
will be due May 15, 2023.*

Please email any information to
lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com

A Bottomless Coffee

Dear Lehigh Mission District,

After arriving in Philadelphia one summer for a two-week course on preaching, I went out in search of breakfast. I grabbed my Mt. Airy Restaurant Guide. My fingers cruised the pages to see where I could grab a coffee and a bagel.

From the plethora of options, I stopped at InFusion: "A Coffee & Tea Gallery." The coffee shop's theme was "Think Globally, Meet Locally."

The barista, a young woman with a bronze Indian complexion, greeted me and took my order. "A Bottomless Coffee, a muffin, and a newspaper," she replied, "Is that all?"

An African bass accent resounded in a conversation around the corner talking about Buddha. Interesting, I thought. His bass voice had the cadence of James Earl Jones.

I sat down on a chair, took a sip of coffee and a huge bite of my muffin. "Mmm, que rico - delicious." As I looked around, two women walked in. They were holding hands and smiling at each other. From the counter a loud shout from the barista called out, "Latte and bagel!"

An Anglo woman sat at the table in front of me. We greeted each other with pleasant smiles. I resumed my search for what I was looking for -- an encounter with God in a non-traditional space, as that was the preaching assignment.

My ears were zeroing in in anticipation of the first sound of what be the voice of God. "Ole!" The barista shouted another coffee order.

The couple sitting to the left of me were discussing next year's school semester. "Language is a requirement," he told her. An African-American woman was typing on her MacBook. She looked serene and at the same time wise with her grayish dreadlocks.

A young college-age man shouted to the barista that he was going to the patio. He waved to the barista at the counter, who tore the ticket order form from her notebook. The blender goes off with a blast. Then the coffee grinder. I wanted to scream, "People stop the noise! I am trying to listen to God! I've got a project to do here, por favor!"

I decided to take a break and stretch. I walked over to take a look at the patio. "Nice tent," I thought as I gave it a quick inspection. I walked back inside and noticed a book on a table called *Every Living Thing*. Nearby was a children's table with books and toys in bins. The petite chairs were waiting patiently for children to arrive.

I approached the counter for another cup of bottomless coffee and regrouped my thoughts. I noticed a fellow classmate deep in thought reading a book. I heard the African voice talking about a soccer team. By the excitement in his voice, it seemed like his team won.

An older woman walked in and stood next to me. She smiled. "Just a cup of coffee." She says to the barista. "Yes, to go." (continued on the next page ⇒)

LMD Announcements:

**Leslie Elizabeth Talago,
LMD Treasurer**
April 4, 1957 - April 7, 2023

I bring you the sad news that Leslie Talago, LMD Treasurer, passed away on Good Friday. Her funeral service will be held Saturday, April 15th at 12:00 Noon at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Allentown. Calling hours will be from 10 A.M. to Noon. The link below is Leslie's obituary. Please keep Leslie's family, friends, and St. Luke's congregation where she was the parish administrator in your thoughts and prayers.

<https://www.stephensfuneral.com/obituary/leslie-elizabeth-talago/>



Lehigh Mission District Spring Assembly

Lutheran Center, Allentown
Sunday, May 7, 2023 at 4PM
Register Now:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSflGShqeQh_fbVrcb_YWJAMPNaZWsvR3Z4cZ8rOy9RIVme9w/viewform

Rostered Leaders, Lay Delegates, and visitors are welcome to attend the Lehigh Mission District Spring Assembly. Come and hear our guest speaker: Growing Young Coordinator, Stacy Burke.

Synod Assembly "Going Beyond 2023"

Set for June 1-3 at Kalahari Resorts in the Poconos. *Register Now:*
<https://nepasynod.org/assembly23/>

(continued from previous page) And as I waited to hear God's voice the thought of Jesus' prayer that he taught to his disciples came to mind, "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread."

There I was surrounded by a global community that hinted at a glimpse of God's kingdom on earth. The aroma of incense from the ground coffee beans filled the air. Here was an atmosphere that was indifferent to our differences, a heaven as God intended: to be in community with one another; a kingdom blended and ground by the hands of a divine coffeemaker.

This brief celestial moment brought many to become one, free as we were meant to be, and smiled to see the sparkle of the divine within. This corner of the world, as in many corners in the world, served as a reminder of God's heaven on earth.

As I glanced around the coffee shop, the chatter from the voices for a second seemed muted. The aroma of this blend was distinctive. The Bottomless Coffee became my daily bread.

That evening as I gathered my thoughts, I stopped at Wawa for my evening coffee. As I waited in line to pay the cashier, the person behind me began to talk to me. "I'm sorry," I said, "You look familiar." "Yeah, you came in this morning to the coffee shop."

I was looking for God's voice locally and encountered an infused global community. Jesus said, "For behold the kingdom of God is within you." *Luke 17:21*

Enjoy your coffee,
The Rev. Nelson Quiñones, Lehigh Mission District Dean

SPRING FILM FEST

Bless Me, Ultima by Rudolfo Anaya

Thursday May 11, 2023

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (OR) 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

At Christ Lutheran Church

(1245 W. Hamilton Street, Allentown)

View and discuss this classic, award winning film with other spiritual seekers, led by Rev. Tom Lichner

See flyer for details.

ADVENT CHRISTMAS INGATHERING:

Mark your calendars: This year's date is
Wednesday, December 6, 2023

At St. John's Lutheran Church in Emmaus

Thank you for all your support!



OPERATION SUNSHINE

1933 Hanover Ave, Allentown, PA 18109
Phone: 610-435-9155

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

Email: LMDopsunshine@aol.com

Website: 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.

June 13 – Doolan's Shore Club
COUNTRY HALL OF FAMERS:
CASH, PARTON AND DENVER

September 17 to September 23, 2023
CHICAGO WITH 2 OVERNIGHTS IN CLEVELAND

See website for details.

CROP Hunger Walk: Helping Neighbors Near and Far

Thank you for helping our 2022 Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk raise **\$32345.87** 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.

Please Save These CROP Dates:

Greater Allentown **CROP Hunger Walk: Sun., Oct. 8, 2023**, 1:30 p.m., with registration beginning at 1:00 p.m. at St. Timothy Lutheran Church, 140 S. Ott St., Allentown, PA 18104

Find more **information** about the life-saving work of Church World Service at www.crophungerwalk.org

CROP Recruiters' Pizza Party/Kick-off: Sun., Aug. 27, 2023, 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