

PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Breinigsville, PA

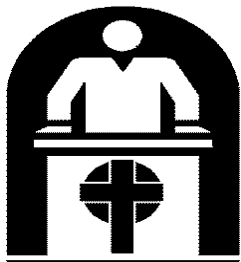
SEPTEMBER 2023



September

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,

Living Each Day as a Steward!

C. S. Lewis said, “There are two kinds of people: those who say to God, ‘Thy will be done,’ and those to whom God says, ‘All right, then, have it your way.’” As redeemed children of God, of course, we desire to belong to that first category.

We long to **live each day as stewards** who earnestly pray, “Thy will be done.” As God’s stewards, we are devoted to using all that we are and have for his purpose. We are God’s stewards each and every day.

On Sundays October 15th, October 22nd, and October 29th, the theme of our worship services will be **living each day as a steward**. We will learn how the Holy Spirit, working through Word and Sacrament, transforms us to be more like our Chief Steward, Jesus, who willingly poured out his life in giving and serving, ultimately sacrificing his very life for our eternal lives. Just as Jesus faithfully served his Father by serving us, we are to use our lives and gifts in faithful service to him by serving others. “*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace*” (1 Peter 4:10).

As your pastor, I pray that each of you will take advantage of these opportunities to grow in the grace and knowledge of your Lord that you might be strengthened in faith both for eternity and for a fruitful life here on earth.

The three weekly themes are as follows:

October 15th: “The Steward’s Identity”

October 22nd: “The Steward’s Purpose”

October 29th: “The Steward’s Lifestyle” (Commitment Sunday)

May God grant us strength and wisdom to be the faithful stewards that he has called us to be.

Pastor Miller

COMING EVENTS AT ST. PAUL'S MARK YOUR CALENDARS

POT-LUCK LUNCHEON – SEPTEMBER

A pot-luck luncheon will be held September 10th immediately following the 10:30am worship service. Please fill out the sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex as the time approaches.

HARVEST SUNDAY



We will be celebrating a Harvest Sunday at St. Paul's on October 1, 2023 to commemorate the gathering in of harvest. For this special service, the church will be decorated with fall décor and harvest items. We will sing hymns of celebration and give thanks for our bounty.

As part of this celebration, we are calling for **non-perishable** food donations. You can bring canned goods and other non-perishable items to church Sunday, September 24th or October 1st and place items in the box in Narthex marked "Harvest Home". All food items will be donated to the food bank.

Help us to celebrate Harvest Sunday on October 1st and bring food donations for those in need.

ADVANCE NOTICE – Trunk or Treat –
October 29th, **3:00pm** in St. Paul's parking lot.



THANKOFFERING SUNDAY – November 19th

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE, Sunday, December 17th at 2:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES, Sunday, December 24th

Family Service at 4:30 p.m. Prelude starts at 4:00 p.m.

Festival Service at 7:00 p.m. Prelude starts at 6:30 p.m.

BASKET SOCIAL EVENT ON SEPTEMBER 23 AT 10:00AM

The Basket Social Committee has been busy planning the event for September 23. There are **175** baskets so far! Thank you to all who have contributed baskets, items, or gift cards.

You can still donate! There are ideas for **gift cards** on the table, or pick up one from your favorite store or restaurant. Consider donating a **baked item** for the bake sale. You can bring it to church at 9:00AM on Saturday, 9/23 – or we can pick up baked items Friday night. Also - there is a box in the narthex for donations of **paper products**. The deadline for donating a **basket** is September 15.

We especially need your help on event day. We also need help setting up Thursday evening (9/21) at 6:30PM, and moving tables back Saturday evening after the event. See the sign-up sheets on the table in Narthex.

Don't forget to get your tickets in advance! Tickets are \$5 per card (each card contains 26 tickets). If purchased in advance, you can get 5 cards for \$20. If purchased at the door, 5 cards will cost \$25. See Anita or anyone on the Basket Social Committee for tickets.

Come join the fun on the 23rd and shop the Baskets, Gift Cards, and Specials – there is something for everyone. Bring the kids or grandkids – kids age 10 and under will receive free tickets to bid on in their own basket section. Bring a non-perishable food item for a chance to win the paper products tower. Try your chances at the 50/50 drawing and the \$1,000 grand prize. (Note: 50/50 proceeds to benefit Caring D.A.M. Hearts of Slatington.) Bring a lawn chair and enjoy the Municipal Band of Allentown concert at 1:00PM.

Preview the baskets so far in our [basket pictorial directory](#).

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

BASKET SOCIAL CORPORATE SPONSORS

In addition to the donations made by members of our congregation, we would like to thank our corporate sponsors for their generous donation of gift cards, baskets, and/or food items. Below is a list of corporate sponsors so far:

1760 House	Keystone Foods
Applebee's	Mark's Sandwich (Kutztown)
Auto Zone	Market Café (Topton)
BJ's	Mediterranean Café and Grill
Bimbo's	Nothing Bundt Cakes
European Wax Center	Outback
Fiorentina's	Picasso Pizza
Getz Service Station	Philadelphia Eagles
Herr's	Rita's
Hometown	Starlight
Jack's Downtown Diner (Topton)	Texas Road House
KFC	

NEXT PLARN-MAKING SESSION ON AUGUST 29

Just a reminder that we are having another plarn-making session on **Tuesday, August 29, at 10:00AM** in Fellowship Hall. We can train you on making plarn – no previous experience necessary - and it is a great way to get rid of plastic bags! Hope to see you on August 29 – the more, the merrier!

We'd like to thank all those who have helped on this project thus far - Kathy Conrad, Carol Derr-Breinig, Melanie Dimovitz, Evelyn Guzman, Peggy Kern, Rosemary Lehman, Judy Noll, Dorothy O'Connors, Daisy Pearson, Evelyn Randall, Laura Stoneback, Bruce & Sandi Wagaman, and Steph Wagaman.

Judy Noll
Steph Wagaman

BOSCOV'S FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS

We are again offering discount cards for the Boscov's Friends Helping Friends event on October 18th from 8:00am to 10:00pm. With the card there is a 25% discount off the lowest sale prices. You can also win a \$100.00 gift card (one winner per store). Cards are available in the narthex. We are requesting a \$5.00 donation for the cards. Proceeds will go to the church.

PRAYER SHAWL NEWS – TWIDDLE SLEEVE PROJECT



We will be decorating sleeves after church on **Sunday, November 5**. Please bring in your completed sleeves by November 5. Additional information on decorating sleeves will follow. The decorated sleeves will be blessed on **Sunday, November 19**.

Peggy Kern
Steph Wagaman

BLESSED WITH WORK

In the movie *Return to Me*, Grace works for her grandfather, Marty, in his restaurant, and the two live upstairs. After closing time one night, Grace looks through the apartment window and sees Marty cleaning tables. She yells down to ask if he wants help, and he replies, “No, dear, that’s okay. I’m blessed with work.”

Here’s a man well past retirement age laboring extra hours after his staff has clocked out. Marty simply continues to delight in his work, despite the late hour.

Although this snippet had little to do with the movie’s plot, I’ve always remembered Marty’s words. But I don’t think I’ve ever claimed to be “blessed with work.” By contrast, I often sigh as I’m dealing with messes or long to-do lists. I can get so caught up in tasks that I overlook the incredible people around me. I miss out on the blessing — the joy — of work.

Ecclesiastes 5:19 (NLT) says, “To enjoy your work ... is indeed a gift from God.” In what ways are you “blessed with work”?

—Janna Firestone

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.

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.

PARISH NURSING NOTES

“Preventative Medicine”

September 2023

Peggy Saylor, RN

Summer is winding down and most of us will be returning to a more “organized” schedule. One item that should be included in our schedules should be “preventative medicine.”

The American College of Preventative Medicine defines preventative medicine as the practice of promoting preventative health to improve patient wellbeing. The goal is ultimately to prevent disease, disability, and death by diagnosing medical conditions before they become a problem. Many employers now offer lower insurance co-pays to their employees if they participate in preventative screening as the claims submitted for preventing an illness and early treatment are much less than the claims for treatment once the illness is advanced. Some managed care insurance plans offer bonuses for completing diagnosis testing for the same reason. A woman can get her annual mammogram and the insurance company sends her a check or gift card for \$25!

For adults, examples of preventative screening would be:

- Screening for breast, colorectal, skin, cervical and prostate cancer
- Screening for blood pressure, cholesterol, and diabetes
- Immunizations such as flu shots, COVID vaccines, tetanus and shingles
- Education and counseling for healthy lifestyles, smoking cessation, and assessment of mental status

For children, the list would include:

- Well visits for growth and development
- Immunizations for childhood diseases
- Screenings for autism and lead poisoning

While this may seem like common sense to most of us, a study done in 2018 found that only 8% of adults in the United States who are 35 years and older received the preventative care that was recommended to them.

The most important step that you should take is to make sure that you have a primary care physician or health care provider. This individual can assess your screening needs based on your age and family history and make the proper recommendations for your screening needs.

The second most important step is that you follow the recommendations that your health care provider makes and follow up with the recommended treatment if needed. Most older individuals like me remember our parents as only going to the doctor when they were sick. Preventative medicine will hopefully prevent any illnesses from becoming chronic too late.

P.S. – if you need to have your blood pressure checked – the Parish Nurse committee will start holding monthly blood pressure checks again in October!!!

CONTINUING EDUCATION

In September, Christian education programs are in full swing. How wonderful to see classrooms of children learning about Jesus! But what about the grown-ups? Some parents who make sure their kids get to Sunday school don't attend Bible study themselves.

Following and learning about Christ are lifelong pursuits. If we are to love God with our *mind* (as well as with our heart, soul and strength), then we must keep learning even into old age. Plus, when we are well informed about God's Word and our faith, we can share it with non-Christians and express the reason for our hope (see 1 Peter 3:15).

To love God with "all your mind" (Mark 12:30), find an adult Bible study or small group that dives into Scripture. Then humbly wear the label of lifelong learner, knowing that God still has new things to teach even the most seasoned Christian.

WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AMERICA

Our group met over the summer in July and August. In June, we hosted the 33rd Annual NEPA WELCA Convention.

NEPA W-ELCA Convention, June 24, 2023

Our attendance for the convention was 27 and our own Pastor Miller officiated at the worship service and remained for the entire convention.

Pastor Dietz was our representative from the synod since Bishop deForest was returning from a trip to Europe and could not attend. Pastor Dietz brought that God is shaping and moving us and giving us the courage to grieve things that no longer are the way they used to be. We need to find an adaptive way of being in the world today. She pointed out that some of the oldest congregations in the country are in our synod. The Bishop and 2 other synod representatives will be on a listening tour in the fall to various congregations in the synod.

Sandi Wagaman, after serving on the board for many years left the board and Daisy Pearson joined the board. Sharon Bortz has remained on as secretary.

Thank you to the ladies of our church who assisted to make the convention a success!!!!

The Flame, a publication from our NEPA WELCA Synod Board, will be mailed in August.

Join us on October 14th at Allegheny Lutheran Church in Mohnton for our Justice Event which centers around “Diversity”. Registration starts at 9:30 a.m.; worship begins at 10 a.m. conducted by Pastor Labagh. Our keynote speaker is Rubina Tareen who will speak on Unity in diversity. After lunch there will be breakout session with Rubina Tareen and Pastor Hang who has services with the Lutheran Hmong Group. It should be a very interesting event!!!!

See Sharon Bortz, Daisy Pearson or Sandi Wagaman for registration forms if you don’t receive The Flame mailing.

Our bible study for July was *Salvation now Session two Tangible salvation now: Christians as bringers of wellness* by Anna Madsen. The August bible study was *Salvation now Session three A world wanting wellness* by Anna Madsen. The bible study dealt with the word *now* as the

gospel writer John uses it, has different meanings that convey opposite truths. In daily life, we tend to use the word “now” as a filler, but the word “now” mostly does some heavier semantic and theological lifting in the Gospel of John.

No meeting in September due to scheduling conflicts!

Mark your calendar and please join us on **October 11th** at 9:30 a.m. for another time of fellowship, camaraderie and bible study from The Gather magazine.

ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME!!!!

INSTRUMENTS OF CONNECTION

Following Jesus involves much more than attending worship, as Pastor Stan Purdum points out in a sermon titled “The Hug”:

“The spiritual life, in addition to some outwardly religious and inwardly devotional acts, also includes such mundane activities as sending thank-you notes for gifts received, returning phone calls, greeting fellow worshipers Sunday after Sunday, surprising our spouse with a spontaneous act of appreciation, helping out at funeral dinners, seeking common ground during disagreements, listening to our children, working at not being a grouch, visiting friends and relatives and, perhaps, even sending an electronic hug. All those things are instruments of connection. The spiritual aspect is the intentionality behind them.”

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.

THANK YOU

Dear Members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the Food Bank, I would like to thank you for your food donation of 135 pounds of much needed items given on 7/11/23. Your donation allows us to keep our shelves stocked with items that we know our clients appreciate. It also allows our budget for purchasing food to be stretched a little further.

Your support enables us to provide food assistance to 1,800+ low-income households in the Allentown area every month. Your donation helps us provide vital food resources throughout the year. Due to inflation, we have seen an increase in need, and the Food Bank has served over 47,000 people this year. A recent Penn State University study reports 'over 12% of PA households were experiencing hunger at the end of 2020'.

Our Food Bank provided food to over 13,000 families this year. We anticipate that number will continue to rise. Each visit provided our clients with enough groceries, including fresh fruits and vegetables, for a short period. It is with the generous donations, such as yours, that allow us to continue to serve those who are food insecure in our community.

There is no way to aptly express our gratitude for your support. The staff and over 150 volunteers at the Food Bank are continually in awe of community support and generosity as demonstrated through your donation. YOU are helping us make a difference!

With sincere gratitude, Jennifer Kelley, A.A.E.F.B. Volunteer

To St. Paul's Congregation,

Thank U. for your continued prayers for Frank. He is and will be taking chemo for quite a while, but he is doing O.K., but still taking 1 day at a time. The "Power of Prayer" is what we continue to rely on.

Judy Szukics

Thank U again. That is so very thoughtful, greatly appreciated. May God Bless all who are on your prayer list

Frank Szukics



2 Nicholas Theodore	23 Madeline MacMechan
4 Kathy Conrad	23 Hazel Pisauo
5 Laurin Mironov	25 Luca Caricari
11 Steph Wagaman	26 Carlene Brumbach
18 Jim Eisenhard, Sr.	26 Steve Mesko
20 Lisa Newhard	27 Jennifer Bentsen
21 Emily Danner	27 Sharon Heminitz
21 Calise Eiswerth	28 Paula Smith



5 Skip & Anita Eisenhard
20 Earl & Irene Wenz

FUNERAL

Pastor Carey officiated at the funeral of Lincoln S. Parmer on Friday, August 18, 2023. Lincoln was the brother of Becky Theodore.





A PATH TO PRAYER

God's Word offers lots of insights about how to pray.

Directions: Use the code to fill in the blanks and complete a Bible passage about prayer.



ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFE DCBA



R G S Z M P N B T L W

V E V I B G R N V R

I V N V N Y V I B L F

R M Z O O N B

K I Z B V I H U L I Z O O

L U B L F , R Z O D Z B H

K I Z B D R G S Q L B

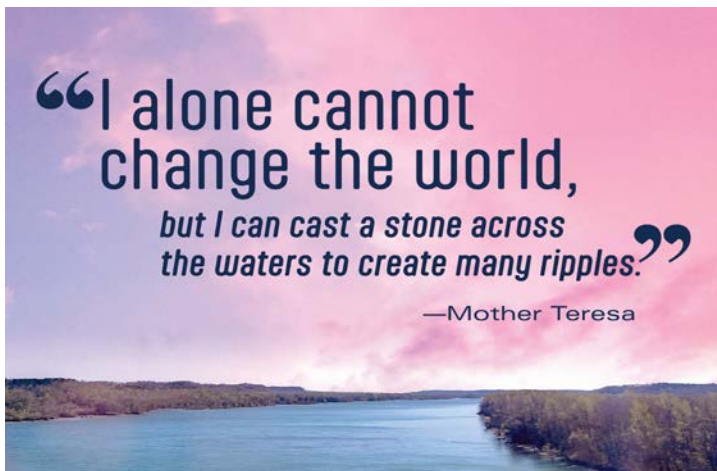
K S R O R K K R Z M H

1:3-4, NIV

Answer: I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy. Philippians 1:3-4, NIV

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT
NEWSLETTER IS
SEPTEMBER 10, 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

September 2023 St. Paul's Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																										
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3 FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9:00 a.m.-Worship 10:30 a.m.-Worship	4 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED  LABOR DAY	5	6 7:00 p.m.-Council	7 9:30 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	8	9																																										
10 FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9:00 a.m.-Worship 10:30 a.m.-Worship 11:30 a.m.-Potluck Lunch 	11 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study 	12 W-ELCA 12 th Annual	13 NO W-ELCA MEETING THIS MONTH Triennial In Phoenix	14 9:30 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	15	16																																										
17 SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9:00 a.m.-Worship 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship	18 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	19 6:30 p.m.-Haafsville Board Meeting	20	21 9:30 a.m.-TOPS NO BELLS OR CHOIR REHEARSALS 6:30 p.m.-Setup For Basket Social	22	23 10:00 a.m.-4:00 a.m. Basket Social 1:00 p.m.-Municipal Band of Allentown Concert 																																										
24 SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9:00 a.m.-Worship 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship	25 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	26	27	28 9:30 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	29	30																																										

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

September 2023

If you cannot fulfill an assigned duty, please call the church office at 610-398-7000
or the Council Person of the Month – Melanie Dimovitz 484-649-5705

Sunday, September 3, 2023

9:00AM

No Assistants

10:30AM

Andrew Bruchak, Bob Bruchak
Altar Guild: Rosemary Lehman
Communion Asst: Sandi Wagaman
Communion Bread: Bob Bruchak
Greeter: Frank & Sandy Bennighoff
Lay Asst: Daisy Pearson
Reader: Sharon Bortz

Sunday, September 17, 2023

9:00AM

No Assistants

10:30AM

Ken Ritter, Judy Walker
Altar Guild: Janine Ritter
Communion Asst: Peggy Saylor
Communion Bread: Ken & Janine Ritter
Greeter: Carol Derr-Breinig
Lay Asst: Rosemary Lehman
Reader: Bob Nickisher

Sunday, September 10, 2023

9:00AM

No Assistants

10:30AM

Cal Fetherolf, Richard Hartley
Altar Guild: Amy Williams
Communion Asst: Anita Eisenhard
Communion Bread: Esther Seibert
Greeter: Carl & Esther Seibert
Lay Asst: Dick Steltz
Reader: Lacey Edwards

Sunday, September 24, 2023

9:00AM

No Assistants

10:30AM

Jennifer Bentsen, Rosie Gallagher
Altar Guild: Jennifer Bentsen
Communion Asst: Bob Bruchak
Communion Bread: Dorothy O'Connors
Greeter: Dorothy O'Connors
Lay Asst: Sandi Wagaman
Reader: Cal Fetherolf



NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

SYNOD NEWS



THE THREE ROADS TO VITALITY

As we gather together in the embrace of faith and fellowship throughout the synod (from assemblies, worship, ordinations, anniversaries, and to other synod-wide events) we are reminded of the powerful journey we are on as a Church with a capital C. Our commitment to Christ's teachings has allowed us to evolve beyond mere existence and instead embrace life abundantly. Throughout our synod over the past few years, we've been celebrating three key phrases that define our thriving communities: Growing Young, Stronger Together, and Going Beyond Death to Life.

Growing Young

Embracing life is not limited to any particular age group; it is a concept that transcends generations. We are proud to be a church that nurtures an intergenerational atmosphere, where the wisdom of our elders and the enthusiasm of our youth combine to create a vibrant and dynamic community.

In the teachings of Jesus, we find the encouragement to become like children, embracing a childlike faith that is open, eager, and receptive to God's grace. Our thriving churches have taken this message to heart, fostering an environment that allows every member, regardless of age, to experience spiritual growth and development, to participate in leadership roles, and exude the various elements of the growing young wheel. In doing so, we not only remain young at heart but also enrich each other's lives by sharing diverse perspectives and experiences.

Stronger Together

In unity, we discover strength. Our churches embody the spirit of togetherness, recognizing that we are bound by a shared faith and a common purpose. When we face challenges or trials, we do so as a united body, drawing support from one another, and standing firmly rooted in God's love.

As the Apostle Paul once wrote, "For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ, we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." (Romans 12:4-5, NIV). This unity allows us to overcome obstacles, reach out to those in need, and fulfill our mission to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world.

Going Beyond Death to Life

In a world that often fixates on the inevitability of death, our church communities boldly choose to focus on the promise of resurrection and life. We are reminded of the words of Jesus when he said, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die." (John 11:25, NIV). This powerful message resonates within our hearts, filling us with hope and joy.

As a Church and as individual churches, we understand that life is not confined to this earthly existence alone. Our spiritual journey extends beyond the boundaries of mortality, and we find solace in knowing that a greater, eternal life awaits us. By embracing this profound truth, we are empowered to live with purpose, spreading love, compassion, and the Gospel to all corners of the world.

As we continue to journey together as a church that goes beyond death to life, grows young, and stands stronger together, let us celebrate the joy of living in God's grace. We invite you to participate actively and fully in our synod's diverse ministries, outreach programs, and spiritual growth opportunities, as they allow us to deepen our understanding of God's love and make a lasting impact in the lives of others. Remember, the limitations of this world do not define us but rather by the boundless life that Christ offers us. Let us carry this message of hope and transformation into our communities, touching lives, and inspiring others to embrace the abundant life that comes through knowing and following Jesus.

May God bless each one of you abundantly, and may our churches continue to be a beacon of light, love, and life in a world that desperately needs it.

The Reverend Lauren Wolfe Blatt
Director of Communication and Events, NEPS
Pastor at Calvary Lutheran Church, Laureldale
Pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Reading



GROWING YOUNG



GAINING STRENGTH



BEYOND DEATH TO LIFE

6261

Ministry Communities

120 INTERCONNECTED CONGREGATIONS BY 2028



Sharing Staff

6 congregations sharing 2 full-time pastors,
6 lay leaders, and 1 full-time deacon.

Some 6261 Ministry Communities may even
include our Ecumenical partners.



Happening Anywhere

6261 Ministry Communities will be formed
across the Synod - in rural & urban areas,
with congregations of any size, and with
congregations who currently have staff as
well as those experiencing a vacancy.



For the Sake of the Gospel

Each 6261 Ministry Community will have its
own primary ministry project centered in
the love of Jesus and focused on addressing
a justice issue within the surrounding
community.

WANT TO LEARN
MORE?



kat@nepsynod.org



www.godslove.org/6261mc



Start a Narrative Inventory Form

