

PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



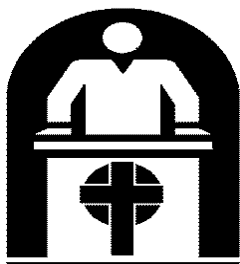
SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Breinigsville, PA

NOVEMBER 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,

A significant event happened in the life of this congregation – the death of my wife, Nancy. I want to address the “elephant in the room” or, in this case, in the life of the congregation. I feel I cannot continue writing these articles as if nothing has happened. It certainly has affected my thinking, perspective and my life, and will

continue to do so as time goes on. So, I believe this event needs attention.

Nancy had Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD) and had a kidney transplant in 2015. She was in pain for about 8 months, the cause being her right original kidney. She had an operation in August to remove both original kidneys. The pathology report indicated a cancerous tumor in the right kidney. The cancer along with her not eating (because of pain) seemed to be the cause of her death (the medical terminology is “failure to thrive”).

I want to thank all those who have prayed and supported me. I feel overwhelmed with the support of this congregation, previous congregations I’ve served, friends, relatives, teachers with whom she worked, and so many others. She was on so many churches’ prayer lists, I lost count.

Those of you who attended the funeral service here at St. Paul’s witnessed that support. Speaking of the service, she would have been happy to hear the singing! She was always disappointed when people didn’t sing at funerals we attended. She loved to sing.

As I reflect on my situation, my faith in an ever-present God and Redeemer has gotten me through the last 8 months and will continue to be at my side in the future (even if, at times, I don’t feel God is there). Thank you all again for your prayers and support.

Pastor Miller

TIME TO FALL BACK

Sunday, November 5th Daylight Savings ends. Saturday night don’t forget to turn your clocks back 1 hour.



COMING EVENTS AT ST. PAUL'S MARK YOUR CALENDARS

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – November 19th

THANKOFFERING SUNDAY – November 19th

POTLUCK LUNCH & TREE TRIMMING – November 26th

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.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, November 19th after the 10:30 a.m. service to adopt the budget and elect council members. A copy of the budget will be available in the narthex the previous two Sundays, November 5th and November 12th.

9:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

For the foreseeable future we are discontinuing the 9:00 a.m. worship service. We hope you will continue to worship with us at the 10:30 a.m. service. We will have a few pews in the back marked for masked only if you feel the need to wear a mask and stay socially distant. Communion packs will also be available.

PRICE INCREASE FOR ALTAR FLOWERS

We have received notice from the florist, starting January 1, 2024 the cost of the altar flowers will increase by \$2.00. The new price will be \$24.00 for one bouquet and \$48.00 for two bouquets. This is the first increase in their price in 5 years. Connie has tried to keep the cost down but has now found she has to bite the bullet and raise the price.

PRAYER SHAWL NEWS – TWIDDLE SLEEVE PROJECT

It is time to wrap up whatever twiddle sleeves you are still working on. We will be decorating sleeves after church on **Sunday, November 5.**



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Please bring in your completed sleeves by November 5.

Consider joining us for sleeve decorating – sign up sheet is on the table in the Narthex. The decorated sleeves will be blessed on **Sunday, November 19.**

Sandi Wagaman, Steph Wagaman

SEW: A NEEDLE PULLING THREAD

Can you sew on a button? If you can, we need your help! The Prayer Shawl Group has MANY Twiddle Sleeves in need of decorating. We will be adding items such as ribbon, lace, pom-poms, flowers, hearts, beads, buttons, etc. Mark your calendar for Sunday, **November 5, 2023**, to work on sleeves after worship. Anyone who would like to participate is welcome – no crocheting or knitting skills required for decorating sleeves! Please help us by signing up on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

If you would like to help but are unavailable on November 5, we can put together a kit for you to complete on your own time. The kit will include a sleeve, selection of embellishments, and sturdy sewing thread. You can sign up for a kit via the sign-up sheet – just put the word “kit” aside of your name.

Because we provide a light lunch, RSVPs are requested. If you plan to attend sleeve decorating, please **RSVP by November 3** to either Steph (610-570-7670 / stepbillwagaman@rcn.com) or Sandi (610-203-8085 / sgwagaman@yahoo.com)

Sandi & Steph

2023 LEHIGH MISSION DISTRICT CHRISTMAS INGATHERING

St. Paul's is once again participating in the Lehigh Mission District Ingathering to be held on Wednesday, December 6, 2023. Instead of a list of items to donate to 10-12 different agencies, each congregation has been assigned two agencies to focus their donations. St. Paul's will be collecting items for the **Sixth Street Shelter** and **Bethany Christian Services for Refugee Resettlement**. Our WELCA group will be responsible to deliver our items directly to the Sixth Street Shelter rather than gathering at a site to sort and pack them. We will do the sorting of your donations right here at St. Paul's on Monday, December 4, at 10:30 am. Those of us that have been doing this project over the years really miss gathering with people from different congregations to do the sorting, attend a worship service dedicating the gifts and sharing a meal. Hopefully things will change back to the way they were in the future. Let Sandi Wagaman know if you would like to volunteer to be a delivery person.

We will once again also be purchasing gifts for specific individuals for two organizations: **Topton Home Children's Services** and **Good Shepherd Home-Raker**. A sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex. Choose a name from the sandwich bags on the table, sign your name and phone number on sign-up sheet. There are instructions included in the bags for what to purchase and how to wrap them. We will deliver the wrapped gifts to St. John's Lutheran Church in Emmaus on Wednesday, December 6, 2023 between 9:00-10:30. We also need volunteers to deliver these items to St. John's.

Place all items for the Sixth Street Shelter and Bethany Christian Services for Refugee Resettlement in the plastic bins marked Ingathering in the Narthex. Wrapped gifts should be placed on top of the coat rack. Please check off your name on the list when bringing the wrapped gifts.

Deadline to bring items for both of these parts of the mission will be Sunday December 3, 2023.

Contact Sandi Wagaman if you have any questions. 610-203-8085.

(See the insert for the list of items needed.)

PARISH NURSING NOTES

It has become a very common practice to seek health information from the internet. The internet can be a very good source of information for our own medical questions. However, it is very easy to find information that is not correct or based in fact. We all have a tendency to believe anything that supports our own beliefs. (myself included) Some people often believe everything that they read, or they can become very cynical and start distrusting all medical information. Often there is a promise made in an online article or video and something for sale at the end of the article or presentation. When you ask a question in a search engine, the information is gathered from **everywhere** on line. The information may be accurate, or it may come from an unknown and unreliable source. Ads often can look very official. However you should always look for a sponsored tag with the ad showing from where the resource has come.

Some of the reputable online medical sites include:

National Institute on Aging (nia.nih.gov), American Geriatric Society (healthinaging.org), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (cdc.gov), National Institutes of Health (nih.gov), American Academy of Family Physicians (familydoctor.org), Mayo Clinic (mayoclinic.org). Most of the sites include a health information page to help you look up the information. Although, just because a website ends in .org (non profit), that does not necessarily mean it isn't promoting its own agenda.

If a claim sounds too good to be true, it most likely is **not** true. Often it will have no links to the promised information or to studies that have been done. It's called clickbait, which is a red flag. Authors of the studies should always be mentioned as well. Check who conducted the study. A well respected University or research institution is generally good.

Always check with your physician or practitioner for advice on locating information, or with any questions.

Take care. Enjoy the cooler weather!

June Kellogg

(Information from AARP Bulletin May 2023 titled "Health Research Safety Tips". written by Hallie Levine)

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.

WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AMERICA

Our monthly meeting was on October 11th where we discussed Thankoffering Sunday, the Ingathering, and the Justice Event before our Bible study.

- Thankoffering Sunday will be on Sunday, November 19th. This is a Sunday when women of the church will participate in all aspects of the service.
- The Justice event, scheduled for October 14th at Allegheny Lutheran Church in Mohnton, will center around Diversity.
- The In-Gathering present list has been received and Sandi Wagaman will be displaying the list shortly.
 - Sandi handed out a list of items for Bethany Christian Services for Refugees and Sixth Street Shelter. She will also have an article in The Parish News.

Our Bible study was *Holy places*, Session one, *Home*, by Meghan Johnston Aelabouni. Meghan is an ELCA missionary living and serving in what is often called the “Holy Land”. She meets Christians, Jews and Muslims who journey there from around the world to be physically present in a place that our three religions all recognize as holy ground.

Over the next three months, we will explore three kinds of holy places: *home*, *sanctuary*, and *pilgrimage*.

Home is what you create and carry with you to the places you go. The study dealt with all aspects of *home*, home itself; at home in our bodies; holy places. This is very interesting and appropriate with current world events.

Join us on November 8th when we will continue with *Holy places*, Session two, *Sanctuary*.

On October 14th our Justice Event was at Allegheny Lutheran Church in Mohnton and centered around “Diversity”. Registration started at 9:30 a.m.; worship began at 10 a.m. conducted by Pastor Labagh. Our keynote speaker was Rubina Tareen who spoke on Unity in Diversity. She spoke on *What is Islam?/What do Muslims Believe?* After lunch there was a session with Laura Lawrence on the Baha’i Faith and Pastor Hang who has services with the Lutheran Hmong Group. Pastor Hang gave a very

informative briefing on his history of coming to the U.S. and the formation of the Hmong Faith. It was a very interesting and informative event!!!!

Mark your calendar and please join us on November 8th at 9:30 a.m. for another time of fellowship, camaraderie, and bible study from The Gather magazine.

ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME!!!!

ANNUAL PRAYER SHAWL GATHERING



On Sunday, September 17, Sandi Wagaman and Steph Wagaman attended the 13th Annual Prayer Shawl Gathering at Cathedral Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. This is a multi-church event co-sponsored by the hosting church and the Knitter's Edge. Prayer Shawl groups from area churches bring items to show and tell, talk about

how their group functions, share stories of inspiration, discuss charity projects they've participated in, and share favorite knit/crochet patterns. We included in our display several shawls, twiddle sleeves, and the plarn-based sleeping mat, and talked about these projects and our past participation in the Seafarer's project.

It was a great time of sharing and inspiration, and I felt privileged to be there.

Steph Wagaman

POINSETTIAS

Worship & Music would like to decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas Eve. Anyone willing to sponsor a Poinsettia please fill out the form in the newsletter.



If you would like to make a donation towards the Poinsettias, please mark the line for donation.

Please return all forms by **NOVEMBER 12TH**. If you are mailing in your order, please mail early. I have to place the order by **NOVEMBER 20TH**.

Extra order forms can be found in the rack at the sanctuary door, or call the church office at 610-398-7000.

VETERANS WREATHS

We are again remembering our veterans with a Christmas wreath placed on each St. Paul's Cemetery Vets' grave. The cost of one wreath (live) is \$15. If writing a check, please make it payable to **St. Paul's Cemetery Association** and in the memo line write **WREATHS**. If you would like to remember a specific veteran with a wreath, please enclose a paper with their name in the envelope. If a name is not provided, your wreath will help us honor all veterans.

To place an order:

- Place envelope in the collection plate during worship service
- Or
- Mail envelope to St. Paul's Cemetery Association, PO Box 560, Trexlertown 18087.

Orders and payment are due by Sunday, November 19th.

Questions: Contact Gary Gehman (gary.gehman40@gmail.com)

Save the date: Saturday, November 25th at 10:00 a.m. for wreath placement.

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 275 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

THANKSGIVING HUMOR

Need to lighten the mood at your holiday dinner table? Share some laughter with these Thanksgiving-themed jokes.

Why did the turkey decline dessert?

Because it was stuffed.

Why did the turkey cross the road twice?

To prove he wasn't a chicken.

What smells the best at Thanksgiving dinner?

Your nose.

Why didn't the chef season the turkey?

There wasn't enough thyme.

Why did the turkey leave the band?

People were fighting over the drumsticks.

THANK YOU

Dear Pastor Miller,

Caring Hearts Inc would like to thank you for your generous donation of the gift card and half of the 50/50 drawing! Your donations are greatly appreciated!

It is individual donations such as yours that help us meet our mission of providing clothing, food and other essential items to the unsheltered and less fortunate throughout our communities. Also to help with our rent, electric and all overhead to run our Caring Hearts Clothing Closet and More, “Where everything is FREE to anyone”!

If you have any question about Caring Hearts Inc, we would love to hear from you. Please email: caringdamhearts@gmail.com or call 484-240-9774. You can also find us on Facebook under Caring Hearts Clothing Closet and More.

Sincerely,
Denise A. Martinez, Founder/President
Caring “DAM” Hearts
2693 Lehigh Street
Slatington, PA 18080

TAKE TIME TO RECHARGE

“Then Jesus said, ‘Let’s go off by ourselves to a quiet place and rest awhile.’ He said this because there were so many people coming and going that Jesus and his apostles didn’t even have time to eat” (Mark 6:31, NLT). Can you relate? Especially during the holidays, we’re “coming and going” so much that we often run out of steam.

As an introvert, I learned an important lesson while navigating a busy graduation season for my son. I was happy to host a celebration for family and friends, but about 20 minutes into the party, fatigue clouded my spirit. My social battery was empty and desperately needed charging.

I sought out my cousin — who “gets” me — and admitted I needed a break. He kindly replied, “Then go into another room and just be. We’ve got things covered.” I was heard and assured that it was okay to press pause. Even Jesus and his disciples sought privacy and rest.

In what ways do you need a break today? Even if you’re an extrovert, how can you care for your whole self during the holiday rush? Pay attention and give yourself permission to proactively recharge your battery.

—Janna Firestone

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.



6 Judy Noll
7 Carl Seibert, Jr.
9 Joshua Soldrich
16 Jeffrey Strauss
18 Daisy Pearson

19 Sommer Cope
19 Ethan Eiswerth
19 Makenna Morgenstern
25 Madison Mironov
29 Katie Pisauro

14 Alan & Carlene Brumbach



FUNERAL SERVICE

Pastor Jerel Gade and Pastor Cheryl Meinschein officiated at the funeral of Nancy Miller on October 21, 2023.

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The following memorial contributions have been received in memory of Nancy Miller:

Melanie Dimovitz

Daisy Pearson

Bruce & Sandi Wagaman

A POWERFUL WITNESS

St. Ignatius of Antioch was a bishop and martyr in the early years of Christianity, well known for his extensive writing about Christ and the church. On his journey to martyrdom in the early second century, he wrote letters to the Christian communities of the time that are still instructive today.

On November 1 we celebrate All Saints' Day, remembering all who have died in faith, as well as particular models of strong faith whom the church has named "saints." Especially inspiring — and challenging — are these words of Ignatius, written near the end of his life: "I prefer death in Christ Jesus to power over the farthest limits of the earth. He who died in place of us is the one object of my quest. He who rose for our sakes is my one desire."

PUZZLE



THANKS-FILLED GIVING

The virtues of gratefulness and generosity are connected.
When we're truly thankful for all God provides, we want to sow
generous seeds in other people's lives. What will be the harvest?

*Directions: Solve the clues associated with each picture. Then write the
words in the correct spaces to complete 2 Corinthians 9:10-11, NIV.*

This becomes a plant _____



Willing to give _____

The result of planting seeds _____



The act of gratitude _____

Food made from wheat _____



Now he who supplies _____ to the sower and _____ for food will also



supply and increase your store of _____ and will enlarge the _____



of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be

_____ on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result



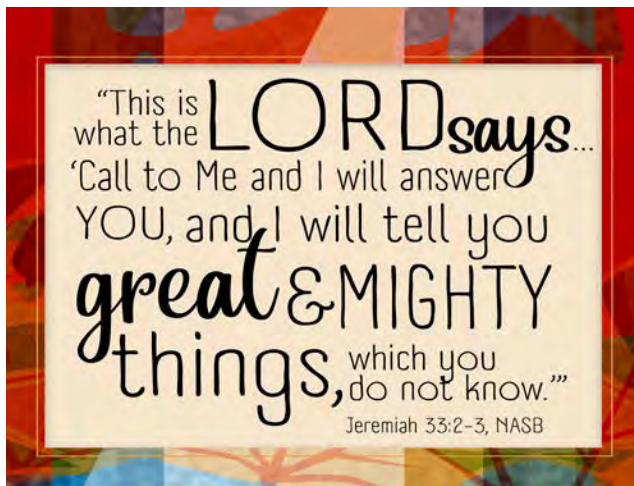
in _____ to God. 2 Corinthians 9:10-11, NIV



Answers: seed, bread, harvest, generous, thanksgiving

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT
NEWSLETTER IS
NOVEMBER 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@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

November 2023 St. Paul's Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																								
			1 1:00 p.m.-Worship & Music Committee Mtg. 7:00 p.m.-Basket Social Committee Mtg.	2 9:30 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	3	4																																																								
5 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 9:15 a.m.-Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m.-Worship 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.-Twiddle Sleeve Work-Decorate 	6 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	7 	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 TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 9:15 a.m.-Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m.-Worship NEWSLETTER DEADLINE DEADLINE TO ORDER POINSETTIAS	13 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	14	15	16 9:30 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	17	18																																																								
19 TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST THANKOFFERING SUNDAY 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 9:15 a.m.-Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m.-Worship-Bless Twiddle Sleeves 11:30 a.m.-Congregational Meeting	20 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	2 6:30 p.m.-Haafsville Board Meeting	22	23 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED THANKsgiving Day 	24	25 10:00 a.m.-Place Wreaths On St. Paul's U.C.C. Cemetery																																																								
26 CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 9:15 a.m.-Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m.-Worship 11:30 a.m.-Potluck Lunch & Tree Trimming  	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		<table border="1"> <tr><th colspan="7">December 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>1</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	December 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	31						
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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

November 2023

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

Sunday, November 5, 2023

10:30AM

Ushers: Andrew Bruchak, Bob Bruchak

Altar Guild: Jennifer Bentsen

Communion Asst: Rosemary Lehman

Communion Bread: Bruce & Sandi Wagaman

Greeter: Rosie Gallagher

Lay Asst: Sandi Wagaman

Reader: Daisy Pearson

Sunday, November 19, 2023

10:30AM

Ushers: Melanie Dimovitz, Rosie Gallagher

Altar Guild: Janine Ritter

Communion Asst: Daisy Pearson

Communion Bread: Melanie Dimovitz

Greeter: Rosemary Lehman

Lay Asst: Sharon Bortz

Reader: Rosemary Lehman

Sunday, November 12, 2023

10:30AM

Ushers: Frank Bennighoff, Richard Hartley

Altar Guild: Esther Seibert

Communion Asst: Anita Eisenhard

Communion Bread: Bob Nickisher

Greeter: Mary Schneider

Lay Asst: Bob Bruchak

Reader: Tom Kellogg

Sunday, November 26, 2023

10:30AM

Ushers: Carl Seibert, Judy Walker

Altar Guild: Amy Williams

Communion Asst: Peggy Saylor

Communion Bread: Pat Spencer

Greeter: Cal Fetherolf

Lay Asst: Daisy Pearson

Reader: Lacey Edwards

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS



Christmas, that heart warming time of the year and it is time to start thinking about ordering your Christmas poinsettias.

Worship & Music would like to decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas Eve. Anyone willing to sponsor a Poinsettia, please fill out the form.

If you would like to make a donation towards the Poinsettias, please mark the line for donation.

This year's price will be \$10.00 per plant. Feel free to fill out this form and do one of the following:

1. mail it with your check (made out to St. Paul's, memo: Poinsettia) to the church;
2. place it in an envelope and put it in the offering plate; or
3. hand deliver to Janine Ritter.

**The Due date for orders is
November 12, 2023**

Additional forms are available in the narthex.

As always, thank you for making our church a special place.

Janine Ritter
610-417-0209
Festival Committee

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

(Please Print Clearly)

PRICE PER PLANT: \$10.00

ORDER DEADLINE: Sunday, November 12, 2023

SPONSOR A POINSETTIA

OF PLANTS _____ TOTAL COST \$ _____

COLOR: RED PINK WHITE MARBLE
(CIRCLE ONE)

ORDERED

BY: _____

(Please print clearly)

IN MEMORY OF:

IN HONOR OF:

WILLING TO DONATE TOWARDS A PLANT _____

PICK UP AFTER THE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: _____

SIXTH STREET SHELTER

Cleaning Supplies

Dish soap
Sponges
Paper towels
Floor cleaner
Mops/ Brooms
Disinfecting wipes
Toilet paper

Household Items

Bath towels - new
Twin-size sheets - new
Pillows - new
Pots and Pans (gently used)

Personal Care Products

Women's deodorant
Women's shampoo

Baby Items

Disposable Diapers
Size 2,4,5 & 6 **most needed**
Baby shampoo
Children's plastic plates, bowls & cups

BETHANY CHRISTIAN SERVICES -for Refugees

Cleaning Supplies

Dish soap
Kitchen degreaser
Can opener
Hot pads
Tall kitchen can and trash bags
Garbage can size trash bags
Pots and pans set
Mixing bowls - set of three

Household Items

Bath towels & washcloths - new
Twin size sheets, blankets, comforters - new
Full size blankets , comforters - new
Standard size bed pillows. New
Shower curtains
Tub/shower cleaner
Toilet bowl cleaner and brush
Bathroom trash can
Laundry detergent
Broom & dust pan

Personal Care Products

Shaving cream and shavers- male & female
Deodorant - male & female
Shampoo & Conditioner

St. Paul's Basket Social - September 23, 2023



Decisions
Decisions



Decisions
Decisions



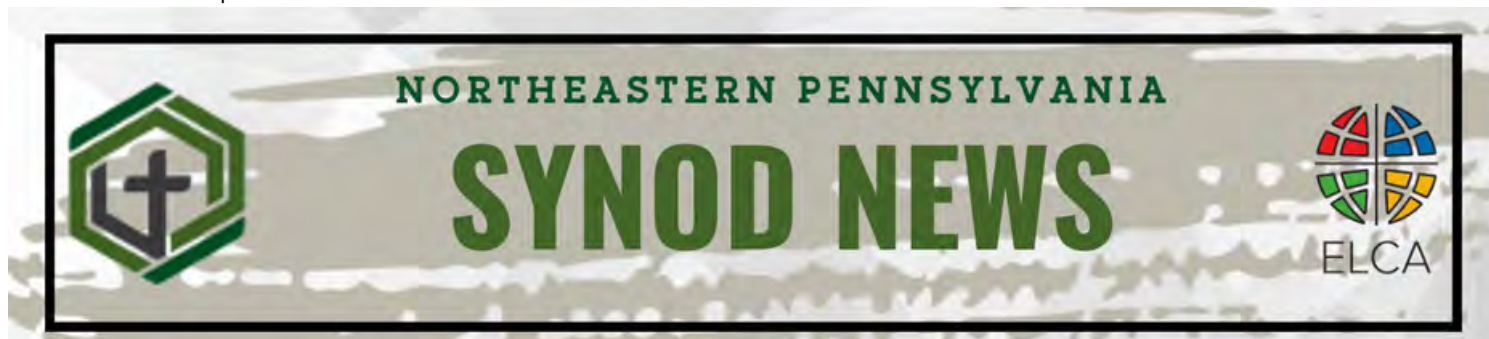


October 1, 2023

PET blessing



October 1, 2023



Interconnected, Diverse, and Wild Creation

Have you ever worked on a crochet or knit project, and got to a point where your yarn ends up tied in a bird nest-looking mess? Or maybe you're one that works with a fishing line, and while re-spooling a reel you end up with a knot with loops and swoops that make you scratch your head and wonder, "Now what?"

I've noticed that when I experience the dilemma of a knotted skein, I feel frustration and anger. If I'm not in my clearest headspace, I will reactively pull one loop at a time, looking for one with any ability to move. "This one moves? Great!" I'll pull it in either direction until it stops. Still knotted? Find another! And again, and again. If I'm not careful I can end up tightening the knot even further, never to be unwound and destined for the scrap pile.

On my clearer days, I can take a jumbled mess of a knot and get it unwound and collected into a smaller ball of yarn without even needing to cut it from the rest! In Times like this, I have found, that the frustration and the anger are still present, yet in letting them pass while I pause, I create the opportunity to take care and intention in my untangling.

I wonder if God feels like that sometimes when, as the interconnected, diverse, and wild Creation that God so deeply loves, we get ourselves all knotted up through broken relationships, judgments, and ignorant acts. I wonder, does God reactively start pulling at us to take action? Does God accept our jumbled mess, allowing us to make different choices and seek right relationships that honor our connectedness? Does God enjoy the feeling of seeing us come together to co-create something new and beautiful?

May you know and trust that the One who has knit you together in the womb is the One who is eager and ready to create goodness and mercy in and through you this day and always. Blessings on your detangling.

Reverend Lauren Applegate
On Leave From Call





We Love 2023:
The Reconciling
in Christ Process

Saturday, November 4, 2023
8:30AM-3PM
at The Lutheran Center
2354 Grove Rd., Allentown

Join the synod's LGBTQIA+ Ministry Team as we host a special day of education, information, and fellowship on this year's theme: The Reconciling In Christ process. We are thrilled to welcome Carla Christopher, Assistant to the Bishop for Justice Ministries in the Lower Susquehanna and Delaware-Maryland synods, to work with us on integrating our commitment to racial justice into our RIC efforts.



SAVE ^{THE} DATE
synod
assembly
JUNE 8TH 2024

NATIONAL
YOUTH
GATHERING

Registration - now open!



www.elca.church/gathering



*This Thanksgiving, we acknowledge
this land is Indigenous*

REMINDERS to the Lehigh Mission District Rostered Leaders

*Please keep the following
dates on your calendars:*

November 8th - 6 2 6 1
Bishop Christopher deForest
& Deacon Kathleen "Kat"
Tigerman, Director of
Evangelical Mission

December 14th - LMD
Advent Worship &
Breakfast at 8:00 A.M.
Leader - TBD
Muhlenberg College Egner
Chapel, Allentown

January 10, 2024 - Legacy
& Ministry
Deacon Travis Woodfield,
Director of Congregation
Legacy & Purpose

February 5-7, 2024 -
Bishop's Conference - TBD

March 13th - Wholesome
Attitudes Toward Other
Religions
The Rev. Dr. Roger Timm

April 10th - Collapse &
Restructuring of the ELCA
The Rev. Thomas Busted

May 5th - LMD Spring
Assembly 2024 at 4:00 P.M.
Lutheran Center, Allentown

June - Synod Assembly - TBD

July/August - off

*Event updates will be made
available at meetings and
here, in the LMD Newsletter.*



*December 2023 LMD NL news
will be due November 13, 2023.*

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

Photo: Ferdinand Willem Pauwels/Wikimedia Commons

A Martin Luther Statue in North America, 1883

Dear Lehigh Mission District,

On Sunday, November 12, 2023, you are invited to the dedication of a Martin Luther statue at 10:30 A.M. at St. John's Lutheran Church, Fogelsville. The Luther statue once belonged to St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Allentown, Pennsylvania.

On November 10, 1483, Martin Luther was born in Eisleben, Germany. In 1517, the Protestant Reformation ignited with the publication of Luther's Ninety-five Theses posted on the Wittenberg Roman Catholic Church door. From that moment on the German-priest-professor-theologian became the face of the Protestant Reformation.

Subsequently, festivals commemorating the Protestant Reformation and Luther's birthday became a thing to celebrate. Luther objected to such use of his name by his followers. He wrote in 1522, "I ask that my name be left silent and people not call themselves Lutherans but rather Christian. Who is Luther? The doctrine is not mine. I have been crucified for not one." (*Admonition Against Insurrection, 1522*) Given Luther's statement, a statue for the Reformer would be out of the question as well.

In our mission district we have 25 congregations that bear Luther's name. In some of them there is a stained glass window with the figure of Luther in their church building.

In 1883, there was a statue of Luther at the corner of Ridge Avenue and Chew Street that stood outside of St. Peter's Lutheran Church made of white bronze by Monumental Bronze Co. Bridgeport, Connecticut.

It was St. Peter's Ridge hope to take their statue to a Macungie site for a new German descent congregation. Unfortunately, St. Peter's Church dissolved in 2019 as a congregation. The whereabouts of the Luther statue became unknown until I poked around and located the Luther statue in the yard of a textile mill where it had been stored.

According to The History of the Allentown Conference of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania by Preston A. Laury, under St. Peter's Church records the "Quarto-Centennial of the Reformation was observed in 1883, and commemorated by the erection of a statue of Luther, the first in America."

What does this mean?

I can hear the words of The Rev. Dr. Walter Wagner. The professor would caution Lutherans of possible "LUTHEROLOTRY".

However, we are not idolizing Luther. I have applied the law to Luther on these pages of the (continued on the next page ⇒)



Upcoming Events:

Zion Lehigh Lutheran Church Holiday Craft Bazaar

November 4, 2023
9 AM to 2 PM

(Please note the new time)
8269 Spring Creek Road,
Alburtis, PA

There will be crafts, basket raffle, food and flea market.

Contact the church for more info:
610-395-1215
churchoffice@zionlehigh.org
www.zionlehigh.org

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church Cash Bingo
November 12, 2023
1 PM (doors open at 11:30 AM)
Fearless Fire Company
1221 S. Front Street,
Allentown, PA

19 regular games, 50/50, coverall, special games and basket raffle. Food and baked goods available.

For tickets or more info, contact Lori Young at 610-390-2107. Ticket Price: \$30 or \$35 at the door.

St. Timothy's Lutheran Church Craft Show

November 18, 2023
9 AM to 3 PM

140 S. Ott Street,
Allentown, PA

If you have questions, please contact Karen Christman at 484-408-8895 or kceagle402@gmail.com or text Ivy Reynolds at 610-393-1353.

(continued from previous page) Lehigh Mission District Newsletter for being a bigot ("Antisemitism on our Doorsteps" February 2023, Volumen 28, No.2). I have also applied the gospel to Luther for his sight in advocating for proper approach in handling the plague in Wittenberg ("Help Out" October 2021, Volumen 26, No. 9).

In our modern time, dedication of a Luther statue from 1883 in North America speaks of our Lutheran tradition in our own Lehigh Mission District.

The 1883 Luther statue is a symbol of Lutheran history. It is part of our heritage. We don't worship Luther. We don't worship artifacts. We worship the mighty fortress that is our God.

Thanks be to God,
The Rev. Nelson Quiñones, Lehigh Mission District Dean



Lehigh Mission District Christmas Ingathering Reminder:
Wednesday, December 6, 2023
St. John's Lutheran Church (501 Chestnut Street, Emmaus, PA)

Administrative Assistant Needed:
St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church
(417 N. 7th Street, Allentown)

St. Luke's, a center-city church with traditional Lutheran roots and an active outreach ministry, is seeking a permanent, part-time Administrative Assistant.

Contact the office for full job description.

Part-time, 20 hours/week. \$15.00/hour
Office hours: M,T, Th, F: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
W: 4:30-8:30 p.m.

Respond with resume and contact to: c1a2bachman@aol.com



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.

STAY TUNED – WORKING ON 2024!

See website for details.



Floods, wars, and other disasters have devastated communities in the United States and in other parts of the world.

What can we do to help our neighbors near and far who are struggling to recover—now and in the days to come?

We can walk and/or support the
Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk
Sunday, October 22, 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

25% of the funds raised helps food-insecure neighbors locally through the Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank and the Lehigh Conference of Churches' Ecumenical Kitchen.

Church World Service, an ecumenical non-profit organization, uses the remaining funds for disaster assistance and development assistance, partnering with our neighbors in need throughout the U.S. and worldwide.

Thank you for making a difference and helping our neighbors in need!



St. Andrew's Lutheran Church
presents



A portion of the proceeds will be donated to Oligo Brain Cancer Research

Fearless Fire Company
1221 S Front St
Allentown

November 12, 2023 at 100 pm
Doors open at 1130 am

19 Regular Games (\$100 Cash Prize)
Coverall (\$500 Cash Prize)
50/50
Special Games
Basket Raffle

Food and baked goods available for purchase

For tickets or more info, contact Lori Young at 610-390-2107

Ticket Price: \$30 or \$35 at Door

Administrative Assistant (Allentown, PA)

St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church, a center-city church with traditional Lutheran roots and an active outreach ministry, is seeking a permanent, part-time Administrative Assistant.

Position requires computer proficiency with Word, Excel and managing files. Familiarity with Church Windows software is a plus. Excellent interpersonal and organizational skills. Responsibilities include preparing weekly and monthly congregational documents, handling calls and correspondence, cooperating with staff and congregation, and assisting with facilities management.

Promising candidates will demonstrate a professional, welcoming demeanor and willingness to interact with the neighboring community.

Part-time, 20 hours/week. Office hours: MTThF 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.; W 4:30-8:30 p.m. \$15.00/hour.

Respond with resume and contact information to: c1a2bachman@aol.com

St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 417 N. 7th Street,
Allentown, PA 18102