

PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Breinigsville, PA

DECEMBER 2023

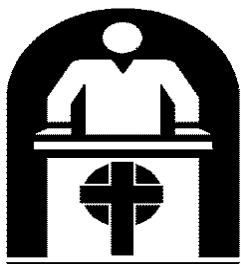


ADVENT



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

PAUL'S PARISH NEWS is published by St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church



Dear Members and Friends,

We will be entering the season of Advent in the church year shortly. The four week season of Advent prepares us for Christmas.

During the Sundays in Advent, familiar symbols and scripture readings bring us “the bad news and the good news.” On the one hand, they sharpen our sense of unworthiness and need for

redemption. On the other, they stir in us an eager expectation for our promised Savior.

Preparation for “X-mas” – the commercial Christmas holiday – usually means hectic planning and much activity. But Advent’s preparation for Jesus’s birthday means time-out and quiet moments.

“X-mas” preparation may be a dreaded burden with high emotional expectations that are seldom met. But Advent’s preparation is God’s work, cleansing our minds, setting our hearts at peace, and fulfilling our inner longings. This Advent let God speak to you and satisfy your need for a deeply felt celebration.

That celebration will come on Christmas Day when we celebrate the birth of our Savior. That is for which we prepare. A Savior to redeem the nations.

For some, that celebration will be muted because of the loss of a loved one or tragedy that has come into their lives. Know that God’s presence is with you in the infant Jesus to give you strength in those difficult times. Seek out support in friends and family. (See the announcement in this newsletter about the Blue Christmas service).

May God with us, Emmanuel, bless the coming days and grant you peace as we celebrate the birth of our Savior.

Pastor Miller

The Miller household wishes to extend a Merry Christmas and a healthy and Happy New Year to all at St. Paul’s.

COMING EVENTS AT ST. PAUL'S MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**POTLUCK LUNCH & TREE TRIMMING, Sunday, November 26
at 11:30 a.m.**

NATIVITY DISPLAY, Sunday, December 3 at 12:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

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.

BLUE CHRISTMAS

On **December 17th at 2:00pm** we will have a Blue Christmas service with Holy Communion (grape juice only). For many, the Christmas season is not one of celebration and joy because of loss – loss of a loved one, loss of employment, weariness of health, the pain of isolation. All this can make us feel alone. Come join us in sharing and hearing prayers, scripture, and music that acknowledge that God's presence is for those who mourn or struggle and that God's word shines light in our darkness. Again, December 17th at 2:00pm.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY

The end of 2023 is almost here. In order to make sure all your contributions are posted on your Year End Giving Statement, it is important to have your 2023 contributions received in the church no later than Sunday, December 31, 2023 or if mailed, they must be postmarked by December 31, 2023. **Any contributions that arrive after that, starting in January, will be posted on your 2024 giving statement.**

Sandi Wagaman

CHURCH OFFICE

The church office will be open, Tuesday, December 26th through Thursday, December 28th from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. You may use this time to drop off your yearend giving or pick up your poinsettia. You may call the office at 610-398-7000 to make sure I am still available. The office will also be closed January 2, 2024.

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. If you signed up to purchase a gift for specific a individual or a donation of other items from the list of suggested item, please bring them to church by Sunday, December 3rd. We will do the sorting of your donations right here at St. Paul's on Monday, December 4, at 10:30 a.m.

NATIVITY DISPLAY – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD FROM 12:30 P.M.-4:00 P.M.

We are asking members of St. Paul's to bring in their Nativity displays (as many as you want) that you use to decorate your house at Christmas time (no outdoor displays!). The Fellowship Committee thought it would be nice to see others' nativity displays. Someone will be here on Saturday, Dec. 2nd from 10:00 to noon if you would like to bring them in ahead of time. You may also bring them in on Sunday morning, Dec. 3 before church begins. The displays may be viewed Sunday afternoon between 12:30pm and 4:00pm. Refreshments will be served.

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.

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 2024. 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 \$24.00 or both vases are \$48.00. 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.

THANKS TO OUR TWIDDLE SLEEVE MAKERS AND EMBELLISHERS



As of Sunday, November 19, we had 98 twiddle sleeves in-house for the blessing! Thanks to everyone who knitted and crocheted sleeves:
Kathy Conrad, Patti

Everett, Peggy Kern, Daisy Pearson, Helen Post, Sandi Wagaman, Steph Wagaman, Irene Wenz

And we had so much help decorating the sleeves! Thanks to all of you who helped (and continue to help) with this monumental task: Sharon Bortz, Kathy Conrad, Carol Derr-Breinig, Melanie Dimovitz, Patti Everett, June Kellogg, Peggy Kern, Rosemary Lehman, Judy Noll, Daisy Pearson, Helen Post, Janine Ritter, Sandi Wagaman, Steph Wagaman, Judy Walker, Irene Wenz

Most of these sleeves are going to the Luther Crest Dementia Unit, but they are also available to the congregation. If you weren't at church on the 19th, and would like to get a sleeve for a loved one struggling with dementia, please let me know.
Steph Wagaman

JOINT PLARN-MAKING AND TWIDDLE SLEEVE EMBELLISHMENT SESSION

We will be having a joint plarn/twiddle sleeve session on Tuesday, November 28, at 1:30PM. We're making real progress on the plarn-based sleeping mats – mine is finished and Kathy's is almost finished. I will pick up a few extra crochet hooks in case anyone else wants to learn how to crochet mats. But we always need people to flatten bags, cut bags into strips, and tie strips into plarn.

We also made a lot of progress decorating sleeves, but many more to do! I will get out the sleeves and embellishment materials, and folks can work

there, or take a kit home if you prefer. I won't deliver sleeves to Luther Crest until after the 28th; then I will drop off whatever is completed. I can always make a second delivery when the rest are finished.

Thanks to everyone for all your help! Hope to see you on the 28th!
Steph Wagaman

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.

CARD MINISTRY



Here at St. Paul's we send cards to members of the congregation who are ill or in need of a cheerful word. These cards are on the table in the narthex. When you are here on a Sunday, or during the week, check the table to see if there is a card. Please sign your name and help bring a smile to a fellow member.

WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AMERICA

Our monthly meeting was on November 8th 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 In-Gathering – sorting of collected items will be on December 4th following the weekly Bible study.
- The NEPA WELCA Convention will be held on May 18, 2024 in Honesdale. More information to follow in the coming months.

Our Bible study was *Holy places*, Session two, *Sanctuary*, 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.

Sanctuary has at least two meanings. It can be a place of worship or a place of refuge. One is set aside as a holy space for encountering the divine; the other is a place where people in need of safety may be assured of welcome and protection.

Join us on December 13^h when we will continue with *Holy places*, Session three, *Pilgrimage*.

Mark your calendar and please join us on December 13th at 9:30 a.m. for another time of fellowship, camaraderie, and bible study from The Gather magazine.

ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME!!!!

THANK YOU

To The Members Of St. Paul’s,

Kindness is a small gesture that makes a big difference. With sincere gratitude and warmest thanks.

Thank you for all the good wishes and prayers you sent to me. They made my days happy!

Kay Schlenker



- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 3 Melanie Dimovitz | 13 Mark Strauss |
| 6 Amy Mutis | 16 Marion Reichard |
| 7 Andrew Bruchak | 17 Margaret Stoudt |
| 8 Calvin Fetherolf | 19 Frank Bennighoff |
| 10 Patty Spencer | 25 Mary Ann Spengler |
| 11 Betty Marchetti | 29 Carol Derr-Breinig |
| 12 David Craig | 30 Richard Sicher |
| 12 Heather Sedlak | |



- 11 Jerry & Heather Sedlak
19 Patrick & Sommer Cope

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

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

Rosemary Lehman
John Peterson
Stephanie Wagaman

The following general fund contribution has been received in memory of Nancy Miller:

Tom & June Kellogg



I want to thank all the volunteers of the church who help through out the year in any way to help make my job here at St. Paul's great. It is a joy to come to work. Some days are a challenge, but you make it easy when you step in and help. Thank you. Have a Merry Christmas.

Cindy

YOUR LIGHT HAS COME



In the introduction to his book *For All God's Worth*, theologian N.T. Wright says, "Christmas is God lighting a candle, and you don't light a candle in a room that's already full of sunlight. You light a candle in a room that's so murky that the candle, when lit, reveals just how bad things really are. The light shines in the darkness, says St. John, and the darkness has not overcome it."

For that reason, Wright explains, Christmas isn't a dream or a momentary escape but reality. And the same is true for Christianity. "Either Jesus is the Lord of the world and all reality makes sense in his life, or he is dangerously irrelevant to the problems and possibilities of today's world," he adds. "There is no middle ground. Either Jesus was, and is, the Word of God, or he, and the stories Christians tell about him, are lies."

ADVENT MEANINGS

During Advent, which begins this year on December 3, many churches and families use wreaths to symbolize watchfulness and increasing joy as Christmas approaches. Colors for the candles vary, with some traditions using blue (for hope or creation) and others preferring purple (for royalty, humility or penitence).

The four candles that each represent a week in Advent also signify hope, peace, joy and love. (The third candle is often pink.) In the center is the white Christ candle, representing Jesus as the light of the world. That candle is lit on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

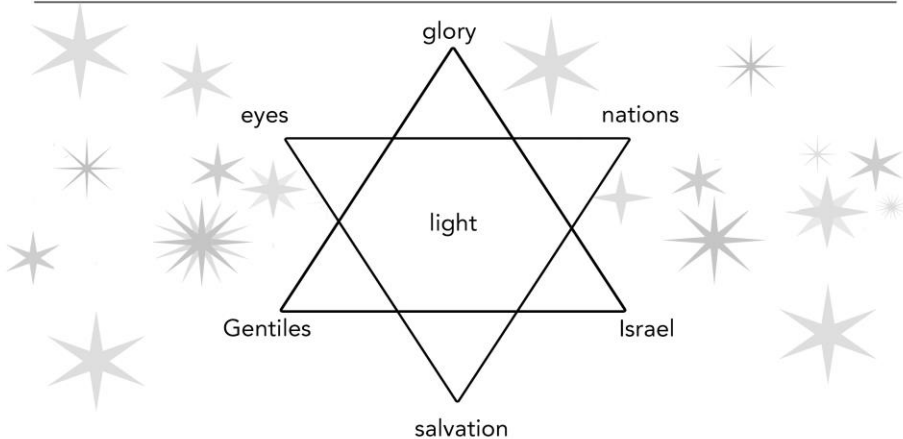
The round, green Advent wreath has special meaning of its own. It symbolizes eternal life and the unending love of God, who sent his only Son to earth to die in our place.



SIMEON'S SIGHT

When Joseph and Mary brought baby Jesus to the temple, they heard a special prophecy from Simeon.

Directions: Using the star key, write the words in the correct spaces to complete Luke 2:30-32, NIV.



"For my _____ have seen your _____, which you have prepared
 in the sight of all _____: a _____ for revelation to the
 _____, and the _____ of your people _____."

Luke 2:30-32, NIV

Answers: eyes, salvation, nations, light, Gentiles, Israel, glory, Israel

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT
NEWSLETTER IS
DECEMBER 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@stpaulsbbv.org
Website: www.stpaulsbbv.org

STAFF

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

December 2023 St. Paul's Lutheran Church

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| | | | | | 1 | 2 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Bring In Nativity Displays And Set Up | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 9:15 a.m.-Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m.-Worship 12:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m.-Nativity Display DEADLINE TO BRING IN CHRISTMAS INGATHERING ITEMS | 4 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study 10:30 a.m.-Christmas Ingathering Sorting | 5 | 6 9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.-Deliver Lehigh Mission District Christmas Ingathering Items To St. John's Lutheran, Emmaus | 7 9:30 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir | 8 | 9 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 9:15 a.m.-Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m.-Worship 6:00 p.m.-Creative Learning Lab Winter Recital | 11 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study | 12 | 13 9:30 a.m.-W-ELCA 7:00 p.m.-Council | 14 9:30 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir | 15 | 16 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 17 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 9:15 a.m.-Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m.-Worship 2:00 p.m.-Blue Christmas Worship Service | 18 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study 1:00 p.m.-Worship & Music | 19 6:30 p.m.-Haafsville Board Meeting | 20 | 21 9:30 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir  | 22 | 23 10:00 a.m.-Sunday School Christmas Eve Practice | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 24 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT CHRISTMAS EVE 10:30 a.m.-Worship 4:30 p.m.-Family Service 7:00 p.m.-Festival Service  | 25 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED  | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 31 FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS 10:30 a.m.-Worship-Lessons & Carols  | | | | | | <table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">January 2024</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> </tr> <tr> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td>31</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | January 2024 | | | | | | | 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 | | | |
| January 2024 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

December 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, December 3, 2023

10:30AM

Ushers: Frank Bennighoff, Richard Hartley

Altar Guild: Janine Ritter

Communion Asst: Sandi Wagaman

Communion Bread: Tom & June Kellogg

Greeters: Ken Ritter

Lay Asst: Lacey Edwards

Reader: Tom Kellogg

Sunday, December 10, 2023

10:30AM

Ushers: Melanie Dimovitz, Peggy Saylor

Altar Guild: Rosemary Lehman

Communion Asst: Sharon Bortz

Communion Bread: Lisa Newhard

Greeter: Peggy Saylor

Lay Asst: Dick Steltz

Reader: Rosemary Lehman

Sunday, December 17, 2023

10:30AM

Ushers: Rosie Gallagher, Carl Seibert

Altar Guild: Esther Seibert

Communion Asst: Bob Bruchak

Communion Bread: Bob Bruchak

Greeters: Frank & Sandy Bennighoff

Lay Asst: Rosemary Lehman

Reader: Dick Steltz

2:00PM – Blue Christmas Service

Worship Assistants: Sharon Bortz, Steph Wagaman

Sunday, December 24, 2023

10:30AM

Ushers: Dick Hartley, Bruce Wagaman

Altar Guild: Jennifer Bentsen

Communion Asst: Anita Eisenhard

Communion Bread: Bruce & Sandi Wagaman

Greeter: Dick Hartley

Lay Asst: Sandi Wagaman

Reader: Jennifer Bentsen

Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24, 2023

4:30PM

Ushers: Melanie Dimovitz, Rosie Gallagher

Altar Guild: Amy Williams

Communion Asst: Peggy Saylor

Communion Bread: Carol Derr-Breinig

Greeter: Carol Derr-Breinig

Lay Asst: Bob Bruchak

Reader: Lacey Edwards

7:00PM

Ushers: Ken Ritter, Sandi Wagaman

Altar Guild: Janine Ritter

Communion Asst: Rosemary Lehman

Communion Bread: Ken & Janine Ritter

Greeter: Ken Ritter

Lay Asst: Sharon Bortz

Reader: Sandi Wagaman

Sunday, December 31, 2023

10:30AM

Ushers: Cal Fetherolf, Judy Walker

Altar Guild: Steph Wagaman

Communion Asst: Daisy Pearson

Communion Bread: Steph Wagaman

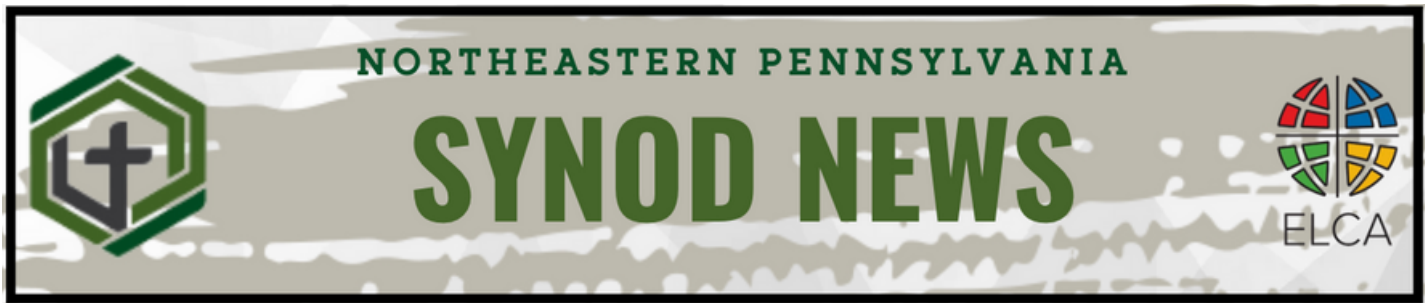
Greeter: Dick Hartley

Lay Asst: Lacey Edwards

Reader: Cal Fetherolf

Twiddle Sleeve Sewing





Young Adult in Global Mission: A Year in Senegal

Asalaa maalekum. May God's peace be upon you.

My name is Quentin Bernhard. I recently served with the ELCA program Young Adults in Global Mission—YAGM—in Senegal. My time with YAGM came to an end in July, and Senegal country cohort peers and I returned to the United States. We are among the 23 young adults from the 2022-2023 year who served in accompaniment in four different country programs.

I live in New Tripoli in Lehigh County, and I'm a member of New Life Lutheran Church in New Tripoli. Many individuals and congregations from our synod supported me in my YAGM year. Thank you for your support of my time in Senegal and for the opportunity to be in continuing relationship after my time abroad.

My coming to the United States, to the communities I grew up in in Pennsylvania, was also my leaving a community I grew in—a community I grew in as a Lutheran and as a young person, one I have good friends in. I lived in Yeumbeul Bene Baraque, in western Senegal, for ten months. I lived with a host family in a community. I saw friends every day, many when at my placement site. Connected with our partner organization Senegalese Lutheran Development Services—SLDS—I worked in a community center that serves the community in numerous ways, splitting my time between the library and the mutual fund credit union.

My friends and family in Senegal continue to send me voice messages, reminding me that I am also Maguette Ndiaye, my Senegalese name, and reminding me that we are still connected, even if connected in a different way now. Our relationships and our future—all of our future—is unknown to us. Our faith—and our trust in one another—can allow us to take steps and leaps in that future.

Quentin Bernhard

FINDING HOLY FOCUS IN HUNGERING TIMES BISHOP'S CONFERENCE 2024 FEBRUARY 6-7, 2024

REGISTER
NOW!

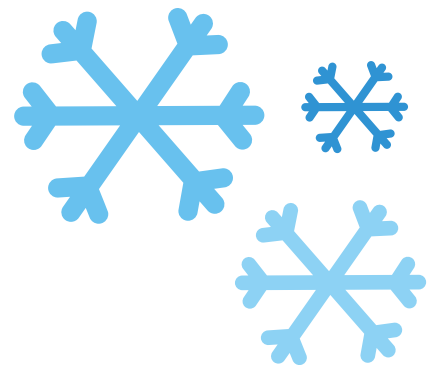
PRESENTED BY:
NEPA SYNOD

**FOR ALL ROSTERED LEADERS AND SYNOD AUTHORIZED LAY MINISTERS

God of Goodness, We give you praise for the ordinariness of Christmas - that the day comes the same as any other day. We give you praise that there is no sign in the heavens, and no bright star but the light of your presence in the ordinary birth of the child. We give you praise that unobtrusively you are in the center of human affairs, involved in the struggle of life, and sharing human experience.

We give you praise that out of compassion you take our part, and open to us a new way of life. We pray that this day we shall be able to see its true glory."

— Caryl Micklem





OPERATION SUNSHINE

1933 Hanover Ave,
Allentown, PA 18109
Phone: 610-435-9155
Open: Mon 11-3 & Wed. 11-3

Email:

LMDopsunshine@aol.com

Website:

www.LMDopsunshine.com

Operation Sunshine is a non-profit fellowship opportunity within our Mission District, run solely by volunteers

Can you believe it is November 2023 already and the holidays are just around the corner. Well, here's an early Christmas present. Attached you will find the Operation Sunshine 2024 Newsletter for January through June.

Have a great holiday season! We are looking forward to traveling with you soon.

Paula & Dick Skelly (Co-Trip Coordinators) and the Operation Sunshine Volunteers

Upcoming Trips Include:

- **Mar. 21, 2024** (Thursday)
Fulton Theatre – 9 TO 5
- **April 4, 2024** (Thursday)
Bristol Riverside Theatre – BIG, THE MUSICAL
- **May 9, 2024** (Thursday)
Fulton Theatre – SOUTH PACIFIC

See website or attached newsletter for more dates and trip details.



January 2024 LMD NL news will be due December 11, 2023.

Please email any information to imd_newslettereditor@gmail.com

A Christmas Message from the Dean

Dear Lehigh Mission District,

Can you believe it? The Christmas Season is upon us. Although, the Christmas Season arrived at our home with my wife, Jessica, beginning to decorate the Christmas Tree a week before Halloween. I am sure you have seen the photos of her beautifully decorated Christmas Tree on her Facebook page.

As one who follows the church liturgical calendar year, I have to say I couldn't wait to hear some Christmas carols. After I took out the Christmas ornaments and my wife began to decorate the tree, I went on to Netflix and put on the movie Elf as background to continue the merry atmosphere.

My spirit felt soothed seeing the Christmas Tree come alive. The rumors of wars in the world were hushed for a moment.

By the beginning of the second week in November radio stations were already playing Christmas music before Thanksgiving Day.

Let me add to the festive mood that Christmas came early to me and St. John's Fogelsville in November. We dedicated a 1883 Martin Luther Statue. We received the gifts of a new sidewalk, a new landscape, a new coat of paint on the railings and on the entrance steps, and repairs to the parking lot. Merry Christmas!!!

Should people wait and be patient and hold on to the liturgical church calendar year? Many of my colleagues think so.

However, the Christmas Season is but a brief moment in the calendar year. The candles on the Advent Wreath defines the season as one of hope, joy, love, peace, and Jesús.

That is the Christian belief.

If you ask me, the people who begin Christmas early are awake to these expectations that define the Christmas Season.

Why would some ministers of the gospel want to be a scrooge because some people started the Christmas Season before Halloween and Thanksgiving?

The Christmas spirit is to be awakened to the hope, joy, peace, love, and The Christ of Christmas. In this short Christmas Season, we are to be awake of the life we share together.

Merry Christmas!!!
The Rev. Nelson Quiñones,
Lehigh Mission District Dean

Reminders:

ADVENT CHRISTMAS INGATHERING

Wednesday, December 6th
St. John's Lutheran Church
(501 Chestnut St, Emmaus)

Thank you for your support with this Ministry. We wish all a most Blessed Thanksgiving!



UPCOMING NEPA SYNOD EVENTS:

details and registration on
<https://nepasynod.org/events/>

**Generosity Extravaganza
2024: Tools For Today**
January 20, 2024
8:30 AM to 3:45 PM
Trinity Lutheran Church
(1000 W. Main Street, Lansdale)

You will learn usable ideas and programs to help develop a culture of generosity in your congregation. Keynote speaker Grace Duddy Pomroy on creating Alternative Funding Methods for congregations.

Bishop's Conference 2024
February 6-7, 2024
Shawnee Inn and Resort
(100 Shawnee Inn Drive,
Shawnee on Delaware, PA)

Topic: Finding Holy Focus in
Hungering Times

Registration now open-
register by January 2nd



A fun night out...String Art by Lisa
Friday, December 1st at 6:30 PM
St. Mark Lutheran Church
(201 E. Juniata St, Allentown)

Call the church office, if you have any questions or to sign-up: 610-797-6440

\$45 for each design
PAYMENT IS DUE THE NIGHT
OF THE EVENT!!

18 different designs to choose from.

There will be refreshments and a special raffle basket (bring non-perishable food items and you will receive a ticket).

You can check it out or make a reservation at: [String Art with Lisa at St. Mark's Lutheran Church Fundraiser Allentown](#) on Facebook.

Grace Notes Gospel Big Band Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 17th at 3:00 PM
at St. Timothy Lutheran Church
(140 S. Ott Street, Allentown)
*Parking available on the street
& across the street*

PLEASE JOIN US!
A free will offering will be accepted.
Stay for a Christmas Cookie
Reception afterwards!



Community Free Dinners
St. John's Lutheran Church
(1028 Church Street, Fogelsville)

Dinners will continue the 3rd Friday, every other month (except November, when it will be held on the 2nd Friday) from 5-7 PM.
Next meal: January 19th. Free dinners are served "to-go", while supplies last.
All are welcome.



THANK YOU to all the faithful walkers, community leaders, support crew, sponsors and other donors who participated in the Sunday, Oct. 22, 2023, **Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk!**

If you or your congregation/group took any CROP Hunger Walk PHOTOS or VIDEOS, please POST THEM on social media and SEND THEM to karehad@gmail.com to include in our follow-up emails to congregations and other CROP supporters!

CONGRATULATIONS to all who received awards at the Opening Ceremony! And special thanks to Mark and Linda Held for making the awards!

2022 Golden Sneaker: Asbury Spirit, Allentown
2022 Silver Sandal: Calvary Moravian, Allentown
2022 Bronze Booty: Church of the Mediator, Allentown



Many Thanks to Our Generous Sponsors!



CHRISTMAS, BIRTHDAY, ANNIVERSARY GIFT IDEA:
In honor of loved ones, give the gift of life!
DONATE to the CROP Hunger Walk at
<https://www.crophungerwalk.org/allentownpa>

Alternatively, CHECKS FOR "CWS/CROP" may be given through your congregation/group for delivery ASAP to Linda Held, Allentown CROP Hunger Walk Treasurer, 3441 Devonshire Road, Allentown, PA 18103.

The Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk helps food-insecure neighbors locally through the LEHIGH CHURCHES' CONFERENCE KITCHEN and the ALLENTOWN AREA ECUMENICAL FOOD BANK. Our CROP Walk funds also supports CHURCH WORLD SERVICE.

THANK YOU for making a difference!



1987 2022

Dick & Paula Skelly, Co-Trip Coordinators
1933 Hanover Avenue
Allentown, PA 18109
610-435-9155
Day of Trip Emergency # 610-417-3286



OPERATION SUNSHINE

Operation Sunshine is a non-profit fellowship opportunity within the Lehigh Mission District, run solely by volunteers.

Please join us and invite your friends as we enjoy a variety of venues together.

2024 JAN TO JUNE NEWSLETTER

DAY TRIP CANCELLATION POLICY:

- 1. If you cancel your reservation prior to the Payment Deadline – Full Refund
2. If you cancel your reservation after the Payment Deadline, but provide a paying replacement traveler - Full Refund
3. If you cancel your reservation after the Payment Deadline, but cancellation is due to a hospitalization – Full Refund
4. If you cancel your reservation after the Payment Deadline and none of the above can be applied – 50% Refund

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- 1. Website – www.LMDopsunshine.com – Read about all the upcoming trips, register for trips on-line, contact us
2. Office Phone – 610-435-9155 – Register for trips, Call with questions. Office hours are Mon and Wed. 11 AM to 3 PM. You may leave a message and someone will get back to you.
3. E-Mail Address – LMDopsunshine@aol.com – Questions, Make a reservation, Update your personal information
4. Follow up any reservation with a check made payable to Operation Sunshine and mail to the office at:
Operation Sunshine
1933 Hanover Ave.
Allentown, PA 18109

5. When making a reservation, please be sure to include your name and phone number (Cell Phone Preferred) and the names of your traveling companions so we can be sure to seat you together. Also, include your meal choice should one be required.

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DAY TRIPS

Mar.21, 2024 (Thurs). – Fulton Theatre – 9 TO 5

Pushed to the boiling point, three female coworkers concoct a plan to get even with the sexist, egotistical, lying, hypocritical bigot they call their boss. In a hilarious turn of events, Violet, Judy and Doralee live out their wildest fantasy – giving their boss the boot! While Hart remains “otherwise engaged,” the women give their workplace a dream makeover, taking control of the company that had always kept them down. Hey, a girl can scheme, can’t she? 9 to 5 The Musical, with music and lyrics by Dolly Parton and book by Patricia Resnick, is based on the 1980’s hit movie of the same name. Set in the late 1970s, this hilarious story of friendship and revenge in the Rolodex era is outrageous, thought-provoking and even a little romantic.

Lunch at Miller’s Smorgasbord

Bus leaves St. Timothy’s at 10:00 AM – Return approx. 5:45 PM

Cost \$125 Payment Deadline: Thurs. Feb 15, 2024

April 4, 2024 (Thurs.) – Bristol Riverside Theatre – BIG, THE MUSICAL

12-year-old Josh Baskin knows one thing: being a scrawny 12 year-old boy stinks. But when a rusty arcade machine magically grants his wish to be grown up he discovers that, there's more to being an adult than he bargained for. Based on the 1988 smash-hit film starring Tom Hanks, **Big** is a fun-filled musical perfect for young and old! Lunch at Georgine's with entrée choices of:

**PRIME RIB AU JUS
GRILLED NORWEGIAN SALMON FILET
CHICKEN PARMESAN
BONELESS CHICKEN STUFFED CAPON**

Please notify the office of your entrée choice at time of booking.

Bus leaves St. Timothy's at 10 AM – Return approx. 5:45 PM

Cost \$125 Payment Deadline: Thurs. Mar. 7

May 9, 2024 (Thurs) – Fulton Theatre – SOUTH PACIFIC

On a South Pacific island during World War II, Ensign Nellie Forbush, a spunky nurse from Arkansas, falls in love with French planter Emile de Becque but she refuses Emile's proposal of marriage, unable to overcome the prejudices with which she was raised. Meanwhile, Lt. Joe Cable falls in love with a Tonkinese girl named Liat, but he too denies himself a future due to the same fears that haunt Nellie. When Emile accompanies Joe on a dangerous mission, Nellie chooses to embrace a future with Emile, thus conquering her prejudices. The show received ten Tony Awards (including Best Musical), a Grammy Award, and countless other accolades. Family Style lunch at the Fulton Steamboat Inn.

Bus Leaves St. Timothy's at 10:00 AM – Return approx. 6:00 PM

Cost \$125 Payment Deadline: Thurs. Apr. 4

June 4, 2024 (Tues.) – Villa Roma – DOO WOP TRIBUTE

Get set for a great day of fun, food and entertainment –Upon arrival you have free time to enjoy one of Villa Roma's morning activities, use the game room or stroll the grounds. Then off to a fabulous 3-course meal with wine. After lunch enjoy more free time to explore the resort and its amenities or participate in a resort sponsored activity, like line dancing. But wait...there's more! At 1:45 PM head to the Forum Night Club for a Doo Wop review of all your favorite hits. After the show there is Bingo right there in the night club. After a full day, we depart for home. A great deal at a great price! Entrée Choices:

**ROAST LOIN OF PORK
CHICKEN PARMESAN OVER LINQUINI
FLOUNDER FRANCESE**

Please notify the office of your entrée choice at time of booking.

Bus Leaves St. Timothy's at 9:00 AM – Return approx. 6:30 PM

Cost \$120 Payment Deadline: Thurs. May 2

June 27, 2024 (Thurs.) – Paper Mill Theatre – BEAUTIFUL – THE CAROLE KING MUSICAL

This Tony-nominated musical follows the early life and career of Carole King on her journey from teenage songwriter to chart-topping solo artist. King wrote for many of the biggest names in music, often alongside her husband, but it wasn't until she made the leap from the writer's room to the stage that she truly found her voice. This inspiring story of love, heartbreak, and empowerment features over two dozen hits, including "One Fine Day," "Will You Love Me Tomorrow," and "Natural Woman." The show will be preceded by a delicious luncheon buffet at The Stage House Restaurant.

Bus Leaves St. Timothy's at 10:00 AM – Return approx. 5:30 PM

Cost \$130 Payment Deadline: Thurs., May 23

***NOTE: DANIEL AT SIGHT AND SOUND THEATRE BOOKED FOR 2ND HALF OF 2024**