

PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Breinigsville, PA

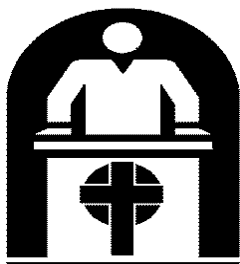
FEBRUARY 2024



Preparing for Easter

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,

This month begins the journey of Lent on Ash Wednesday which is February 14th. Yes, that's Valentine's Day. It's ironic that we will hear words of love and ashes? Or maybe it's not ironic. Interesting . . .

After his baptism, Jesus spent 40 days in the desert, fasting and praying. Satan tempted Jesus, trying to turn the Savior from the saving work that lay ahead. But each time, Jesus resisted the devil with the Word of God. Our 40 day season of Lent, from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday (not counting Sundays, each of which celebrates Jesus' resurrection), is patterned after Jesus' days in the wilderness. We fast, pray, repent, worship and oppose the tempter with the Word.

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

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

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

Come join us in worship as we navigate the journey of Lent.

Pastor Miller

SNOW/CANCELLATION INFORMATION



Winter advisory...Please be sure to check St. Paul's website, www.stpaulsbbv.org or WFMZ storm center to see if any church service or event is cancelled due to snow or ice.

RESUMPTION OF 9:00AM SERVICE

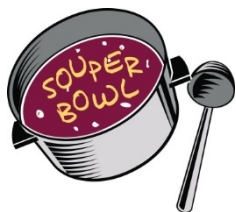
The Music and Worship Committee has recommended to council and council approved resuming the 9:00am service. It was noted that there are some people who need to be socially distanced because of health reasons (and therefore need the 9:00am service) and others who prefer the 9:00am service because of work schedules. The 9:00am service will start the first Sunday in February.

UPCOMING EVENT FROM THE EVANGELSIM/FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

February 11, 2024 – Annual Congregational meeting (reports from staff and committees). Pot-luck luncheon with a special feature of chocolate desserts. Bring your favorite chocolate desserts to share. Ummm goood!!!



SOUPER BOWL!!!



It is that time of year again when two National Football teams will compete in the Super Bowl to claim the title of CHAMPIONS on February 11! At the time of this writing, we do not know who will be in the Super Bowl. But it is also SOUPER BOWL Sunday. It is a time when we ask for donations of a dollar and/or a non-perishable food item to be given to the Allentown Food Bank. We will set up a container for each team that competes in the Super Bowl and you will vote by your contribution for the team you want to win. So, come, vote, and be generous!

LENTEN OFFERING ENVELOPES

Enclosed in the newsletter is a Lenten envelope. There are also more envelopes available on the table in the Narthex.



ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday is February 14th this year. We will have Ash Wednesday services at 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

The first day of Lent is Ash Wednesday named for the practice of imposing ashes. Ashes symbolize several aspects of our human experience. First, ashes remind us of God's condemnation of sin, as God said to Adam, "Dust you are and to dust you shall return." Second, ashes suggest cleaning and renewal. Ashes were used anciently in the absence of soap, and on Ash Wednesday ashes are a penitential substitute for water as a reminder of our Baptism. Third, ashes remind us of the shortness of human life, for one day the words "We commit his/her body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust" will be said over our bodies. Fourth, ashes are a symbol of repentance, as expressed in Luke 10:13 and the hymn "Savior, When in Dust to Thee."



SPRING TRAINING FOR CHRISTIANS

The word Lent comes from Middle English and German words for springtime. In light of the start of baseball season, some people call the pre-Easter season "spring training for Christians." This fresh perspective moves away from the flawed understanding that Lent must be somber, or that giving something up for Lent is punishment for sin or a way to earn God's favor.

As people of faith, we should never take a season off. But every so often — at least once a year! — we do well to examine where we need to get back in shape spiritually. Perhaps we will indeed opt to give something up: that swearing habit, sleeping in on Sundays, or the cost of a weekly treat so we can donate the money instead. Or maybe we'll take on something new for Lent: a Bible study, prayer routine or service project.

Hebrews describes spiritual discipline as challenging in the moment but yielding righteousness later. The writer urges us, "Lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees ... so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed" (12:11-13, ESV). May the spring training of Lent strengthen and heal us all.

ST. PAUL'S 2024 BASKET SOCIAL

The Basket Social Committee is planning a third Basket Social on September 14, 2024 from 9:00AM to 2:00PM. Look for our display in March, when we will start our basket drive: seeking donations of gift baskets from members of the congregation. You can donate empty baskets, made up baskets, or items to put in a basket. New or nearly new items are preferred.

We will again have several “special” baskets (of higher value than regular baskets), gift cards for local restaurants/businesses, and a big-ticket grand prize. We also will have a paper products tower – where people bring food items do donate in exchange for tickets to win the paper products. The beneficiary is the Allentown Area Food Bank.

We will again have a 50/50 drawing to benefit a selected charity. As we have done the past two years, we will donate ten percent of the event proceeds to a charity.

Members of the 2024 Basket Social Committee are Carol Derr-Breinig, Melanie Dimovitz, Anita Eisenhard, Rosie, Gallagher, Amanda Mesko, Pastor Miller, Peggy Saylor, Becky Theodore, and Steph Wagaman. If you are interested we could use a few more people on the committee.

EASTER FLOWER ORDERS

Guess what? It is time to place your order for Easter flowers. An order form is available in this newsletter. They will also be available on our website and on the table in the narthex. You can also call me in the office at 610-398-700 or send me an email at – office@stpaulsbyville.org.

The **DEADLINE TO ORDER IS SUNDAY, MARCH 3rd**.



PRAYER SHAWL NEWS

Twiddle Sleeve Project

We are wrapping up the twiddle sleeve project. Thanks to all of our makers, we received 105 twiddle sleeves. To date, 32 twiddle sleeves were donated to Atrium of Allentown, 40 were donated to Luther Crest Dementia Unit, and five went to family/friends of the congregation. We still have many sleeves in-house that need to be embellished. If you would like to help sew embellishments on sleeves, there are kits available. We cannot accept more sleeves, as we are finishing this project and starting some new, exciting projects in 2024! Read on!

Chemo Hat Project

One of our new projects this year is making hand-knit and crocheted beanies for people going through chemo. These hats will be provided to local cancer centers and possibly to the charitable organization Knots of Love. Check out [Knots of Love Web Site](#) – especially their [list of required yarn](#) (selected for softness) and their large selection of [knit and crochet patterns](#). Please see Steph if you would like a printed copy of yarn requirements and patterns. We will be pursuing a Thrivent Action Team grant to purchase specific yarns for this project. If you want to purchase your own yarn, many of the suggested brands are common to Hobby Lobby, Michael's and JoAnne's craft stores.

Project Warm Up America (WUA)

Check out [Project Warm Up America](#) Web Site. We will be making crocheted or knitted rectangular pieces measuring 7" by 9". These pieces are then sent to foundation headquarters for joining into blankets and distributing. WUA blankets are distributed to people in need through community service organizations as well as through chapters of national organizations such as the American Red Cross. The Web site has some [pattern suggestions](#), but you can make rectangles in whatever patterns you like. Sandi has made 7"x9" cardboard templates to make it easy to get the correct size. It is a great way to use up partial skeins in your stash!

Plarn/Project Working Sessions

Starting in February, we will be having working sessions for making Plarn – or any of the above projects – on the third Tuesday of the month from 1:30 – 3:30PM. Feel free to join us making plarn, working on a sleeping mat, or knitting/crocheting hats or rectangles. Mark your calendar for **February 20 at 1:30PM** – and for the third Tuesday of the months following.

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.

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.

WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AMERICA

Our first meeting of the new year was held on Wednesday, January 10, 2024.

Our meetings are normally held the second Wednesday of each month. Because Ash Wednesday will be the second Wednesday of February this year, we will be meeting the third Wednesday, February 21st. We meet at 9:30 a.m. and conclude around 11:30. Sometimes we go to lunch at Hometown afterwards.

We are always looking to have more women from the congregation to join us in sharing our community of women. We get to know each other more as we chat, sometimes on topic and sometimes off, but always in loving ways.

WELCA has a bi-monthly magazine called *Gather* that contains a Bible study for each month. Copies of the study are provided for anyone who does not have a subscription. There are four sessions based on the topic- *Scripture and nature: Teachers of faith*. Session one's focus was on "Weather". Our local weather fit right into the topic since we experienced a weekend snowstorm that cancelled worship on Sunday and then cancelled schools on Tuesday/Wednesday due to heavy rains and winds on Monday night. A discussion question was to share a type of weather and an emotion it causes us to feel. There was quite a bit of conversation on this one alone. Biblical stories of extraordinary weather convict and humble us, showing us how to live faithfully. Stay tuned for next month, *Session Two: Creatures*.

We received several letters of correspondence. The first was from WELCA National thanking St. Paul's for the Thankoffering donations. A second note came from the wife of one of the Good Shepherd Raker patients for the personal care items her husband received. Also, a note from Sixth Street Shelter for all the housekeeping items our congregation supplied to the Ingathering. They served 106 families which included 373 people in the past year! Thank you to everyone that contributed to all of these organizations.

Join us on Wednesday, February 21, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.

PARISH NURSING NOTES

“Cancer Risk and Prevention”

Cathy Waltemyer RN

I wrestled with what to write about this month. I think many of us know that February is Heart Month, but while researching what to discuss this month, I discovered February is also Cancer Risk and Prevention Month. While there is no guaranteed way to prevent cancer, you can learn about understanding and reducing your risk.

A risk factor is something that raises the chance of getting a disease. Each cancer has its own risk factors. Having risk factors does not mean that someone will get cancer. Even when a person with a risk factor is found to have cancer, there's no way to prove that the risk factor caused the cancer. Some risk factors, like a person's age or gene damage, can't be changed. But some risk factors can be controlled. Tobacco use, contact with secondhand smoke, being in the sun, excess body weight, not being active, drinking alcohol, and not eating a healthy diet are risk factors that can be managed. Other risk factors include getting certain viruses and contact with certain kinds of radiation or chemicals.

Some Myths about Causes of Cancer

Can injuries cause cancer? Injuries do not cause cancer. A person might visit a health care provider for an injury and cancer is found. But the injury did not cause the cancer; the cancer was already there.

Can I bring cancer on myself? Your personality and emotions cannot cause cancer and will not affect the outcome of your cancer. Research shows that there is no connection between personality types or attitude and cancer occurrence or outcomes.

Can stress cause cancer? Researchers have done many studies to see if there's a link between personality, attitude, stress, and cancer. It's known that stress affects the immune system, but so do many other things. At this time, there is no clear evidence that a person's stress level affects their risk of getting cancer.

Does sugar feed cancer? Sugar intake has not been shown to increase the risk of getting cancer, having cancer spread, or having it get worse. Still, sugars and sugar-sweetened drinks add a lot of calories to the diet and can cause weight gain, which is linked to cancer.

Is cancer contagious? The answer is no. You won't get cancer by being around or touching someone with cancer. When family and friends stay away, people with cancer may feel isolated and alone. They need your visits and support.

Is cancer inherited? Sometimes, certain types of cancer seem to run in some families. In some cases, this might be because family members share certain behaviors or exposures that increase cancer risk, such as smoking. Cancer risk might also be affected by other factors, like obesity, that tend to run in some families.

But in some cases the cancer is caused by an abnormal gene that is being passed along from generation to generation. Although this is often referred to as *inherited* cancer, what is inherited is the abnormal gene that can lead to cancer, not the cancer itself.

Lowering your Cancer Risk

Stay away from tobacco. If you are a smoker, use smokeless tobacco, or e-cigarettes get information on how to quit. Talk to your physician, there are many products available that can help.

Eat a healthy diet and get active. There are lots of good suggestions on the American Cancer Society Website

<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/risk-prevention/diet-physical-activity.html>

Be Safe in the Sun. Use sunscreen year round especially if you engage in outdoor winter activities. Avoid tanning salons, and see a dermatologist for a skin examination at least yearly.

Protect Against HPV. Human papillomavirus (HPV) is linked to cervical cancer and many other types of cancer. Find out more about HPV vaccines and testing at <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/risk-prevention/hpv.html>

Information from <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/risk-prevention.html>

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.



| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| 2 Martine Hemmelgarn-Otto | 12 Lillian Sicher |
| 5 Dick Steltz | 14 Mary Schneider |
| 8 Zack Dimovitz | 15 Amanda Mesko |
| 9 Rosalie Gallagher | 17 Cindy Mount |
| 9 George Sanchez | 18 Denise Trainor |
| 9 Avery Thompson | 21 Skip Eisenhard |
| 10 Tom Kellogg | 21 Cindy Krasnansky |
| 10 Carey Miller | 24 Mark Maslany |
| 12 Lacey Edwards | 29 Alan Brumbach |

NEW MEMBER



Martiné Hemmelgarn-Otto became a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church on December 3. The following is a bio sketch to get to know Martiné a little better:

She is an in-home personal healthcare giver. She was a member of Concordia Lutheran Church on Brookside Road but since she moved into the community she decided to join us. Her interests and hobbies are, listening to music, writing poetry, reading, walking her dog, to have an in-home bible study group (koinonia), and tending to her house plants.

GOD-SHAPED HOLE

Have you ever neared the completion of a jigsaw puzzle, only to discover that a piece or two is missing? That's an apt visual for what it's like to live without God. Blaise Pascal, a 17th-century philosopher, observed: "There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of each man which cannot be satisfied by any created thing but only by God the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ."



Centuries earlier, St. Augustine proclaimed "Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in thee." And in the Old Testament, the writer of Ecclesiastes expounded on the meaninglessness of earthly striving and material pursuits. Only God's Spirit can fill our emptiness and satisfy our eternal longings.

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full," says Jesus in John 10:10 (NIV). He alone provides the solution for emptiness. What comfort to be filled with — and to find our fulfillment in — our Savior!

VALENTINE'S DAY JOKES FOR ANIMAL LOVERS

What did one sheep say to the other?

I love ewe!

And how did the other sheep respond?

You're not so baaa-d yourself.

Why do skunks love Valentine's Day?

They are very scent-imental creatures.

What did the enamored deer say?

I'm very fawn-ed of you!

INVALUABLE!

“The kingdom of heaven,” said Jesus, “is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it” (Matthew 13:45-46, NRSV).

In 2021, the Good News Network reported that a crab fisherman in Thailand stumbled upon a valuable Melo pearl while cutting up a snail for lunch. In wonder, he brought it to his brother to verify the discovery. “My family had been fishing for generations,” said Prasarnphon Phunwan, “but I believe our fate is about to change because of my lunch.” Several months prior, another fisherman had been offered \$351,000 for a similar pearl.

Likewise, God’s priceless love immeasurably alters our eternal fate. If we fully comprehended the value of that love, we’d give up everything to obtain it. But the greater wonder is that we don’t have to buy it. God gives it to us as a gift! Whether we seemed to encounter Jesus by chance or someone joyfully shared the Gospel with us, our Savior is the merchant who “sold all that he had” — even his life. So priceless is salvation! So valuable are we!

—Heidi Hyland Mann

VALENTINE’S DAY JOKES FOR ANIMAL LOVERS

What question did the penguin ask on February 14?

Waddle I do without you?

What do you call two birds in love?

Tweethearts!

What did one bee say to the other?

I love bee-ing with you, honey!



CONNECTED BY LOVE

God's Word is filled with messages about love,
which connects us to God and to one another.

*Directions: Draw a line from the beginning of each Bible verse
(on the left side) through the heart to the rest of the verse
(on the right side). Use the Scripture references for help.*

- a. We
- b. Above all,
- c. My command
is this:
- d. And over all
these virtues
put on
- e. Greater
- f. See what
great
- g. There is
no fear in



- 1. each other as I have
loved you. John 15:12
- 2. has no one than this: to
lay down one's life for
one's friends. John 15:13
- 3. But perfect love drives
out fear. 1 John 4:18
- 4. each other deeply,
because love covers
over a multitude of sins.
1 Peter 4:8
- 5. the Father has lavished
on us, that we should
be called children of
God! 1 John 3:1
- 6. because he first loved
us. 1 John 4:19
- 7. which binds them all
together in perfect
unity. Colossians 3:14

Answers: a 6, b 4, c 1, d 7, e 2, f 5, g 3

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER IS FEBRUARY 11, 2024

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

February 2024 St. Paul's Lutheran Church

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| | | | | 1 9:30 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir | 2  GROUNDHOG DAY | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 9:00 a.m.-Worship 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 9:15 a.m.-Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m.-Worship | 5 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study | 6 | 7 | 8 9:30 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir | 9 | 10 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11 TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD 9:00 a.m.-Worship 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 9:15 a.m.-Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m.-Worship 11:30 a.m.-Congregational Meeting & Potluck Lunch w/Chocolate Desserts NEWSLETTER DEADLINE | 12 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study  Lincoln's Birthday | 13 7:00 p.m.-Council | 14  10:30 a.m.-Worship 7:00 p.m.-Worship  Valentine's Day | 15 9:30 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir | 16 | 17 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18 1 ST SUNDAY IN LENT 9:00 a.m.-Worship 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 9:15 a.m.-Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m.-Worship | 19 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED  Presidents' Day | 20 1:00 p.m.-Plarn Session 6:30 p.m.-Haafsville Board Meeting | 21 9:30 a.m.-W-ELCA | 22 9:30 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir  Washington's Birthday | 23 | 24 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 25 2 ND SUNDAY IN LENT 9:00 a.m.-Worship 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 9:15 a.m.-Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m.-Worship | 26 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study | 27 | 28 | 29 9:30 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir | | <table><tr><th colspan="7">March 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><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</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> | March 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 | | | | | | |
| March 2024 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

February 2024

**If you cannot fulfill an assigned duty, please call the church office at 610-398-7000 or
the Council Person of the Month – Sandi Wagaman 610-203-8085**

Sunday, February 4, 2024

10:30AM

Ushers: Bruce Wagaman, Sandi Wagaman

Altar Guild: Rosemary Lehman

Communion Asst: Anita Eisenhard

Communion Bread: Alice Bastian

Greeter: Rosie Gallagher

Lay Asst: Sharon Bortz

Reader: Dick Steltz

Sunday, February 11, 2024

10:30AM

Ushers: Jennifer Bentsen, Judy Walker

Altar Guild: Jennifer Bentsen

Communion Asst: Peggy Saylor

Communion Bread: Jennifer Bentsen

Greeter: Mary Schneider

Lay Asst: Bob Bruchak

Reader: Tom Kellogg

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

10:30AM

No Ushers

Altar Guild: *(none)*

Communion Asst: *(none)*

Communion Bread: Carol Derr-Breinig (1 loaf for 2 services)

Greeter: Dick Hartley

Lay Asst: Dick Steltz

Reader: Sharon Bortz

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

7:00PM

Ushers: Frank Bennighoff, Melanie Dimovitz

Altar Guild: Rosemary Lehman

Communion Asst: Sharon Bortz

Communion Bread: Carol Derr-Breinig (1 loaf for 2 services)

Greeter: Bruce Wagaman

Lay Asst: Rosemary Lehman

Reader: Sandi Wagaman

Sunday, February 18, 2024

10:30AM

Ushers: Cal Fetherolf, Peggy Saylor

Altar Guild: Esther Seibert

Communion Asst: Anita Eisenhard

Communion Bread: Joshua Solderich

Greeter: Peggy Saylor

Lay Asst: Sandi Wagaman

Reader: Cal Fetherolf

Sunday, February 25, 2024

10:30AM

Ushers: Melanie Dimovitz, Carl Seibert

Altar Guild: Amy Williams

Communion Asst: Bob Bruchak

Communion Bread: Bob Nickisher

Greeter: Carl Seibert

Lay Asst: Lacey Edwards

Reader: Jennifer Bentsen

E A S T E R



F L O W E R S

Easter is Sunday, March 31, 2024. It seems just like yesterday we were ordering poinsettias.

The deadline for flower orders will be Sunday, March 3, 2024

The cost for Lilies will be \$10.00 per plant. Daffodils will be \$9.00. Hyacinths and Tulips will be \$8.00. The flowers may be picked up after the 10:30 a.m. Easter Festival Service. **We are no longer delivering flowers to shut-ins.**

Please fill out the order form and return it with a check (made out to St. Paul's Lutheran Church. In the memo, please mark it for Easter Flowers.) Either place it in the offering plate, mail it in, or hand it to Janine Ritter.

If you have any questions, please contact Janine Ritter at 610-417-0209.

Additional forms are available in the narthex.

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

Janine Ritter
Festival Committee

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
8227 Hamilton Blvd.
Breinigsville, PA 18031
610-398-7000

EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM

LILIES: \$10.00

DAFFODILS: \$9.00

HYACINTHS AND TULIPS: \$8.00

ORDER DEADLINE: SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2024

**CHOOSE THE TYPE OF FLOWER YOU
WOULD LIKE AND PLACE THE NUMBER
YOU WANT ON THE LINE BEHIND.**



LILIES _____

DAFFODILS _____

HYACINTHS _____

TULIPS _____

ORDERED

BY: _____

(Please print clearly)

IN MEMORY OF:

IN HONOR OF:

FLOWERS CAN BE PICKED UP AFTER THE 10:30 A.M. SERVICE

Sunday School Christmas Eve Program

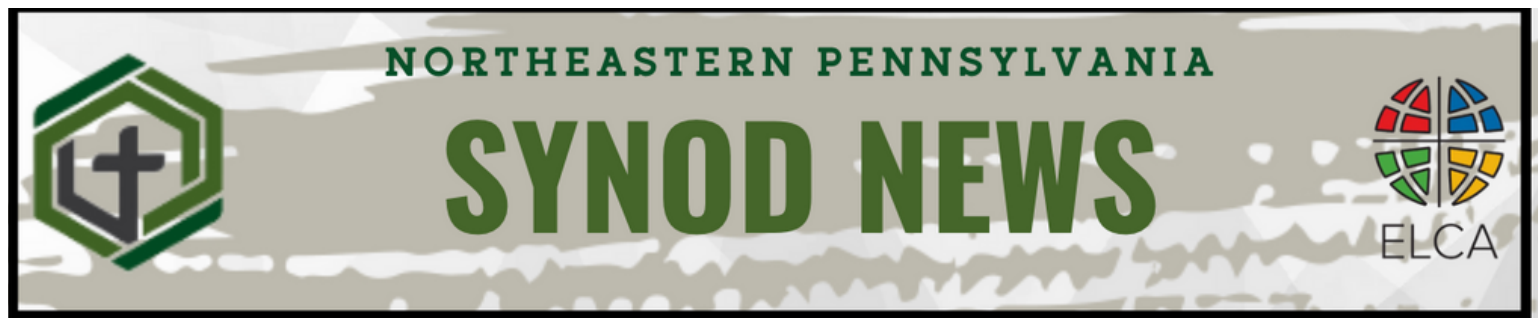


December 24, 2023

Special Music



December 24, 2023



Advent Shares: Hope Out Loud

Support from the HOL! (Hope Out Loud!) Capital Campaign saw Advent members participate in dozens of projects – some new, some one-time; some existing ministries were expanded or refreshed. The dedicated members of Advent who truly care about people in need were very active and supportive. One member shared: “When I had some tough years, my church came through for me! That experience changed me in big ways. I vowed that I would get involved more and & pay it forward”. Helping others has made me a happier Christian.” There are so many completed (and ongoing!) projects. These ministries are wide-ranging and varied – food, clothing, shelter, blankets, books, and prayers. Cookies at Christmastime.

Advent members help men, women, babies, children, people in prison, people in recovery from addictions, hungry people – in our community, our country, and around the world. Members have said that they feel joy in providing the services and the looks on the faces of the recipients reinforce joy there too. Some of the projects receive seed money from Thrivent Action Teams. Some of our favorite ministries and activities are Bombas Socks donations, books and Bibles for Berks County Prison, Christmas Cookies for Common Ground, the Hungry Yard Sale, Family Promise, our Little Free Library and Little Free Pantry, the (new in 2020) Prayer Team, and the many clothing drives.

As one example of the positive impact in the community: The Little Free Pantry was filled and emptied on the same day. We cannot keep it filled fast enough. Through our \$250.00 Thrivent Action Team sponsorship by members of different committees, we can grocery shop and fill our shelves in Advent’s grocery shelves. We fill up my grocery cart three times a week and go outside to our Little Free Pantry. Within hours it had been emptied. Praise God for Thrivent and Advent’s church members in helping fill our community’s bellies with happiness through our wonderful blessed giving! Another goal of the HOL! The campaign was to increase the use of technology in our church life. In the middle of the pandemic, we premiered a fresh, beautiful, new website to tell people about Advent – reaching out in a modern way to share God’s word and work with our neighbors, friends, and people who want to learn about God. This new website increases our visibility in the community and provides valuable information for members and visitors alike. Seeing new people attend and join our church brings



joy, creating more of a sense of “community”. We continue to be inspired by: 1) Jesus’ examples of sharing, healing – “love our neighbor as ourselves”, (2) a thirst for learning about our faith through study and worship, (3) the need for support in our local and global community, (4) Reflection on our blessings and those less fortunate, (5) and, socializing with others while providing service. Members think Advent’s sermons and services explicitly help to keep us inspired and filled with the joy of serving.



A background image of five smiling youth of diverse backgrounds, overlaid with a teal tint and colorful brushstroke accents in pink, yellow, and red.

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

#ELCAYG2024

[ELCA.ORG/Gathering](https://elca.org/gathering)

Reconsiderations Task Force for Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust

The 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly authorized two reconsiderations of the social statement Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust. A task force will begin working in 2024 to lead this five-year process of discernment. Information is available about the reconsiderations and task force expectations. Apply or nominate



SUMMER INGATHERING 2024

Join us this summer in helping out a local church in their endeavors to help and support children in their community.

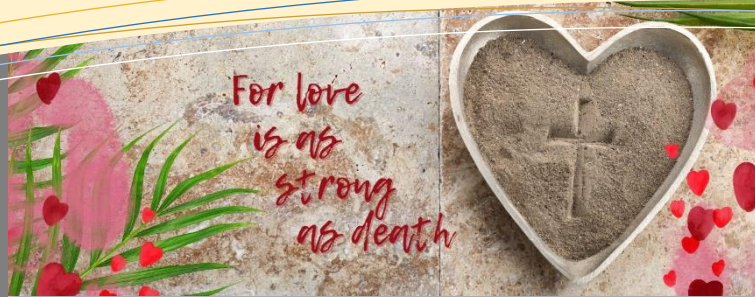
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Catasauqua runs a summer program for children in their community park. They provide a free lunch along with a connection to the local children.

We would like to collect these items to help support them with their outreach program. The items included are:

- Individual salty snack bags
- 16 oz water bottles
- Wal-Mart gift cards in \$10.00 increments

We will be collecting these items through the end of May 2024.

Please contact Pam Page at 610-360-0226 or ppage619@gmail.com if you would like to participate or if you have any questions.



March 2024 LMD NL news
will be due February 12, 2024.

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

Deep Death to Deep Living

Dear Lehigh Mission District,

"The Dyings have been too deep for me, and before I could raise my Heart from one, another has come-" (Autumn 1884 letter from Emily Dickinson for Rebecca Mark)

My wife and I have been watching the Emily Dickinson series on Apple TV+. The TV series reminded me of the Emily Dickinson poetry I read in my college English Literature class. Emily Dickinson wrote hundreds of poems about death on pieces of papers and letters. This great American poet had an obsession with death.

Dickinson not only wrote extensively about death but she experienced the death of friends and relatives. In her lifetime the New England poet experienced the nation's mounting death count of soldiers in the American Civil War.

In our Twenty-First century, we too confront death, but we may not have the courage as Dickinson did to call it what it is. Today, death can be found with the dying of a family member or a friend, nations engaged on ethnic genocide, children dying in school shootings, the Black Lives murdered in the hands of police officers, women's rights being trampled on. While Emily may have been obsessed with death, our modern American society is plagued with unnecessary deaths that are treated in a much less serious manner.

Our church liturgical calendar calls us to celebrate Ash Wednesday. Now let's call it what it is – instead of a reminder of death, it is an initiation of death that begins with the imposition of ashes in the sign of the cross on our foreheads.

Christianity's death ritual this year falls in the calendar on Valentine's Day. I am reminded of the Song of Songs, "for love is strong as death" which combines Love and Death together.

I am not suggesting that Christianity perpetuates death rituals with the ashes to ashes and dust to dust, Good Friday, the martyrs of the faith, and a crucified Christ. Our Christian rituals may have taken us on a wrong path in society. The Christian Gnostic may have a point in not believing that Jesus did not die. Imagine for a second that Gnostic concept where Jesus lives for all eternity and never needed to die. Or for that matter, a Living Christ who calls us to Deep Living amidst the Deep Dying. The combination of the two is where I believe lies God's love for humanity through a Living Christ who died but in the process lived deeply with his disciples.

(continued on the next page ⇨)

REMINDERS to the Lehigh Mission District Rostered Leaders

*Please keep the following
dates on your calendars:*

February 6-7, 2024 - Bishop's Conference

"Finding Holy Focus in
Hungering Times"
at Shawnee Inn and Resort

March 13, 2024 - Wholesome Attitudes Toward Other Religions

The Rev. Dr. Roger Timm

April 10, 2024 - Collapse & Restructuring of the ELCA

The Rev. Thomas Busted

May 5, 2024 - 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.*



ELCA YOUTH GATHERING New Orleans, Louisiana July 16-20, 2024

details and registration on
www.elca.church/gathering

Please contact Stacey Burke
(Global Synod Champion)
stacey@nepasynod.org or
610-266-5101, ext. 110 with
any questions.

BIG INCENTIVE: The next 5
NEW congregations to register
for the 2024 Gathering will get
priority pricing – deadline is
February 14th. Reach out to
Stacey Burke for details.

(continued from previous page) While we live with this duality of death and life, Jesus brought about the emphasis of living life to the fullest. The Ash Wednesday ritual has been a focus on the self dying and yet ignored the dying that surrounds our world. What would it be if Ash Wednesday focused on living life amidst our deeply dying? In Emily Dickinson's words "and before I could raise my Heart from one, another has come-" We can feel a sense of deep living in our hearts amidst another dying in a part of our world. Living then is the mark of ashes on our foreheads through the one who lives.

Now I have to go and watch another episode of Emily Dickinson with my love, Jessica.

The Rev. Nelson Quiñones,
Lehigh Mission District Dean



OPERATION SUNSHINE

1933 Hanover Ave, Allentown, PA 18109

Phone: 610-435-9155

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

Email: LMDopsunshine@aol.com

Website: www.LMDopsunshine.com

Paula & Dick Skelly, Co-Trip Coordinators

See attached newsletter or website for details.

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

**All trips for 2024 are currently
SOLD OUT!!!**

If you are still interested, we encourage
you to put your name on a wait list
as we invariably have cancellations,
especially this far out.



CROP Hunger Walk: Helping Neighbors Near and Far

Thank you for helping our 2023 Greater
Allentown CROP Hunger Walk raise over
\$25,000 (as of 12/31/23) to help our neighbors
in need locally and around the globe!

As a result of your faithful efforts, the Allentown
Area Ecumenical Food Bank and Lehigh
Conference of Churches Kitchen will each
receive over \$3000 for their vital ministries.
And our food insecure neighbors throughout the
United States and the world who have survived
floods, droughts, wars, earthquakes, and other
disasters are receiving life-saving assistance.

**By January 31, 2024, please forward any
additional gifts you or your congregation or
team has received for the CROP Hunger Walk
to our CROP Treasurer, Linda Held,
3441 Devonshire Road, Allentown PA 18103.**

If you have any photos or stories from your
congregation's/team's CROP Hunger Walk efforts,
please forward them to Dianne Kareha at
karehad@gmail.com so we can post them on our
Allentown CROP website:

<https://www.crophungerwalk.org/allentownpa>

Thank you for your generosity that offers
life-giving help to so many of our neighbors
facing food insecurity!



Many Thanks to Our Generous Sponsors!



OPERATION SUNSHINE

1933 Hanover Ave.
Allentown, PA 18109
Phone: 610-435-9155
Open: Mon 11-3 and Wed. 11-3
E-mail: LMDopsunshine@aol.com
Web site: 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.

OUR TRIPS FOR 2024 SOLD OUT WITHIN TWO WEEKS OF PUBLICATION OF THE NEWSLETTER, HOWEVER, WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO PUT YOUR NAME ON THE WAIT LIST OF ANY SHOW YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE. WE DO EXPERIENCE CANCELLATIONS ESPECIALLY THIS FAR OUT FROM THE ACTUAL TRAVEL DATES. WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN OPERATION SUNSHINE.

WAIT LIST ONLY

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

WAIT LIST ONLY

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

WAIT LIST ONLY

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

WAIT LIST ONLY

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

WAIT LIST ONLY

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**