

PAUL'S PARISH NEWS

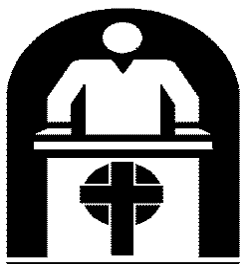


SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Breinigsville, PA

MAY 2024



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



Dear Members and Friends,

We are in the Easter “season.” If you haven’t noticed, the Easter season, according to the church’s liturgical year, is 7 weeks long. When I was a child, I thought Easter was just one day. I got up Sunday morning, went downstairs, hunted for my Easter basket which the Easter bunny hid, found it, ate some candy (out of sight of my

parents) and headed off to Sunday School (where I ate more candy) and then sat with my parents in church.

I had come to realize, probably in seminary, that there was more to Easter than just one day. Easter Sunday begins a season in the church year that ends with Pentecost Sunday, a day Christians remember the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the earliest believers in Jesus. The Easter season can be time of spiritual growth and a time of deeper intimacy with God.

The appointed gospels for each Sunday in Easter allow us to reflect on some important faith issues: like doubting of Jesus presence (“Doubting Thomas”); Jesus knowing his sheep; Jesus making himself known in meal and scripture, and the depth of Jesus’ love. Come join us for the rest of Easter and be inspired by Christ’s presence in Word and Sacrament.

Pastor Miller

LEARN HOW TO SAVE ON TAXES AND SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH AT THE SAME TIME AS YOU ENJOY A POTLUCK SUNDAY, 5/19/24

Come to the St. Paul’s Potluck on Sunday, May 19th after the worship service for the fellowship and the food.

St. Paul’s has arranged to have Robert Klock, our Thrivent advisor attend and offer us his expert advice about the most tax effective ways to use our savings to support St. Paul’s.

Hear from St. Paul’s members who already use tax savings methods.

Did you know that you can avoid the higher taxes that your IRA Required Minimum Distributions can force on you?

Learn how easily QCDs can save you time, and taxes.

PRAYER SHAWL NEWS

Chemo Hat Project



The yarn for chemo hats is here – purchased using a Thrivent Action Team grant. Please see Judy Noll or Steph Wagaman for yarn. If you prefer purchasing your own yarn, many of the [suggested brands](#) are common to Hobby

Lobby, Michael’s and JoAnne’s craft stores. If you would like copies of knitted or crocheted patterns, please see Steph. We’ve made sample hats from several patterns, and can help if you get stuck.

Project Warm Up America (WUA)

If you are making 7” x 9” rectangles for [Project Warm Up America](#), note that the pieces must be “finished” – i.e. yarn ends sewn in. The Web site has some [pattern suggestions](#), but you can make rectangles in whatever patterns you like. It is a great way to use up partial skeins in your stash. And there are many partial skeins or single skeins in the yarn collection at church.

Plarn Project/Monthly Working Sessions



Thanks to our great plarn team, we have 3 newly-made plarn mats to deliver to the homeless ministry at Caring D.A.M. Hearts. In March, we got started weaving mats on our new peg loom, made by Bill Wagaman. Ken Ritter just completed a peg loom for us, so we now have two! Weaving the mats goes more quickly than crocheting – and more people can

help. But we will continue to crochet mats as well. Steph will pick up additional large hooks for crocheters who want to give it a try.

Just a reminder that 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 **May 21 at 1:30PM** – and for the third Tuesday of the months following.

ST. PAUL'S 2024 BASKET SOCIAL

St. Paul's 3rd Basket Social is planned for September 14, 2024 from 9:00AM – 2:00PM. A big thank you to those of you who have already donated a basket or basket items for this event. We continue to look for members of the congregation to donate empty baskets, made up baskets, or items to put in a basket. New or nearly new items are preferred. There are index cards with possible ideas for many varied gift baskets on the table in the narthex. Feel free to take one of these index cards, purchase items related to this type of basket, and bring them to church at your earliest convenience. You can also create your own basket and bring it to church. Please list the items contained in your basket on an index card and place it in the basket. You don't need to wrap the basket. The committee will wrap and label the baskets.

Not only will we have gift baskets at the basket social, but we will also have gift cards. We will be accepting donations of gift cards from a variety of businesses.

Some of the proceeds and items from the Basket Social are donated to 2 organizations. The 1st organization is the Allentown Area Food Bank. During the day of the Basket Social, there will be a paper products tower – where people bring food items to donate in exchange for tickets to win the paper products. The 2nd organization, Caring DAM Hearts Inc., is the beneficiary of a 50/50 drawing. The focus of this charity is to give help and hope to the homeless, veterans and less fortunate. Ten percent of the event proceeds will be donated to this charity.

If you have any questions or would like to join this committee, please reach out to any one of our committee members. The 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, Judy Walker, and Steph Wagaman.

WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH [WELCA]

Our monthly meeting was on April 10, 2024.

Upcoming Events:

Spring Cluster Event on April 13, 2024, at Hope Lutheran Church, Cherryville on the topic – Caregiving. Registration is at 10:00 a.m., light breakfast. There will be a speaker from the Northampton County Department of Aging.

34th Annual Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod Convention on May 18, 2024, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lehighton. Registration 9:00 a.m.; worship begins at 10:00 a.m. Registration for event ends on May 11, 2024, and there is a registration fee of \$30.00 which includes breakfast and lunch.

- Sandi Wagaman is our voting member.

Fall Fun and Service Event on September 20, 21, 2024, at Kirby Episcopal House in Mountain Top. \$75.00 overnight guest fee and \$30.00 fee for Saturday Sessions.

Soup and Sandwich, January 2025

- We discussed resuming the soup and sandwich event that was dropped during Covid. The most pressing topic is *scamming*.

Summer Ingathering

- Sandi received information from Pam Paige regarding a summer program.
 - This is a lunch program for children in the Catasauqua area.
- *Please see Sandi's article in this issue of Parish Newsletter for more information.*

See the bulletin board for more information on these upcoming events.

ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED TO THESE EVENTS

Our Bible study was *Scripture and nature: Teachers of faith Session four Food* by Sara Olson-Smith.

Join us on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. for our next meeting.

SUMMER INGATHERING

Lehigh Mission District is trying something new for this summer. They are reaching out to congregations to support **Holy Trinity Memorial Lutheran Church** in Catasauqua. This church will be running a free summer lunch program in a local park for the children in their community.

Our church will collect the following items:

*Individual salty snack bags (ex. Pretzels, chips, goldfish crackers, Fritos, etc.)

*16 oz water bottles

*Walmart or Sam's Club gift cards in \$10 increments (any amount) for Trinity to purchase needed supplies

Look for the bins marked Ingathering under the coat rack in the Narthex for putting your donations.

We will be collecting these items until **May 31st**.

Any questions? Ask Sandi Wagaman or any WELCA member.

CONFIRMATION



On May 19th which is Pentecost Sunday at the 10:30 a.m. service three of our youth will be confirmed (Affirmation of Baptism). They are: Calise Eiswerth, Sarabeth Mesko, and Sean Thompson. May the Holy Spirit continue to strengthen them in their journey of faith.

THANK YOU

Thank you for your support of the Allentown Food Bank and for your generous donation of 70 pounds of non-perishable items. Your gift and support are very important and vital to our ongoing mission.

Jennifer Kelley, Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank Board Volunteer

UPCOMING EVENTS

YARD SALE



St. Paul's will again have a yard sale on Saturday, May 18th from 8:00am to 1:00pm in the parking lot. If it rains it will be inside the church. We need at least 7 to 10 people to sell their "wares." Please gather your items soon and bring them to sell at the yard sale. We need a good turnout this year for it to be successful. Refreshments will be served.

IRONPIGS GAME

Announcing the IronPigs game, Sunday, June 23, 2024. Game time is 1:35 p.m. Gates open at Noon. We are in the PenTeleData 3rd Base Party Porch. We have raised the limit of 45 tickets and the price is \$37.00. There are only a few tickets left. Mark your calendars. A signup sheet will be on the table in the Narthex or you can call the church office at 610-398-7000 to make your reservation.

MOTHER — AND MORE

Though I've primarily known God as Father — along with metaphors such as rock, eagle, shepherd, potter — I also learned of Scripture passages portraying God as mother. For example (all NIV):

- "For a long time I have kept silent. ... But now, like a woman in childbirth, I cry out, I gasp and pant" (Isaiah 42:14).
- "As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you" (Isaiah 66:13).
- "Like a bear robbed of her cubs, I will attack them" (Hosea 13:8).
- In others, God is pictured doing traditional "women's work": making clothes (Genesis 3:21), sweeping (Isaiah 14:23), preparing and hosting a meal (Proverbs 9:1-6), baking bread (Luke 13:21).

One of my favorite images of God is tucked in Hosea. While many modern dads nurture their toddlers this way, the tender words surely call to mind a mama's care: "It was I who taught [Israel] to walk. ... To them I was like one who lifts a little child to the cheek, and I bent down to feed them" (Hosea 11:3-4). Most importantly, God — however known — is loving and good.

—Heidi Hyland Mann

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.

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.



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



- | |
|--------------------------------|
| 8 Ken & Janine Ritter |
| 9 Nick & Sue Bellucci |
| 18 Margaret & Ray Stoudt |
| 21 Anthony & Katie Pisauro |
| 23 John & Heather Caricari |
| 24 Rosalie & Timothy Gallagher |
| 24 Amy & Joe Williams |
| 27 Ethan & Vanessa Eiswerth |

PASTORAL ACT FUNERAL

Pastor Carey officiated at the funeral of Wayne Nothstein on April 18, 2024.

OPEN HANDS



Liturgical scholar Balthasar Fischer (1912-2001) shared an “a-ha” realization about the significance of praying with open, outstretched hands, an ancient practice. The opposite gesture, a closed fist, is used to threaten others or even inflict violence. We also grasp things in closed fists, refusing to let go, to share, to hold gently or loosely.

When we pray with open hands, Fischer explained, we’re saying before God that we renounce “all highhandedness, all pride in [our] own sufficiency, all violence.” We hold up our empty hands to God, saying, “I have nothing that I have not received from you, nothing that you have not placed in my empty hands. Therefore I do not keep a frantic hold on anything you have given me; therefore, too, I desire not to strike and hurt but only to give and to spread happiness and joy.”

AFLAME WITH FAITH

In the Old Testament, fire often symbolizes the presence of God's Spirit. For example, God called to Moses from a burning bush (Exodus 3:2-6) and defeated the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18:30-39). In the New Testament, tongues of fire rested atop the believers gathered on Pentecost (Acts 2:3).



Some Christians have described a burning or current-like sensation when they encounter God. Methodism founder John Wesley said his heart was “strangely warmed” during worship. After such an encounter, people often feel compelled to share the Good News of Jesus. The flame of faith inside one believer can spark a revival of faith in others. As Charles Spurgeon said, “A burning heart will soon find for itself a flaming tongue.”

A HOUSE UNITED

When President Lincoln declared in 1858, “A house divided against itself cannot stand,” he was echoing Jesus. Scribes thought Jesus was casting out demons by Satan's power, so Jesus responded, “How can Satan cast out Satan? ... If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand” (Mark 3:23-25, NIV). There are countless modern examples: Civil wars. Families torn apart. Business partners going separate ways. Even churches splitting.

Jesus used the “house divided” image to point out the nonsense of the scribes' words. It takes someone *other than* the “strong man” (v. 27), or demon, occupying a space to cast that demon out. Evil can't drive out evil. Sin isn't stronger than sin. Hate doesn't solve hate. Violence doesn't end violence. Two wrongs don't make a right.

Jesus came to “bind” evil with goodness, conquer hate with love and teach us the same. Throughout the gospels, Jesus treats *all* people with love — even those who oppose him — so that, in the end, we all will be a house *united* by God's goodness.



UNFADING BEAUTY

Peter says beauty shouldn't come from outward adornment.
How does a godly woman adorn herself on the inside?

*Directions: From each list, write the word that doesn't belong.
Then insert the circled letters in order below to complete 1 Peter 3:4, NIV.*

flower, stem, bee, leaf

—○—

pink, red, yellow, blue

—○—

mother, sister, brother, aunt

—○—

purple, dress, skirt, blouse

—○○—

necklace, ring, bracelet, braid

—○—

diamond, emerald, heart, ruby

—○—

orange, cherry, potato, kiwi

—○—

my, our, she, your

—○—

faith, family, love, hope

—○—

sunny, rainy, snowy, temperature

—○—

cookie, cake, pie, sandwich

—○—

silver, white, gold, bronze

—○—

"Rather, it should be that of your inner self,
the unfading beauty of a g _____
and qu ____ _ p _____, which is
of great worth in God's sight." 1 Peter 3:4, NIV

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT
NEWSLETTER IS
MAY 12, 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@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

May 2024 *St. Paul's Lutheran Church*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																								
			1 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 SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 9:00 a.m.-Worship 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 9:15 a.m.-Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m.-Worship 4:00 p.m.-LMD Spring Assembly At Lutheran Center	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 SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 9:00 a.m.-Worship 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School (Last) 9:15 a.m.-Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m.-Worship NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	13 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	14	15	16 9:30 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers(Last) 7:30 p.m.-Choir	17	18 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.-Yard Sale WELCA Convention- Honesdale																																																								
																																																														
19 DAY OF PENTECOST CONFIRMATION 9:00 a.m.-Worship 9:15 a.m.-Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m.-Worship 11:30 a.m.-Potluck Lunch	20 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	21 1:30 p.m.-Plarn Session 6:30 p.m.-Haafsville Board Meeting	22	23 9:30 a.m.-TOPS 7:30 p.m.-Choir (Last)	24	25																																																								
26 THE HOLY TRINITY 9:00 a.m.-Worship 10:30 a.m.-Worship	27 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED  <i>Memorial</i> DAY	28	29	30 9:30 a.m.-TOPS		<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">June 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></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">9</td> <td style="text-align: center;">10</td> <td style="text-align: center;">11</td> <td style="text-align: center;">12</td> <td style="text-align: center;">13</td> <td style="text-align: center;">14</td> <td style="text-align: center;">15</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">16</td> <td style="text-align: center;">17</td> <td style="text-align: center;">18</td> <td style="text-align: center;">19</td> <td style="text-align: center;">20</td> <td style="text-align: center;">21</td> <td style="text-align: center;">22</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">23</td> <td style="text-align: center;">24</td> <td style="text-align: center;">25</td> <td style="text-align: center;">26</td> <td style="text-align: center;">27</td> <td style="text-align: center;">28</td> <td style="text-align: center;">29</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">30</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	June 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
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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

May 2024

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, May 5, 2024

9:00AM

No Assistants

10:30AM

Ushers: Melanie Dimovitz, Zack Dimovitz

Altar Guild: Rosemary Lehman

Communion Asst: Bob Bruchak

Communion Bread: Bruce & Sandi Wagaman

Greeter: Carol Derr-Breinig

Lay Asst: Sandi Wagaman

Reader: Tom Kellogg

Sunday, May 19, 2024

9:00AM

No Assistants

10:30AM

Ushers: Richard Hartley, Judy Walker

Altar Guild: Jennifer Bentsen

Communion Asst: Peggy Saylor

Communion Bread: Lisa Newhard

Greeter: Vanessa Eiswerth

Lay Asst: Bob Bruchak

Reader: Jennifer Bentsen

Sunday, May 12, 2024

9:00AM

No Assistants

10:30AM

Ushers: Ken Ritter, Carl Seibert

Altar Guild: Janine Ritter

Communion Asst: Anita Eisenhard

Communion Bread: Helen Post

Greeter: Carl & Esther Seibert

Lay Asst: Sharon Bortz

Reader: Dick Steltz

Sunday, May 26, 2024

9:00AM

No Assistants

10:30AM

Ushers: Cal Fetherolf, Rosie Gallagher

Altar Guild: Esther Seibert

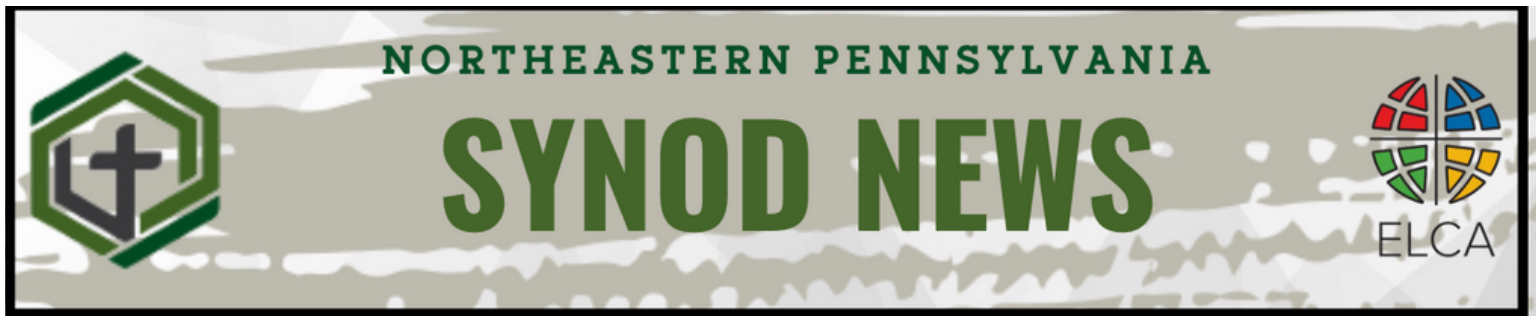
Communion Asst: Sharon Bortz

Communion Bread: Alice Bastian

Greeter: Dorothy O'Connors

Lay Asst: Daisy Pearson

Reader: Rosemary Lehman



WE ARE CHURCH TOGETHER

2024



TOP STORY

STORYTELLING ENGAGEMENT

Experiments in Ministry

A story from the Central States Synod

As you read this story, what connects with you? What experiments are occurring in your synod and congregation?

How often have you heard folks in congregations lament that they just don't have the resources or learning opportunities they need to be strong leaders and vital congregations? The [Central States Synod](#) wondered how it could help address those needs and make access easy. That led to the beginning of the [Ministry Lab](#). The synod envisions the lab as a place to ask questions, learn, work with different "tools" or resources, and experiment to see what works. A lab is not just a depository for resources; it's an active place where one can gather and engage with others.

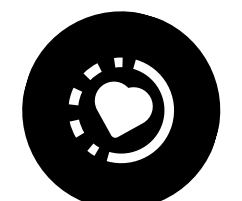
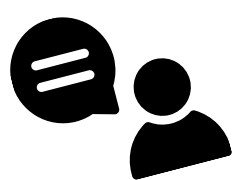
When visiting congregations, attending conferences or meeting partners, staff and leaders in the Central States Synod diligently listen to folks to identify common needs and areas of growth so that they can equip and support ministry. The goal of the Ministry Lab is to provide **"resources and tools so that we may live out God's purpose, united with Christ, as we walk the way of Jesus."**



The lab has three areas of focus: *good order*, meaning leadership, policies, building use, stewardship and meeting protocol; *means of grace*, including biblical interpretation, worship, communication and welcoming; and *living faith*, such as community engagement, social statements, collaboration and technology. Since the Ministry Lab began in fall 2023, it has offered opportunities focused on Scripture interpretation, ideas for worship and preaching during Advent, and leadership development. People learn through active engagement, not passive observation, so the Learning Lab is always lively. Some opportunities are "one and done" whereas others consist of multiple sessions.

Moving forward, the Ministry Lab is excited to offer an open conversation with the Rev. Susan Candeia, bishop of the Central States Synod, about the upcoming ELCA social statement *Civic Life and Faith*, a Collaboration Lab in May and a Communications Lab in the fall. Anyone anywhere can check out and learn from the Central States Synod Ministry Lab. [See what's available now!](#)

Remember that a portion of offerings given to Central States congregations becomes Mission Support for the synod and allows staff and leaders to address congregations' needs and interests through the Ministry Lab, today and into the future.





BEAR CREEK CAMP

Join us for May Play Day and Family Work Day

MAY PLAY DAY & WORK DAY Saturday, May 4th

9:00 am - Work Day Begins
11:00 am - May Play Day Begins
 Rec hall open (foosball, ping pong, etc.)
 Nature center open
 Hiking/exploring
 Main camp tour
12:00 pm - Free Lunch for All!
1:00 pm - Gathering in the Courtyard
 Q&A about BCC Summer Camp
1:00 - 3:00 pm - Activities Continued
 Guided hike on Lenape Trail
 Camp store open
 Rec hall open
 Boating

Join us for an open house day at BCC, Saturday, **May 4th from 11am-3pm!** Explore camp, meet staff, boat, hike, craft, and fellowship with our camp community. Cookout lunch is available to all and there is no cost.

Prior to May Play Day, starting at 9:00am, everyone is invited to help with projects around camp as we prepare for summer. All skill levels are welcome and lunch is provided.

Registration for both May Play Day and Family Work Day is available at the link below. Pre-registration is appreciated, but not required.



**50
YEARS**
of ELCA World Hunger



VOLUME 29
ISSUE 5
May
2024



Lehigh Mission District
NEWSLETTER

The Rev. Nelson Quiñones, Dean
The Rev. Jean L. Huber, Assoc. of the Bishop
Elizabeth Leibenguth, Mission District Chair
Linda Gery, Newsletter Editor

610-653-5858
610-704-5133
484-550-0057
610-395-5535

Lutheran Deacons and 6261 Ministry

Mark your calendars for the
**Lehigh Mission District
Spring Assembly**
at the Lutheran Center on
Sunday, May 5, 2024 at 4 PM.

Our guest speaker is
Deacon Kathleen "Kat"
Tigerman. Deacon Kat is
the Director of Evangelical
Mission of the Northeastern
Pennsylvania Synod.

The topic of discussion is
Lutheran Deacons and
6261 Ministry. Join us to
learn what is a deacon's
ministry and how it relates
to the Synod's 6261 Ministry.

Pastors, synod assembly
delegates, church members,
and friends are all invited.

Let us know that you are
planning to attend by
emailing the LMD Dean at
nlsqns@gmail.com.
Refreshments & sandwiches
will be provided.

See you at the Cinco de
Mayo LMD Spring Assembly!



*June 2024 LMD NL news
will be due May 13, 2024.*

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

Solar Eclipse 2024

Dear Lehigh Mission District,

About two weeks ago I was asked, "Oye, what do you think of the solar eclipse? Dicen que el mundo se va a acabar. They say the world is going to end."

I shared that the last solar eclipse I saw was in 2017 with my son. We took cereal boxes and aluminum foil. We poked a pinhole through the box to see the reflection of the solar eclipse inside the box. I assured this person that we will be here to see another eclipse and that our children will see many more.

Whether it was faith or fear from the combined long week of rain that followed the 4.0 magnitude earthquake felt from New Jersey, some Christians expected that the total solar eclipse was going to usher in an apocalyptic or an eschatological end of the world.

Some Christians, of course, believed that they would be taken up to heaven in the rapture before the end of the world, as if only Christians have a local direct line to God to deliver us from any fate to come.

On the morning of the solar eclipse, I listened to Ismael Rivera's album Eclipse Total. There were four eclipses in 1975 - the year the album was released.

As the hour was approaching, I went to the Fellowship Hall where the Ladies Aid and volunteers were baking the annual cinnamon bun at the church.

One church member had set a timer to halt production of the sticky buns so that they could step outside and capture the solar eclipse. It was a bit cloudy, but we got a chance to see God's creation.

We had a fun time watching the eclipse together. We included the Martin Luther statue in the fun by placing a pair of UV glasses on Luther.

Certainly, creation can bring fear and awe at the wonders of the galaxy. In the words of the Psalmist, "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." *Psalm 19:1 NIV*

Happy post solar eclipse.

The Rev. Nelson Quiñones,
Lehigh Mission District Dean



Please support these upcoming events:

EAST ALLENTOWN COMMUNITY YARD SALE To benefit youth activities

St. Peter's Lutheran Church
(1933 Hanover Ave East,
Allentown, PA 18109)
Saturday, May 18, 2024
8 AM – 1 PM
Rain or Shine

Youth tables will be located inside the gym.

Refreshments available for purchase.

Park in our Tacoma St. lot, East side of the church.

Questions or space reservations, call the church office at 610-432-8762. (tables/chairs NOT included)
Please see the attached flyer



SUMMER INGATHERING 2024

We would like to collect the following items to help support Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (Catasauqua) with their outreach program for youth in the community:

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

We will be collecting items through the end of May.

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



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-? PM.
Next meal: May 17th. Free dinners are served "to-go", while supplies last.
All are welcome.



SPRING DANCE: Saturday, May 4, 2024
Dance to the music of the Hanover Township Society for the Preservation of Big Band Sound in America from 7-10 PM.

St Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church
(140 South Ott Street, Allentown)
\$15/person - all proceeds benefit Lehigh Conference of Churches.

Tickets are available at the church office (610-435-6512 x 200) or from Rick Focht (610-393-8914).



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.

All single-day trips for 2024 are currently SOLD OUT!!!

We have been experiencing cancellations and encourage you to put your name on our waiting list.

Please see the attached newsletter for details.

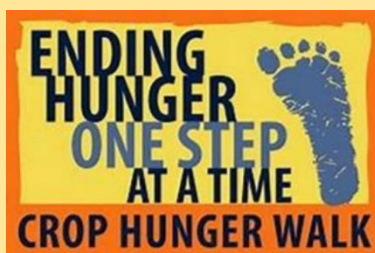
Operation Sunshine is proud to announce:
2024 Multi-Day trip to the GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS OF TENNESSEE.
September 15-20, 2024

Please see the attached flyer for a complete rundown of the itinerary and costs.



CROP Thank You!

Thank you for helping our 2023 Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk raise a grand total of **\$31,437** 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 \$3,929** for their vital ministries. And our food insecure neighbors who have survived floods, drought, war, and other disasters are receiving life-giving assistance.

Please Save These CROP Dates!

Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk:
Sunday, Oct. 13, 2024, 1:30 p.m.,
with registration beginning at 1:00 p.m.
at St. Timothy Lutheran Church,
140 S. Ott St., Allentown, PA 18104

To register your team and/or yourself, or to learn more about the life-saving work of Church World Service, go to: crophungerwalk.org/allentownpa

CROP Pizza Party/Kick-off:
Sunday, Aug. 25, 2024, 1:30-2:30 p.m.
(to receive materials, ideas, and inspiration for yourself and your congregation)
at St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Allentown

Many Thanks to Our Generous Sponsors!

