

PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



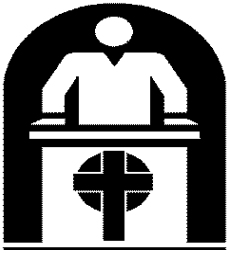
SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Breinigsville, PA

APRIL 2025



Joy Comes in the Morning:
Easter Sunday

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



Dear Members and Friends,

As I write this, I am very much aware that this will be my last “pastor’s article” for the newsletter. I have enjoyed serving as your pastor these last 7 plus years (has it been 7 years already?!) We have grown together and I have grown in my relationship with our Lord and together we have striven to do God’s will in this place.

God has blessed me with many blessings. One of them is this congregation which has been a privilege to serve. We have celebrated church family events like baptisms, weddings, and yes, pot-lucks. We have been there for each other during times of grief. I want to thank so many of you who have supported me after my wife’s death. It is truly appreciated.

As I look forward to retirement, there are mixed emotions. I am looking forward to spending more time with my grandchildren, doing some road trips to various friends and relatives throughout the northeast and eastern seaboard, and getting back to the gym. But I will miss the people of this congregation, worshipping with you, and the various events that were held. Of course, the bible study time will leave a gaping hole in my schedule! I will “take the summer off” and then put my name in to supply and see how that goes. But most of all I look forward to just relaxing and taking it easy for a while.

I wish the best for you in the future. This congregation is in God’s hands and the Holy Spirit will lead you as it has the past 100+ years. God will call pastoral leadership for you, and you, and in the meantime, will care for one another and serve the Lord by worshipping and reaching out to others with God’s love as you always have.

I thank you again, for the privilege of serving you and thank you for the love you have given and the joy you have shared with me. I ask your prayers for me in the next phase of my life as I will continue to pray for you. May the Holy Spirit guide you in the love of Christ as you serve him faithfully.

Wishing God’s many blessings upon you,

Pastor Miller

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT TO OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH PASTOR MILLER?

With my retirement, my pastoral relationship with the members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Breinigsville comes to an end. I treasure the privilege you have given me to serve as your pastor for the last seven and half years, but now those responsibilities belong to your interim/designated pastor and then whatever your future will hold beyond that. While friendships established during my ministry can and will continue, it is no longer appropriate for me to do any pastoral functions within the congregation or for its members. Therefore, if you ask, I will say, "No." I will also be joining another congregation. These answers come from my respect for the integrity of the congregation, for the ministry of the pastor(s) who will be serving you, for the professional ethics of the vocation I love, and for the policies of the church. For these same reasons, I will decline invitations from your pastor(s) to preside or assist at weddings, baptisms, funerals, and other congregational functions. Only in extraordinary circumstances and with the prior approval of the synod bishop and the congregation council would I consider accepting such an invitation.

My request to you as former parishioners and future friends is to honor my determination to keep a healthy ministerial distance from the congregation. Please, therefore, do not ask me or request your pastor(s) to invite me to function as a pastor on your behalf.

Pastor Miller

EASTER INSIGHTS

Did you know the word *Easter* never appears in the Bible? It may be a variant of the name Eostre, a pagan fertility goddess who symbolized rebirth and spring. *Eostre* stems from the Proto-Germanic word for *dawn*, which Christians connect to Jesus' victory over darkness.

The ancient tradition of Easter baskets also has ties to Eostre, whose symbol was a rabbit. Christians likely adapted the practice of bringing eggs and seeds as an offering to Eostre. Some Orthodox Christians continue a tradition of having a priest bless baskets of Easter food on Holy Saturday. Items usually hold special symbolism, such as Paska bread, cured meats, colored eggs, salt, horseradish and lamb-shaped butter.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Palm Sunday – April 13th, 9:00am and 10:30am

We raise our branches and shout “Hosanna!” then hear the Passion of Our Lord.

Maunday Thursday – March 17th, 7:00pm

We receive individual absolution and Holy Communion and observe the stripping of the altar and the draping of it in black cloth.

Good Friday – March 18th, 10:30am

Good Friday marks Jesus’ trial, crucifixion, and death. Included in the service is the adoration of the cross.

The Resurrection of Our Lord – April 20th, 9:00am and 10:30am

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Special music will be offered before the service.

EASTER FLOWER ORDERS

Easter Flower order deadline is **Sunday, APRIL 6**. Order forms are available at the church. You can also call the church office to place your order. Time is running out. Please order ASAP.

UPCOMING EVENTS FROM THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

March 30 – Concert by Russ Rentler

April 6 – Potluck

April 11 – Meal & Movie

IRONPIGS GAME

Announcing the IronPigs game, Sunday, June 22, 2025. Game time is 1:35 p.m. Gates open at 12:00 p.m. We again will be in the PenTeleData 3rd Base Party Porch. We have a limit of 30 tickets and the price is \$37.00. Mark your calendar. Invite your family and friends. A signup sheet will be on the table in the Narthex or you can call the church office at 610-398-7000.



PENNY PARTY FUNDRAISER!!



The Spring Penny Party and Basket Raffle fundraiser is scheduled for **April 5, 2025** with doors opening at 11:30AM, and the event beginning at 1:00PM. Seating at this event is limited, so guests are encouraged to come early. The event will end around 4:00PM.

The Penny Party will include approximately 10 baskets, 10-15 gift cards, and 300-400 small items for bidding. We will sell food and beverages and there will also be a bake sale. For more information about the Penny Party please go to the webpage at: www.stpaulsborne.org/pennyparty

What is a Penny Party?

A Penny Party is a fundraising and social event that combines elements of raffles and silent auctions. Guests buy a set (or several sets) of numbered tickets that they use to bid on small items priced under \$1. Each ticket equals one bid. Guests are seated at tables that are inter-connected, and view items on a tray as it is slid from one table to the next. A change bucket and a ticket bucket accompany each item on the tray. To bid on an item, the bidder puts their money (in change) in the change bucket, and also places a numbered ticket in the ticket bucket. For example – to bid on an item marked 10 cents, the minimum bid must comprise a dime placed in the change bucket, and one ticket placed in the ticket bucket. If the guest wants to bid more than the price – whatever multiple of the price is decided, that is the number of tickets that are required. For example, if a bidder wants to double a bid, they would pay 20 cents and use two tickets; to triple a bid – they would pay 30 cents and use three tickets, and so forth. Drawings for Penny Party items are done continually during the event, as soon as each item on a tray has made its way across all tables. If the winning number is not claimed immediately, a second drawing is done for that item. Guests must be present to win. So, start saving your loose change (pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters), if you plan to attend this event. Instructions will also be handed out on the day of the event.

Donations:

We are grateful for all of the small items from the 6 different categories (Non-Perishable Food/Beverage Items, Household Items, Paper or Office Items, Pet Supplies, Kids' Items, and Personal Care Items) that have been

donated so far. We are still looking for more. These items should be new or nearly new, and small enough to fit on a 9 x 13 tray. Some examples are cans of soup, pasta packages, a box of tissues, pkg of paper plates, small décor items, dog/cat toys, hand cream, etc. Check out our shelves in the Narthex where donations can be placed. All donations are appreciated! Our deadline for accepting donations will be April 1st.

Baked Goods:

We are looking for all of you talented bakers to make baked goods to be sold the day of the event. We are asking that the baked goods be wrapped individually. Please see the sign-up sheet in the narthex to let us know what you will be making.

Volunteers Needed:

We will need volunteers to help on the day of the event with such tasks as selling food, making or selling baked goods, selling tickets, and break down after the event. Please see the signup sheets in the narthex. Any time that you can give is welcome.

So, bring your change and come out on April 5th for some fun, food, fellowship, and with any luck, maybe some winning. We look forward to seeing you.

SIGN-UP SHEETS FOR 2025 BULLETIN & ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORSHIPS

We are in need of bulletin sponsorships for 2025. 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.

PARISH NURSE NOTES – APRIL 2025

Peggy Saylor, RN

There has been a lot in the news lately about avian influenza or “avian flu” or “bird flu.” Dr. Kara Mascitti, Medical Director, Healthcare Epidemiology and Infection Prevention, at St. Luke’s University Health Network, recently posted an informational email on February 5th, to employees summarizing some basic facts about Avian Flu. She obtained her information from the CDC and I thought I would pass along some of the most important facts about this disease from her article.

What is avian influenza? It is a type of influenza that primarily infects birds but can sometimes cause infection in mammals like cows and rarely humans.

What are the symptoms of avian flu? Most human cases in the United States have been mild. Symptoms have included eye redness and irritation, mild fever, cough, sore throat, runny and stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headaches and fatigue.

How is this diseases spread? Almost all of the cases in humans have been caused by close contact with infected live or dead birds. There have been rare causes that have been spread to humans from infected mammals like cows. The virus has also been detected in unpasteurized (raw) cow’s milk but pasteurization is the safest way to kill bacteria and viruses like avian flu in milk.

Is it safe to eat chicken and eggs? It is safe if they are thoroughly cooked. Hands and surfaces that come in contact with raw chicken or eggs should be thoroughly cleaned.

How is avian flu treated and is there currently a vaccine for it? Current medications for influenza (like Tamiflu) have activity against avian flu. The current flu vaccine does not protect one against avian flu but there is an approved vaccine that is being held in a national stockpile in case it would be needed.

In summary, the risk from avian flu to the general public at this point remains low, but the situation is being continually monitored. Updated information can be accessed at <https://www.cdc.gov/bird/groups/index.html>.

PRAYER SHAWL GROUP NEWS



We are continuing to work on the **Crocheted/Knitted Octopuses for Premies** for St. Luke's Hospital NICU. Thanks to all who are working on this project. If you are interested in joining us, there are patterns on the table in the Narthex.

Plarn Project/Monthly Working Sessions – Our April Plarn session will be **April 15 at 1:30PM**. Hope

to see you there - it is a fun and productive working session.

We cannot accept any plastic bags for now – the closet is full! Please do not drop off any more bags until further notice.

KNOW WHO (AND WHOSE) YOU ARE

Actor Kirk Douglas once picked up a hitchhiker. After the man got settled in Douglas's car, he turned to look more closely at the driver. Surprised to recognize the famous man at the wheel, the hitchhiker exclaimed, "Do you know who you are?!"

We would do well to ask ourselves and each other the same thing. Often, we seem to forget — or perhaps we never knew.

Through much of life, we behave as if our identity depends on our occupation, wealth, family line, daily accomplishments or good deeds. But none of these — not even the last one — determines the core of who we are. All that matters is our Creator's opinion, and God loves us with abundant, unconditional love.

Do you know who you are? You are God's beloved child! And so is everyone else. May we live out that knowledge, treating one another as such.

—Heidi Hyland Mann

**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE
CLOSED MONDAY, APRIL 21ST.**

WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH [WELCA]

We had our monthly meeting on Wednesday, March 12, 2025, and discussed:

- The Spring Justice Event, *Protecting Our Children* is scheduled for March 29, 2025, at Christ United Lutheran Church in Ashland, PA. Reservation deadline was March 15, 2025. The designated offering for this event is Lutheran Disaster Relief.
- The 35th Annual Convention, June 14, 2025, at St. John's Nazareth; topic is *Renew Yourself with God's Word*. The convention mailing will be completed by the NEPA WELCA Board members by the end of March.
- We received 3 *thank you* notes: one from an individual that received personal care items for her husband, Turning Point, and Women of the ELCA for our monetary gift.

ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED TO THESE EVENTS

Our March Bible study was Faithfulness....*Session three...Faith Adventures: Peter and Cornelius* by Denise Rector.

Join us on Wednesday, April 9, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. for our next meeting and a Bible Study: Faithfulness*Session four...Faith risks: Jarius and the Faithful Woman* by Denise Rector.

THE BLESSING OF FELLOWSHIP

Between the death of Christ and the Last Day it is only by gracious anticipation of the last things that Christians are privileged to live in invisible fellowship with other Christians. It is by the grace of God that a congregation is permitted to gather visibly in this world to share God's Word and sacrament. Not all Christians receive this blessing. The imprisoned, the sick, the scattered lonely, the proclaimers of the Gospel in heathen lands stand alone. They know that visible fellowship is a blessing.

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer



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.

We are always looking for additional worship assistants at the 10:30 a.m. service – especially ushers. Please consider volunteering as an usher, greeter, reader, communion bread supplier, communion assistant, or on altar guild. Even if you can only volunteer at certain times of the year, the scheduler can work around and accommodate busy and varying schedules.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration on assisting in worship. 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.

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.

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



3 Nick Bellucci	17 Janine Ritter
4 Rich Hartley	18 Peggy Kern
5 Kimberly Sicher	26 Finley Cope
10 Brooke Brumbach	26 Bob Nickisher
10 June Kellogg	30 Bruce Saylor

EARTH-SHAKING VICTORY

On Ash Wednesday in 2001, a 6.8 magnitude earthquake shook the Seattle area. Charlie and Ann Lewis, co-pastors in Snohomish, Washington, reflected on the timing:

“While most years we prefer to think of Lent as a contemplative journey of faith as we walk with Jesus toward Jerusalem and the cross, this year we are thinking of how God turned the world upside down at Calvary. From the cross, Jesus cried out with a loud voice, and his life was finished. Then the earth shook violently, the curtain in the temple was torn in two and rocks were split apart. The God who identified with us in our humanity in the incarnation of Jesus Christ demonstrated in that moment the depth of divine love for us — a love that leads God to choose the path of suffering and sacrifice.

“Three days later, the earth shook again — another violent earthquake, and the stone in front of the tomb was rolled away. Then the crucified Christ threw aside the burial cloths, emerging from the darkness of the tomb to walk in the dew of the grass as dawn was breaking across the sky. God had declared victory over sin and death itself. That victory was for us. ... God has given us a glorious life that extends into eternity.”

LEHIGH ZION CEMETERY SHAREHOLDERS MEETING

April 21, 2025, the Lehigh Zion Cemetery will have their Annual Shareholders Meeting.

Anyone having a plot on the cemetery is a shareholder.

Officers are elected at this meeting.

APRIL 21, 2025, 7 P.M.,

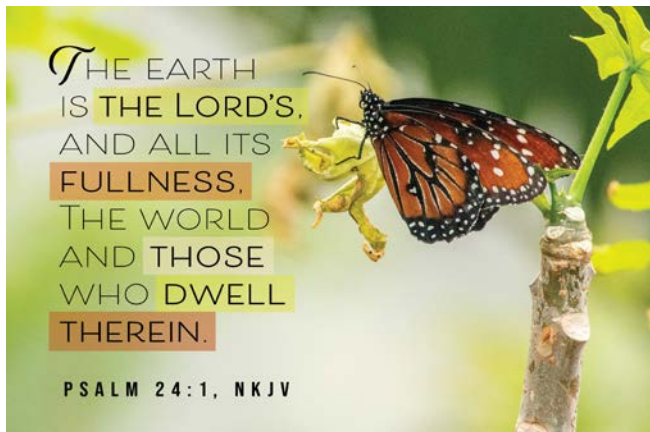
ZION LEHIGH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Please see Sharon Bortz, secretary of the board.



**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT
NEWSLETTER IS
APRIL 13, 2025**

**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

April 2025 St. Paul's Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																										
		1 	2	3 9:30 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	4	5 11:30 a.m.-Doors Open 1:00 p.m.-Penny Party																																										
6 FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT 9:00 a.m.-Worship 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship 11:30 a.m.-Potluck DEADLINE TO ORDER EASTER FLOWERS	7 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study 1:00 p.m.-Worship & Music	8	9 9:30 a.m.-W-ELCA 7:00 p.m.-Council	10 9:30 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	11	12																																										
13 PALM SUNDAY 9:00 a.m.-Worship 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES 	14 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	15 1:30 p.m.-Plan Session	16 6:30 p.m.-Haafsville Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.-St. Paul's Cemetery Board Mtg.	17 MAUNDY THURSDAY 9:30 a.m.-TOPS 6:00 p.m. -Joyful Ringers 7:00 p.m.-Worship 8:00 p.m. -Choir 	18 GOOD FRIDAY 10:30 a.m.-Worship 	19																																										
20 EASTER SUNDAY 9:00 a.m.-Worship NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 a.m.-Worship 	21 EASTER MONDAY 	22 	23 	24 9:30 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	25	26																																										
27 SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship 11:30 a.m.-Luncheon For Rev. Miller 4:00 p.m.-Creative Learning Recital	28 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	29	30	May 2025 <table border="1"> <thead> <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>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td>31</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S				1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		
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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

April 2025

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

Sunday, April 6, 2025

10:30AM

Ushers: Peggy Saylor, Judy Walker

Altar Guild: Esther Seibert

Communion Asst: Daisy Pearson

Communion Bread: Esther Seibert

Greeter: Mary Schneider

Lay Asst: Sandi Wagaman

Reader: Cal Fetherolf

Sunday, April 13, 2025

10:30AM

Ushers: Rosie Gallagher, Madeline MacMechan

Altar Guild: Rosemary Lehman

Communion Asst: Bob Bruchak

Communion Bread: Alice Bastian

Greeter: Dorothy O'Connors

Lay Asst: Sharon Bortz

Reader: Jennifer Bentsen

Maundy Thursday, April 17, 2025

7:00PM

Ushers: Frank Bennighoff, Zack Dimovitz

Altar Guild: Steph Wagaman

Communion Asst: Tom Kellogg

Communion Bread: Steph Wagaman

Lay Asst: Dick Steltz

Reader: June Kellogg

Good Friday, April 18, 2025

10:30AM

Lay Asst: Daisy Pearson

Reader: Sandi Wagaman

Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025

10:30AM

Ushers: Melanie Dimovitz, Ken Ritter

Altar Guild: Janine Ritter

Communion Asst: Anita Eisenhard

Communion Bread: Ken & Janine Ritter

Greeter: Carl & Esther Seibert

Lay Asst: Sharon Bortz

Reader: Rosemary Lehman

Sunday, April 27, 2025

10:30AM

Ushers: Lacey Edwards, Amy Williams

Altar Guild: Jennifer Bentsen

Communion Asst: Tom Kellogg

Communion Bread: Lisa Newhard

Greeter: Amy Williams

Lay Asst: Bob Bruchak

Reader: Daisy Pearson



NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

6261:

Something New, Yet Something Old

Submitted by: Deacon Kat Tigerman, Director of Evangelical Mission



6261 : 6 congregations sharing 2 full-time pastors, 6 Licensed Lay Ministers (LLMs), and 1 full-time deacon. A parish-type model first presented by Bishop Christopher deForest at the Synod Assembly of 2023. A flexible framework to help congregations collaborate and thrive, while remaining unique and true to their own God-given gifts. A model designed to vitalize each congregation as together, they expand their ministries within the

community. A focus on the Gospel by increasing opportunities for worship, Bible studies, service, music, and ministry into the community.

There are currently 15 different areas across the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod at various discernment and exploration points about 6261. There is at least one area in each of the Synod's 9 Mission Districts.

The Synod's first 6261 Ministry Community officially launched on February 1, 2025 in Reading, PA as the "Pretzel City." This partnership includes six congregations: Bethany Lutheran (West Reading), Christ Lutheran (Reading), Hope Lutheran (Reading), Nativity Lutheran (Reading), St. Paul Lutheran (Reading), and Zion Spies Lutheran (Reading) along with Hope's Table (a Synod-Authorized Worshipping Community).

On February 19th, the Pretzel City 6261 Ministry Community hosted a potluck dinner, hymn sing, and celebration worship, co-lead by Bishop deForest and Deacon Kat Tigerman. In addition to the six Pretzel City congregations and 2 of their LLM candidates, members of Synod Council and congregations from around the Synod and West Berks Mission District attended to mark this momentous occasion.

The celebration worship included a reflection on the primary ministry project of the Pretzel City 6261: a food web ministry. Pastor Rebecca Knox gave this reflection, drawing on Psalm 126 and how God brought these congregations to this joyful point and will be with them as they continue to plant seeds, both literally and spiritually. Bishop deForest led a participatory reflection on Isaiah 58 including loud shouts of praise and the kind of fasting God wants: for us to love, heal, and engage with our neighbors. Bishop deForest also lifted up the sacrifice each congregation made for the good of the whole 6261 Ministry Community so that it could more fully live into this “fasting” call of service. The 6261 Ministry Community Covenant was signed by each President of the 6



congregations, and each congregation received a Pretzel City plaque as a reminder of their partnership and commitment to pray for one another. A joint 30-person choir sang “Lord, We As One United,” a beautiful anthem for the offertory right after members from each congregation and Pastor Bruce Osterhout led the assembly in prayer. Worship concluded with Holy Communion and a special update from Pastor Drew Neidig celebrating some surprise gifts to the Pretzel City Bundle to help with their food web ministry. We are blessed to see such hope among us in such unprecedented times. We celebrate with Pretzel City, knowing that God goes before each of us on our ministry journeys so that we may have life abundantly (John 10:10).

To learn more about the 6261 Ministry Community, visit godslove.org/6261mc or email Deacon Kat Tigerman at kat@nepsynod.org. Keep an eye out for an upcoming NEPA Synod 6261 article from the ELCA!

DID YOU KNOW that your Mission Support helps fund areas of the synod like this one and many other important initiatives? Your contributions are making a significant impact and helping others grow in faith, supporting the synod’s lanes of Growing Young, Gaining Strength, and Going Beyond Death to Life, along with the directions of loving like Jesus, healing like Jesus, and engaging like Jesus. To learn more, visit godslove.org/missionsupport.

More DOT CONNECTING

DETAILS AVAILABLE

godslove.org/assembly2025

Connect the Dots
Apparel!

NOW AVAILABLE:

- Full Assembly Agenda
- Presenters
- Rates
- Pre-Assembly Information Dates
- Election Nomination Form
- Resolution & Memorials Forms

A portion of every sale goes to the 2025 Northeastern Pa Synod Assembly Offering

2025
Connect the Dots

Northeastern Pa Synod Assembly

May 30-31

Christ Hamilton,
Stroudsburg

REMINDER!!!

May 4, 2025 - LMD Spring
Assembly at 4:00 P.M.
Lutheran Center, Allentown

OPERATION SUNSHINE

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

1933 Hanover Ave,
Allentown, PA 18109

Open: Monday 11-3 and
Wednesday 11-3

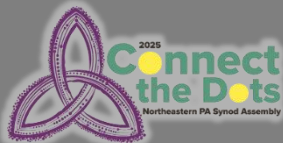
Phone: 610-435-9155
Email: LMDopsunshine@aol.com
www.LMDopsunshine.com

Paula & Dick Skelly,
Co-Trip Coordinators

ALL TRIPS for 2025 are currently SOLD OUT!!!

If you are interested, we encourage you to put your name on a wait list.

Please see the website or
attached newsletter for details.



2025 NEPA Synod Assembly

May 30-31, 2025

Christ Hamilton United
Lutheran Church
(419 Bossardsville Rd
Stroudsburg, PA 18360)

The Synod Assembly is the annual gathering of the synod's congregations, pastors, and leaders to worship, conduct business, and discern the church's mission together.

Registration runs April 1-30



May 2025 LMD NL news
will be due April 14, 2025.

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

Echoes of a Cry: Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?

Heading to the elevator from a Bible Study, a woman in a wheelchair approached me and said, "Can you stop by and pay a visit to my roommate?"

"She is screaming a lot, and I think you can do that kind-of-sort-of-thing. Well, you know, you're a minister." Sure. What's the room number? I walked over and knocked on the door. I heard the cries.

A nurse pulled the curtain over. The resident was crying in pain. Her eyes wide open, she asked me to pray to take away her pain, so I began to pray.

"Lord, bring..."

"Aaah!"

"this..."

"Aaah!"

"your child Lord..."

"Aaah!"

"you who..."

"Aaah!"

"understand..."

"Aaah!"

"the pain bear by your son."

I began to pray more quickly. "Bring comfort." The resident cried in agony: "The pain! O, the pain! Aaah! The pain!" Twisting and turning on her bed, she looked at me and cried out, "Take it away, take it away! Aaah! Take it away. I wish to die. Aaah!"

In between each cry, she pled with me to take away her pain. I looked at this woman crying in pain. My prayer did nothing. I was there scared and helpless as she cried. All I could say as I looked into her eyes was to express how sorry I was that she was feeling so much pain.

Hands extended in the air towards me she said with all the breath that she could muster, "Give...me...your...hand! Hold me! Aaah! Give me your hand! Hold me!" I held her hand but to no avail. She cried more.

She asked for my other hand. "Pull me." I balanced myself and got a hold of her hand and pulled her up a bit. Suddenly, a brief relief showed on her face. She said, "That feels good." She felt relief for a millisecond. Then she began to cry again.

I asked the attending nurse how long she had been like this. The hospice nurse confirmed that increments of medication were being given and that a dosage was *(continued on the next page ⇒)*



Penny Party

Saturday, April 5, 2025

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
(8227 Hamilton Boulevard
Breinigsville, PA)

Doors open at 11:30 AM,
and the event begins at 1:00 PM.

Seating at this event is limited, so
guests are encouraged to come early.
The event will end around 4:00 PM.

The Penny Party will include
approximately 10 baskets, 10-15 gift
cards, and 300 small items for bidding.
We will sell food and beverages and
there will also be a bake sale. Bring
your spare change and join us on April
5th for some fun, food, fellowship, and
maybe some winning. For more info:
<http://www.stpaulsbrv.org/pennyparty>

The Christmas Ingathering committee
wish you all a wonderful spring and
Blessed Easter. We will soon meet to
discuss our upcoming 2025
Ingathering. If you have any ideas or
questions please feel free to call.
As always we thank you all for your
support and prayers.

Blessings,
Alice, Faith, Pam, Penny & Shellie
(Contact: 610-390-9694)



Jesus Christ Superstar

Sunday, April 13, 2025

St. Luke's Lutheran Church
(417 N. 7th Street, Allentown)

Doors open at 1:30 PM,
show begins at 2:00 PM.

St. Luke's Synoptic Players and the
JCS Band present musical selections
from Tim Rice & Andrew Lloyd
Webber's Classic Rock Opera.

Admission is free – a freewill offering
benefits Family Promise of Lehigh
Valley & 8th Ward Neighborhood Group.
Free parking next to the church.

See the attached flyer.

(continued from previous page)

on the way.

The resident released one of my hands and held on to the nurse's hand. Amidst the cries, the nurse pulled her up as I tugged from another angle to try to ease her pain. Her eyes wide open stared at me. She said, "It is so painful."

I told her she was in good hands, and the nurse grabbed her other hand. As I said goodbye, I told her that I hoped her pain would go away.

I left down the corridor hearing echoes of her cries as I approached the elevator to leave the floor.

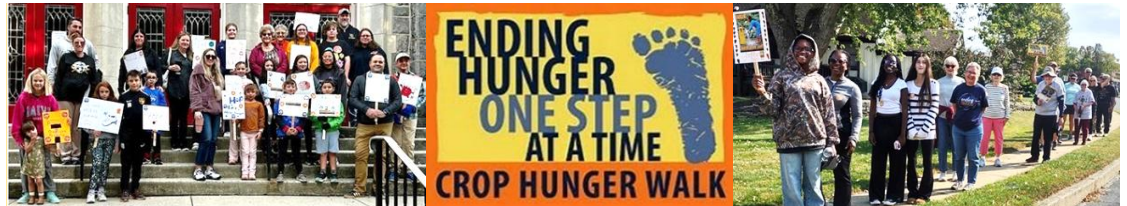
Later in my office in reflection of this event that had occurred, I thought of Jesus's cry to God from his pain on the cross, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" (Mark 15:34) He, too, didn't get an answer from God to relieve his pain.

Nor did the Psalmist's cry appear to have received an answer. "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning? O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night but find no rest." (Psalm 22:1-2)

Still, the echo of cries bouncing from the past cannot bring relief to the pain of those crying today.

So, I sit in contemplation with these texts that served me as a theological excuse to make me feel better amid the cries of the people in pain and a silent God.

The Rev. Nelson Quiñones, Lehigh Mission District Dean



THANK YOU for helping our 2024 Greater
Allentown CROP Hunger Walk raise
over **\$30,000** to help our neighbors in the
Allentown area and beyond!

As a result of your generosity, the **LEHIGH
CHURCHES' CONFERENCE KITCHEN** and the
**ALLENTOWN AREA ECUMENICAL FOOD
BANK** is receiving more than \$3700 each for
their vital ministries with neighbors experiencing
food insecurity in our area.

And **CHURCH WORLD SERVICE** is able to
help many more of our neighbors who are
struggling in the aftermath of floods, fires,
droughts, and other disasters throughout the
United States and the world.

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

**Please Save the 2025 CROP
Hunger Walk Date!**

Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk:
Sun., Oct. 19, 2025, 1:30 p.m.,
with registration beginning at 1:00 p.m.
at St. Timothy Lutheran Church
(140 S. Ott St., Allentown, PA 18104)

Find more information about the life-saving
work of Church World Service at:
crophungerwalk.org/allentownpa

