

# PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Breinigsville, PA

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**MAY 2025**



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

## **9:00A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE**

Council has decided to temporarily suspend the 9:00 A.M. worship service for the month of May.

### **WHATS AHEAD FOR ST. PAUL'S**

We have been notified by the Synod office that we have supply pastors to cover the four Sundays in May.

An interim pastor has been assigned to us and will be starting on June 1<sup>st</sup>. We have no further information currently as of now. We are not sure if the interim pastor will be leading two worship services or just one. As council receives more details, they will let the congregation know.

### **A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MILLER**

Pastor Miller has told us that he will not accept requests or invitations from us to perform functions on our behalf. Members should make all contacts for pastoral services to our interim/designated pastor (or call the office until we have an interim/designated pastor). When a new pastor is called and begins her/his service, all such requests should be made directly to him/her.

### **THANK YOU FROM PASTOR MILLER**

It is with deep appreciation and gratitude that I thank you for all you've done to make my last Sunday a meaningful experience. It was great to see all of you. Thank you for your support over the past 7 years. I want to express my heartfelt thanks for your generous financial gift. It is very much appreciated. I have experienced St. Paul's as a friendly and responsive congregation and you certainly expressed that on Sunday (Apr. 27<sup>th</sup>), so thank you for all you have meant to me over the years.

May God's blessings be with you as you continue to do our Lord's ministry.

Pastor Miller

## UPCOMING EVENTS FROM THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

May 9	6:00 p.m. Meal	7:00 p.m. Movie
May 17	12:00 p.m. Pizza	1:00 p.m. Games
May 18	11:30 a.m. Potluck Lunch	
June 7	8:00 a.m. Yard Sale	
June 8	11:30 a.m. Potluck	
June 13	6:00 p.m. Meal	7:00 p.m. Movie
June 22	1:35 p.m. IronPigs Game (Gates open at Noon)	

Signup sheets are available for these vents on the table in the narthex.

### IRONPIGS GAME (MORE TICKETS)



Announcing the IronPigs game, Sunday, June 22, 2025. Game time is 1:35 p.m. Gates open at Noon. We are in the PenTeleData 3<sup>rd</sup> Base Party Porch. We have reached our limit of 30 tickets. I have placed another signup sheet on the table in the Narthex. If more people are interested, I can get more tickets. Sign your name or you can call the church office at 610-398-7000 to make your reservation. The price is \$37.00 per ticket. Mark your calendars.



- |                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| 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

**PARISH NURSE NOTES – MAY 2025**  
**“HANTAVIRUS”**  
**PEGGY SAYLOR, RN**

Hantavirus has been in the news lately due to the death of Gene Hackman’s wife from the virus. Hantaviruses are a group of viruses spread by rodents that can cause severe illness and death in humans. Here are some facts about this virus:

- The viruses cause diseases like hantavirus pulmonary syndrome and hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome.
- It is spread mainly by rodents
- They are not spread from person to person
- Symptoms are similar to the flu – fatigue, fever, muscle aches, chills, dizziness and headaches
- Symptoms usually start 1 – 8 weeks after contact with an infected rodent
- You can reduce your risk by sealing holes and gaps in your home and garage, placing traps for rodents in and around your house and cleaning up any easy-to-get foods that attract rodents.
- Avoid contact with rodent urine, droppings, saliva and nests.
- If cleaning up urine or dropping, DO NOT vacuum or sweep the droppings as the disease can be spread when people breathe in contaminated air.
- To clean up, soak the affected area with a bleach solution or an EPA-registered disinfectant and wait about 5 minutes. Be sure to ventilate the area when doing this. Wear gloves and use paper towels to wipe up the soiled area and then dispose in covered garbage that is emptied on a regular basis. Then mop or wipe the area with a disinfectant. Perform good handwashing BEFORE and after removing your gloves. Additional cleaning instructions can be found on the web page listed below.

Accessed on April 11, 2025 at <https://www.cdc.gov/hantavirus/about/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, see Steph for crochet and knitting patterns.

Just a reminder that in addition to our yearly charity knit/crochet project, we continue to make prayer shawls. There are always prayer shawls on hand – if you know of someone who could use a shawl or lap robe, please see Steph, Sandi, or Judy.

*Plarn Project/Monthly Working Sessions* – Our May Plarn session has been changed to **Wednesday, May 21 at 1:30PM**. (Fellowship Hall is in use on May 20 for voting.) It is a fun and productive working session – check out the plarn picture page in this newsletter. We are trying to come up with ways to get more use out of the two weaving looms, which are currently used once a month during plarn sessions. One idea is to schedule additional time on looms, for anyone who would be willing to come in and weave on their own. If that is of interest, please let Steph know.

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

# WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH [WELCA]

Our monthly meeting was on Wednesday, April 9, 2025, and the group discussed:

- The 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention, June 14, 2025, at St. John's Nazareth; topic is *Renew Yourself with Gods Word*. The convention mailing will be completed by the NEPA WELCA Board members by the end of March.

The April Bible study was: Faithfulness....*Session four...Faith rises: Jarius and the Faithful Woman* by Denise Rector.

ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED TO THESE EVENTS

Join us on Wednesday, May 14, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. for our next meeting and a Devotional Study: Receiving the Spirit's flame, *Spiritual gifts in the life of the church* by Cara Strickland.

## 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.

## **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](mailto: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?**

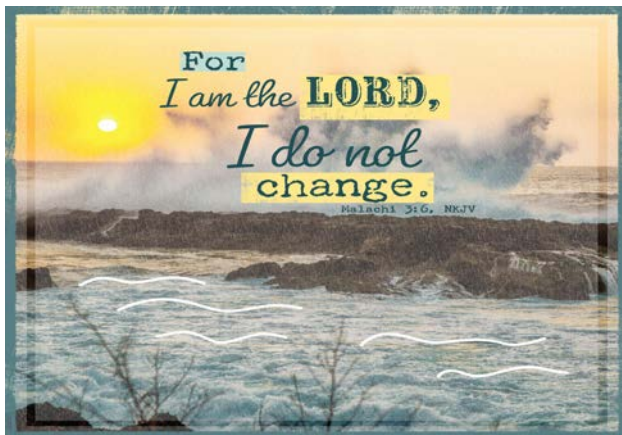
Parish Code for hospitalized parishioners is 321. Please give this code when you are admitted to the hospital so the church can be made aware that you are a patient and can administer the pastoral care you require while you are hospitalized.

Please take note, that if you are admitted on a Thursday night, Friday, Saturday, or Sunday, the church 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 church to know you are hospitalized on the weekend, please call the church office and leave a message.

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT  
NEWSLETTER IS  
MAY 18, 2025**

**PLEASE HAVE YOUR  
ARTICLES SUBMITTED TO  
THE CHURCH OFFICE  
BY THIS DATE.**



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**CHURCH OFFICE: 610-398-7000**  
**HOSPITAL CODE: #321**  
**HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE**  
**EMAIL: [office@stpaulsbbv.org](mailto:office@stpaulsbbv.org)**  
**Website: [www.stpaulsbbv.org](http://www.stpaulsbbv.org)**

**STAFF**

Organist/Choir Director ..... Ms. Judy Noll  
Handbell Director..... Mr. Richard Steltz  
Parish Secretary .....Mrs. Cindy Krasnansky



# May 2505 St. Paul's Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<b>1</b> 9:30 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School (Last Class Until September) 10:30 a.m.-Worship	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 6:30 p.m.-Penny Party Meeting	<b>8</b> 9:30 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	<b>9</b> 6:00 p.m. – Meal 7:00 p.m. - Movie	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 10:30 a.m.-Worship 	<b>12</b> 1:00 p.m.-Worship & Music	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 9:30 a.m.-W-ELCA 7:00 p.m.-Council	<b>15</b> 9:30 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	<b>16</b>	<b>17 GAME NIGHT</b> 12:00 p.m.-Pizza 1:00 p.m.-Games 
<b>18 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT</b> 10:00 a.m.-Blood Pressure Check 10:30 a.m.-Worship 11:30 a.m.-Potluck <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 	<b>21</b> 1:30 p.m.-Plarn Session	<b>22</b> 9:30 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 6:30 p.m.-Haafsville Board Meeting 7:30 p.m.-Choir	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT</b> 10:30 a.m.-Worship	<b>26</b> <b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b> 	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 9:30 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir(Last Rehearsal)	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

# WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

## May 2025

If you cannot fulfill an assigned duty, please call the church office at 610-398-7000 or the Council Person of the Month – Bob Bruchak 484-357-2557

### Sunday, May 4, 2025

#### 9:00AM

No Assistants

#### 10:30AM

**Ushers:** Jennifer Bentsen, Ken Ritter  
**Altar Guild:** Janine Ritter  
**Communion Asst:** Sandi Wagaman  
**Communion Bread:** Ken & Janine Ritter  
**Greeter:** Melanie Dimovitz  
**Lay Asst:** Daisy Pearson  
**Reader:** Martine Otto

### Sunday, May 18, 2025

#### 9:00AM

No Assistants

#### 10:30AM

**Ushers:** Judy Walker, Amy Williams  
**Altar Guild:** Steph Wagaman  
**Communion Asst:** Sharon Bortz  
**Communion Bread:** Jennifer Bentsen  
**Greeter:** Vanessa Eiswerth  
**Lay Asst:** Lacey Edwards  
**Reader:** Jennifer Bentsen

### Sunday, May 11, 2025

#### 9:00AM

No Assistants

#### 10:30AM

**Ushers:** Frank Bennighoff, Peggy Saylor  
**Altar Guild:** Esther Seibert  
**Communion Asst:** Bob Bruchak  
**Communion Bread:** Alice Bastian  
**Greeter:** Dorothy O'Connors  
**Lay Asst:** Rosemary Lehman  
**Reader:** June Kellogg

### Sunday, May 25, 2025

#### 9:00AM

No Assistants

#### 10:30AM

**Ushers:** Rosie Gallagher, Madeline MacMechan  
**Altar Guild:** Rosemary Lehman  
**Communion Asst:** Anita Eisenhard  
**Communion Bread:** Esther Seibert  
**Greeter:** Carl & Esther Seibert  
**Lay Asst:** Sandi Wagaman  
**Reader:** Cal Fetherolf



# Our 1st Penny Party!





# Plarn Team at Work



Feb/Mar 2025





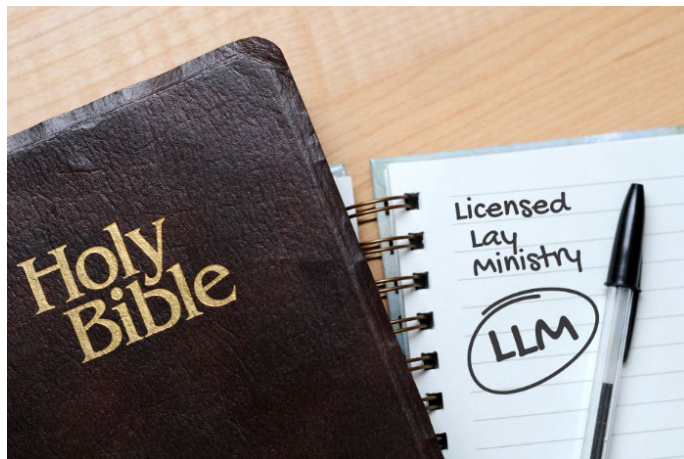
# NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## Saying Yes to God: A Personal Witness to Licensed Lay Ministry

*Written by: Michael Haspe, Licensed Lay Ministry Candidate*

I am a lifelong member of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tamaqua, PA, where I currently serve as the Christian Education Director. I felt my strongest pull to ministry during the pandemic. It was during the shutdown that God began to utilize me in new ways. I was one of four people—including the Pastor, camera operator, and organist—tasked to broadcast our services live. During this time, I learned to serve as a Cantor, Lector, and Communion Assistant, and I found I really enjoyed being a part of worship leadership. When the congregation came back, the anxiety I had previously experienced that kept me from serving (even though I really wanted to) was gone. I finally felt free to step into the roles God had been preparing me for all along.

Yet how did I get here? Near the end of 2020, I witnessed an unexplainable life-saving miracle. It was then I felt the urge to share my testimony and to preach. At the time, there was no Synodically Authorized Lay Minister (SALM) or Licensed Lay Minister (LLM) program in place, and I didn't feel called to rostered ministry. I wasn't sure what path was right for me, but the desire to be in deeper service was undeniable.



Then, in 2023, my partner of 19 years was diagnosed with Stage 4 colon cancer. My world collapsed. I had a good cry with my Pastor and told her that even though I trusted God, I was afraid. She encouraged me to go home and rest and assured me we would talk more the next day. The very next morning, she called me with news: the synod had approved the LLM program. I knew in that instant it was God commanding my attention.

It felt as though God was saying, "Michael, during this time of uncertainty and fear, YOU WILL FOCUS ON ME." I shared this with my Pastor, and no sooner did it come out of my mouth than my fear turned to calm. There aren't words to describe the sense of peace and clarity that followed.

So that's what I did. I enrolled in the LLM program and kept my eyes LASER focused on God. The anxiety didn't return. Late last year, my partner underwent major surgery to remove the cancer. The pathology report stunned the medical team—what had looked and behaved like Stage 4 cancer was downgraded to Stage 2. Today, my partner is cancer free. While doctors still can't explain it, I can. I had just witnessed a second miracle.



So that is why I am here, and that is why I am so passionate about the Licensed Lay Ministry program. It has given me a pathway to serve others and to share the good news of Jesus Christ, while I continue to discern whether rostered ministry might be the next step. For years, people in my church and community have said to me, “Michael, you are a Pastor.” And whether that becomes a career goal for me or not, this program enables me to explore ministry in meaningful ways. Through it, I can share the Gospel and lead others to Christ.

It’s no secret there is a shortage of Pastors. Being a Licensed Lay Minister allows me to serve in ways that are within my current gifts while also challenging me to grow in areas I may have once feared. LLMs can help address the pastoral shortage across our synod. No congregation is too large or too small to benefit from the presence of a lay minister. I believe the LLM program can be a catalyst to grow our churches, open new doors, and revitalize ministries.

The LLM retreats have been one of my favorite parts of this journey. The preaching retreat especially stands out. It provided me with practical tools to write and deliver sermons with confidence. I now feel my preaching is more focused and effective because of what I learned there. Pastor Peggy Wurtele has been a huge inspiration to me. Her motto—“Proclamation, Proclamation, Proclamation!”—encourages us to seize every opportunity to proclaim the Gospel and remind people that grace is FREE and abundant through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As a perfectionist, I hold onto her other phrase too: “...and Jesus loves us anyway.” It helps me focus less on small details and more on the heart of the message. That reminder has been freeing and empowering.

I want to leave you with a few questions. Ask yourself honestly: “Do you love Jesus Christ? Do you believe in the free gift and promise of grace and eternal salvation? Do you love telling others about Jesus? Do you love people?” If you answered yes to any—or all—of these questions, then the LLM journey might be right for you. Talk to your Pastor or the LLM Coordinator. Take time to pray and discern if this is your next faithful step.

One excuse I frequently hear is, “I would love to do this, but I’m too old.” Let me tell you—you are NEVER too old to proclaim the Good News! Your ministry could change someone’s life. If you’re even a little bit curious about LLM, talk about it. Ask questions. You might be surprised where God is leading you. The most surprising thing I’ve learned is the impact one message can have. I’ve preached dozens of sermons, and the most humbling moments come when someone quietly tells me that something I said encouraged them, gave them hope, or inspired them to try something new. That’s the greatest reward of all.

*Discover how Licensed Lay Ministry is equipping lay leaders for faithful service. Learn more at [godslove.org/LLM](https://godslove.org/LLM), or email Licensed Lay Ministers Coordinator, Pastor Jira Albers at [llm@nepsynod.org](mailto:llm@nepsynod.org)*

**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](https://godslove.org/missionsupport)

VOLUME 30  
ISSUE 5  
May  
2025



## 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



### 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 ends soon!



The Christmas Ingathering  
committee wish you all a  
wonderful Spring. 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)



*June 2025 LMD NL news  
will be due May 12, 2025.*

Please email any information to  
[imd.newslettereditor@gmail.com](mailto:imd.newslettereditor@gmail.com)

## You are invited...

**Lehigh  
Mission District  
Assembly**

Sunday May 4 | 4:00pm

Synod Lutheran Center, Allentown

2354 Grove Road Allentown, PA 18109

For questions, please reach out to Pastor Nelson Quiñones,  
Dean of the Lehigh Mission District, at [nlsqns@gmail.com](mailto:nlsqns@gmail.com)

Every one of the nine Mission Districts in the Northeastern Pennsylvania (NEPA) Synod holds its own Mission District Assembly, where local congregations gather for ministry discussions and important business. Anyone from the area of each Mission District is welcome to attend. These assemblies serve as a time for connection and preparation, ultimately leading up to the NEPA Synod Assembly on May 30 & 31 at Christ Hamilton, Stroudsburg PA

Speaker: The Rev. Cynthia Rader Geyer  
Topic: Allentown Collaborative Ministries  
Food Truck: Queen V Wraps

No registration required – we hope to see you there!



## Organ Recital

Sunday, May 18, 2025  
beginning at 4:00 PM

Zion's Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
(5901 Kings Highway South  
Old Zionsville)

We are planning to formally celebrate Zion's new organ with a special dedicatory organ recital. Allen Artist, Rudy Lucente, will dazzle and entertain us with his dramatic playing and musical talents. Rudy has been a church organist and musician his entire life in the greater Philadelphia area.

We invite the larger community to attend. It will be a delight to share his musical gifts. There will also be a time to meet Rudy during coffee and cake after the concert.



## BIG BAND DANCE

Friday, May 16, 2025

St Timothy Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
(140 South Ott Street,  
Allentown)

Dance to the music of The Hanover  
Big Band from 7-10 PM.  
Casual dress.

\$10/person – includes soda, snacks  
and desserts. All proceeds benefit  
Neighborhood House, an outreach  
of the Allentown Collaborative  
Churches.

Tickets are available at the church  
office (610-435-6512 x 200)

See the attached flyer.



## OPERATION SUNSHINE

1933 Hanover Ave, Allentown, PA 18109

Phone: 610-435-9155

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

Email: [LMDopsunshine@aol.com](mailto:LMDopsunshine@aol.com)

Website: [www.LMDopsunshine.com](http://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 trips for 2025 are currently SOLD OUT!!!**

We encourage you to put your name on our waiting list.

*Please see the attached newsletter for details.*



**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.

**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](http://crophungerwalk.org/allentownpa)

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](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/allentownpa)

