

# PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Breinigsville, PA

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**SEPTEMBER 2025**



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

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# The Pastor's Corner – I WANT TO FOLLOW JESUS!

That tune has been going through my head for a few hours this morning. In Him there is no east or west... When I see these words I imagine only a straight line - - or is it a circle? I guess it is a circle.

So, I went to the hymn book only to find **“I want Jesus to walk with me.”** Maybe that's a better way to understand **“What a friend we have in Jesus.”**

From the ELW:

“When we were baptized, we were baptized into Jesus. Our gracious heavenly Father liberates us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. By water and the Holy Spirit, we are made members of the church, which is the body of Christ.”

We do not have a choice. If we were baptized, we have been attached to Jesus.

- You can run the other way; Jesus will be there right along side of you.
- You can claim to be an atheist, Jesus will be there right alongside of you.
- You can be so angry at God for your life circumstances; Jesus will be there right alongside of you.

Jesus is like super glue. He is un-stickable. You can't pry Him off. We find ourselves as members in the church which is the body of Christ and Jesus is stuck to us. Go ahead – shake your arm, try to shake Jesus off. Nope, you can't do it. Try jumping up and down. No, doesn't work either. He's stuck to you!

Stuck - what? Can't follow Jesus. Wait a minute... Can't follow Jesus? Nope. He's stuck to you. We are left with the old acronym: WWJD.

WHAT WOULD JESUS DO? Since Jesus is stuck **to** us, **in** us, **around** us, now, we have to rethink how we live our lives.

- To us – How we dress, do we care about our physical appearance?
- In us – What we ingest, what we think, how we spend our money and time.
- Around us – Where we go, who we associate with, how we behave and carry ourselves.

And we thought it was once and done, and I'm home free. Yes, you are! Home with Jesus stuck to you.

That's why WWJD is so important. We have been giving the guiding light to follow the directions of our savior. WHAT WOULD JESUS DO? should always be the first question we ask when faced with any decision. Make it a habit. Study the Bible to learn WWJD. The best rule of thumb might be "For the Common Good" of those concerned. And then, would Jesus agree with your decision or should you rethink it?

I want Jesus to walk with me and I want to follow because I have a friend in Jesus.

**"Lead me, guide me along the way, for if you lead me,  
I cannot stray.**

**Lord let me walk each day with you, lead me,  
O Lord lead me."** ELW 768

Lord, lead us on...

*Pastor Ginny*

## MONTHLY PRAYER FAMILIES

Starting in September and going forward:

We will be praying for 4 families each week.

**Sept 7:** We will be praying for the Apgar Family, the Bastian Family, the Bellucci Family and the Bennighoff Family.

**Sept 14:** We will be praying for the Bentsen Family, the Berghold Family, the Binkley Family and the Bortz Family.

**Sept 21:** We will be praying for the Bruchak Family, the Brumbach Family, the Caricari Family and the Conrad Family.

**Sept 28:** We will be praying for the Cope Family, the Danner Family, the Derr-Breinig Family and the Dietrich Family.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CONFIRMATION

**September 14** Sunday School and Confirmation will begin. Please contact the church office or see the pastor if you would like to have your child join us.

## **GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS**

This year, September 7 is the annual day of service and an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. This year, Zion Lehigh is inviting St Paul's to join together in the service project.

Zion Lehigh would like to include St Paul's in a celebratory dinner after church on **Sunday, September 14.**

They (Zion) will provide meat, beverages and table service. We are asked to provide side dishes and desserts. Someone will be contacting us about potential numbers, and we'd appreciate your best guess. A signup sheet will be on the table in the narthex.

## **GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS CLOTHING COLLECTION**

Throughout July and August our congregation has been gathering gently used (and sometimes even new) clothing for donation to LOADS OF BLESSINGS in Allentown and Valley Manor Nursing Home in Coopersburg. We have a wonderful collection of clothing to be delivered in early September. Thanks to all of you who contributed. Also many thanks go to the dozen women who donated their time on two occasions in August to sort the clothing into various categories such as tops, dresses, pants, sweaters, outerwear, etc. Many hands made, what looked like an overwhelming task, easy to do. We bagged more than 30 bags of clothes for men, women, and children to be delivered by our volunteers. Too much for one car! What a good problem!

“God’s Work, Our Hands”, what a pleasure to serve!

## **ALLENTOWN ECUMENICAL FOOD BANK**

The Allentown Ecumenical Food Bank is in need of the currant items: cold cereals (no sugar preferred), canned vegetables, canned fruit and canned soups. Place your items in the box by the social hall doors under the coat rack.

# LEHIGH VALLEY † OUTREACH DEPOT

[www.lvoutreachdepot.org](http://www.lvoutreachdepot.org)

610-861-7373

Are you trying to down size?

Do you have too much around your house?

- Mugs, glasses, utensils, pots and pans,
- Furniture, towels and linens (gently used),
- Cleaning supplies, carpets

A mission of Wesley United Methodist Church for over 15 years, their disaster relief warehouse is in Hellertown. Everything they do is dependent upon donations. They offer what is in their storage building to vetted families who have been forced from their homes through abuse, by fire or flood at no charge.

## HARVEST SUNDAY



We will be celebrating a Harvest Sunday at St. Paul's on October 12, 2025 – to celebrate and commemorate the gathering in of harvest. The Worship and Music Committee will be decorating the church with fall décor and harvest items. For our harvest celebration service, we will sing hymns of celebration, hear scripture about God's abundance, and give thanks for our bounty.

While we give thanks for our abundance, we recognize those in need. Hence, we are calling for donations of non-perishable food items. You can bring your non-perishable items to church beginning Sunday, September 28, and place them in a box in Narthex marked "Harvest Home." The donated food items will go to the food bank.

Help us to celebrate Harvest Sunday on October 12th, and bring food donations for those in need in our community.

## PET BLESSINGS

**October 5** at 1:00 p.m. we will have a Pet Blessing outside by the pavilion. Bring your pet or a picture of your pet.



# COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

## June

Council received interim Pastor Ginny Goodwin who introduced the council to her thoughts for the continued growth for St. Paul's.

A committee was formed to develop a new administrative assistant job description and place an ad for the position on the Synod site, Facebook, and the Free Press.

Council is looking at the possibility of a large screen for those having difficulty with worship.

It was welcome news that Pastor Ginny was very much into continuing the Monday morning Bible Study.

## July

Council discussed our eligibility for a grant from ELCA Disability Ministries to put a ramp in front of the street entrance to the church for those that are dropped off and have difficulty with the curb.

The council had to quickly decide to replace one of the air conditioners for the sanctuary; and then about a week or two later, the air conditioner for the offices. This they completed via email which allowed them to act quickly.

## August

Since our church pictorial is so outdated, members are working toward completing a church pictorial in-house. There will be more information on this when the plan is completed.

The application for the grant from ELCA Disability Ministries to put a ramp in front of the street entrance to the church was not submitted by July 31, 2025, deadline, therefore council will be looking into local companies to see what the cost would be.

Starting October 19<sup>th</sup>, council meetings will be after Sunday services.

## GARDENING DAY



**September 13 at 10 AM** A Gardening day will take place to spruce up our entryways. It is the first thing a visitor sees when they come to see who we are and how we worship. Please bring gloves and any tools you may have to assist in our work. We need help from any and all that can come. Hot Dogs and goodies will be your thanks when we finish.

**Rain date is September 20.**



We are starting something new in the newsletter. Each month we will have clues about one of the members. Let's see if you know or can guess from the clues that person. There is no prize, sorry, and the answer will be in the next newsletter.

Did you guess who last month's person was? It was Zack Dimovitz.

Here are the clues for this month's congregant:

I love Penn State

I have the best Daughter ever (I'm biased of course)

Pastor Miller married my husband and I

I have been a member at St Paul's since I was in Elementary School

I have two cats and a dog

I enjoy doing puzzles.

I enjoy baking and cooking

Who am I?

## **HOME HEALTH PRODUCTS FOR ENCAMPMENT RELOCATION PEOPLE**

We are asking for Home Health Products to help with those who are being rehoused from the encampments along Jorden Creek.

Please do not think an extra-large size is better - it takes up too much room in a backpack.

Items needed in smaller containers:

Wash cloth, soothing cream, powder, shampoo, conditioner, bar soap, tooth brush and paste, lip balm, deodorant, razors, shaving cream, woman's products (pads and tampons)

Anything you use we missed on the list.

## **SEPTEMBER POT LUCK**

Sunday, September 7 there will be a pot luck lunch after the 10:30 a.m. service. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the Narthex.

## WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH [WELCA]

Our monthly meetings in July and August were at the home of Daisy Pearson.

- Our July Bible study was *Flourishing in relationships* Session two *Relationships that sustain us* by Brooke Peterson which focused on the ways we care for friends and loved ones in times of grief.
- Our August Bible study was *Flourishing in relationships* Session three *Relationships that sustain us* by Brooke Peterson which explored the story of Esther and Mordecai, as well as how relationships create the possibility for change within us and others.

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ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED TO THESE EVENTS

### NEWS FROM THE NEPA WELCA - - - - - **SAVE THE DATE**

- January 4, 2026, Judith Wanfried, will speak on artistry of Mary, Mother of Jesus as our Soup and Sandwich Luncheon.
- The Flame, *the newsletter of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Women of the ELCA*, was mailed in early August.
- Spring Justice Event will be on April 11, 2026, Hope Cherryville and topic to be decided in the near future.
- 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the NEPA Women of the ELCA, June 13, 2026, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Breinigsville. The topic is to be decided.

Join us for our next meeting, Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.

### **PENNY PARTY FUNDRAISER!!**



We have decided to postpone the next Penny Party fundraiser until Spring. The Committee is looking for additional members – please consider helping out! You can talk to any of the current committee members on what is involved: Carol Derr-Breinig, Melanie Dimovitz, Anita Eisenhard, Peggy Saylor, Becky Theodore, and Steph Wagaman.

# PARISH NURSING NOTES

“Be the CEO of your Health”

September 2025

Peggy Saylor, RN

I recently heard a story on Good Morning America regarding being the “CEO of your Health” and it reminded me of all the tips that we can use to help insure that we are being our own advocates with our health care providers. These tips will not only help us as the consumer but will also help the practitioner to provide us with the best care which is their goal.

Here are some tips to remember when going to your health care provider:

1. Try to arrive at least 15 minutes prior to your scheduled time. This allows for any issues that may need to be addressed during the check-in process. Due to scheduled appointments, some providers will need to reschedule your appointment if you are more than 15 minutes late.
2. If possible, try to complete any paperwork or on-line check-in prior to your appointment.
3. Remember to always have a photo id and insurance cards with you.
4. Have a current list of medications available for your provider. Most offices will review your medications at EACH visit.
5. If being seen for a new issue, try to have a list of when the symptoms started.
6. If you have specific questions you would like to ask, have them written down or on your phone so that you remember exactly what you would like to ask.
7. If possible, it always helps to have someone accompany you. If new information is given, it helps to have two people listening. You can also ask the provider if the specific instructions will be included on your “after visit summary.”

We are blessed to have numerous excellent healthcare institutions and providers in our area. If we work with our providers, we can be the “CEO of our Health!”

## PRAYER SHAWL GROUP NEWS



We are continuing to work on the **Crocheted/Knitted Octopuses for Preemies** for St. Luke's Hospital NICU. We currently have **46** octopuses for donation! Thank you to all of our makers! **The deadline for this project is Sunday, November 2.** On that date, the octopuses will be blessed during worship service.

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 September Plarn session is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 16 at 1:30PM.** (Note: these sessions are always held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month.) It is a fun and productive working session – with lots to do! You can flatten bags, cut bags, tie loops, crochet or weave mats. If anyone is interested in taking a loom home to weave, let Steph or Judy know.

In early August, three mats were dropped off with Caring D.A.M. Hearts. We learned that they are being used as soon as they come in – at a large homeless encampment on American Parkway. In addition to donating sleeping mats, St. Paul's will start collecting personal care items for the homeless encampment. Look for that donation box in the Narthex in the future!

## FELLOWSHIP/EVANGELISM

### SEPTEMBER MOVIE NIGHT

Movie night will be Friday, September 12. We will have pizza at 6:00 p.m. and a movie at 7:00 p.m.

### GOING FORWARD:

Starting in **OCTOBER**, **Pot Lucks** will be on the **2nd Sunday** after the 10:30 a.m. service. **Movie night** will be the **3rd Friday** with Pizza at 6:00 p.m. and Movie at 7:00 p.m.

## **VALLEY YOUTH HOUSE SCHOOL SUPPLY COLLECTION TILL SEPT. 21<sup>ST</sup>**

We are collecting school supplies for underprivileged and homeless children in the local Lehigh Valley area. Looking for new or gently used notebooks, folders, pencils, binders, backpacks, for high school & middle school students. Cash donations will also be accepted. A box is in the narthex to place your items and a container is on the table for your cash donations. Flyers are available on the table.

## **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.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS FROM THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE**

9/7 Potluck  
9/12 Pizza & Movie  
9/13 Gardening Day  
10/5 Pet Blessing

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

## 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.



2 Nicholas Theodore	23 Madeline MacMechan
4 Kathy Conrad	23 Hazel Pisauro
5 Laurin Mironov	25 Luca Caricari
11 Steph Wagaman	26 Carlene Brumbach
18 Jim Eisenhard, Sr.	26 Steve Mesko
20 Lisa Newhard	27 Jennifer Bentsen
21 Emily Danner	27 Sharon Heminitz
21 Calise Eiswerth	28 Paula Smith

5 Skip & Anita Eisenhard



## MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The following memorial contributions have been received in memory of Martha Lindenmuth:

Alice Bastian & Jennie Hower

Daisy Pearson

Bruce & Peggy Saylor

The following memorial contributions have been received in memory of Irene Wenz:

Ed & Daisy Pearson

Bruce & Sandi Wagaman

## THANK YOU

Thank you for the magnificent prayer shawls! I am truly humbled at the generosity of your church members. The prayers are most especially appreciated! It has been a long journey here, sometimes feeling all alone in this – it is such a cozy feeling knowing I am wrong. Your prayers give new meaning to the family of man! Please thank everyone.

Fondly,

Sherry Kearns

# THE GIFT OF MUSIC

I wish to see all arts, principally music, in the service of Him who gave and created them.



Music is a fair and glorious gift from God. I would not forego my humble share of music. Singers are never sorrowful, but are merry, and they smile through their troubles in song.

Music makes people kinder, gentler, more staid and reasonable. I am persuaded that after theology, music is the only art capable of affording peace and joy of heart ... the devil flees before the sound of music almost as much as before the Word of God.

—Martin Luther

## SEASONS OF CHANGE, SIGNS OF GRACE



“While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease” (Genesis 8:22, NASB).

As autumn begins, we watch the world transform before our eyes. Leaves change color, the air turns crisp, and a new rhythm settles in. In these seasonal shifts, we are reminded of God’s faithful hand over all of creation.

Genesis 8:22 assures us that the cycles of nature—seedtime and harvest, summer and winter—are part of God’s ongoing promise. Each season speaks of His order, care, and presence. Autumn, in particular, invites reflection. Just as the trees release their leaves, we are called to let go of what no longer serves us and make space for renewal.

This season also marks a return to routines—school schedules, church programs, and community events. As we step into new responsibilities or revisit familiar ones, may we do so with gratitude and trust. God is not only present in the harvest but in the quiet letting go.

Let this autumn be a time to embrace God’s steady rhythm, find beauty in change, and rest in His faithful promises that never cease—even as the world around us shifts.

# Puzzle!

Use the words provided to complete the puzzle.  
Then write the numbered words in the correct blanks  
below to complete Psalm 67:6, NIV.

## WORDS:

GOD, BLESSES, HARVEST,  
YIELDS, US, LAND

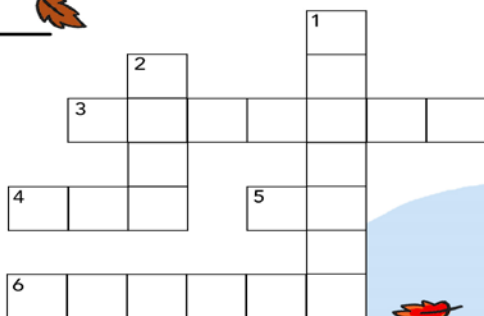


## ACROSS

3. Rhymes with farthest.
4. Rhymes with nod.
5. Rhymes with thus.
6. Rhymes with fields.

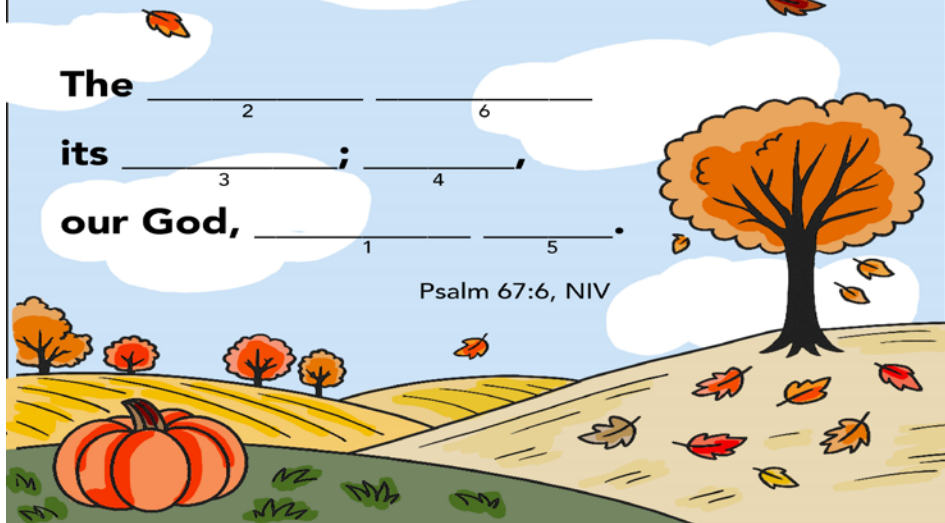
## DOWN

1. Rhymes with messes.
2. Rhymes with hand.



The \_\_\_\_\_  
its \_\_\_\_\_ ; \_\_\_\_\_  
our God, \_\_\_\_\_.

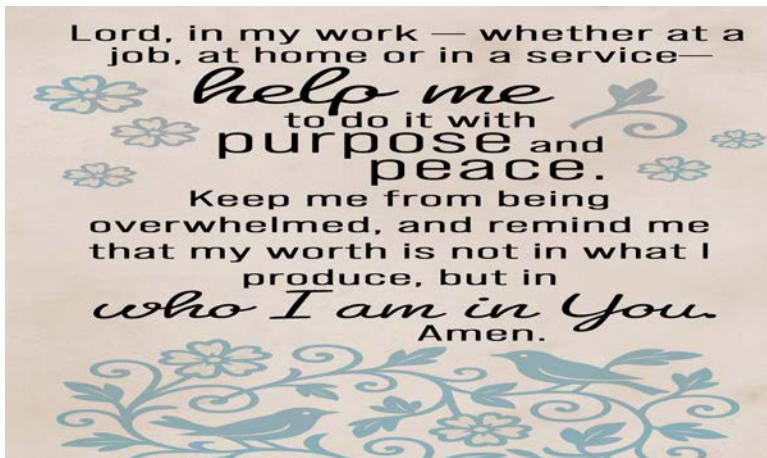
Psalm 67:6, NIV



Answer: The land yields its harvest; God, our God, blesses us. Psalm 67:6, NIV

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT  
NEWSLETTER IS  
SEPTEMBER 14, 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@stpaulsbbville.org](mailto:office@stpaulsbbville.org)  
Website: [www.stpaulsbbville.org](http://www.stpaulsbbville.org)**

**STAFF**

Interim Pastor.....The Rev. Ginny Goodwin  
Organist/Choir Director ..... Ms. Judy Noll  
Handbell Director..... Mr. Richard Steltz  
Parish Secretary ..... Mrs. Cindy Krasnansky

# September 2025 St. Paul's Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																										
	<b>1</b> <b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b>  <b>LABOR DAY</b>	2	<b>3</b> 7:00 p.m.-Council	<b>4</b> 9:30 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	5	6																																										
<b>7 THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</b> 9:00 a.m.-Worship 10:30 a.m.-Worship 	<b>8</b> 10:00 a.m.-Bible Study	9	<b>10</b> 6:30 p.m.-Coalition Of Manufactured Homes Meeting	<b>11</b> 9:30 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir 	<b>12</b> 6:00 p.m.-Pizza 7:00 p.m.-Movie	<b>13</b> 10:00 a.m.-Gardening Day																																										
<b>14 FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</b> 9:00 a.m.-Worship 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 9:15 a.m.-Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m.-Worship 12:00 p.m.-Clothing Sorting At Zion Lehigh & Celebration Dinner <b>NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE</b>	<b>15</b> 10:00 a.m.-Bible Study	<b>16</b> 1:30 p.m.-Plarn Session	<b>17</b> 9:30 a.m.-W-ELCA 6:30 p.m.-Haafsville Board Meeting	<b>18</b> 9:30 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 10:00 a.m.-Gardening Day (Rain Date)																																										
<b>21 FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</b> 9:00 a.m.-Worship 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 9:15 a.m.-Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m.-Worship	<b>22</b> 10:00 a.m.-Bible Study 1:00 p.m.-Worship & Music Committee 	23	24	<b>25</b> 9:30 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	26	27																																										
<b>28 SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</b> 9:00 a.m.-Worship 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 9:15 a.m.-Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m.-Worship	<b>29</b> 10:00 a.m.-Bible Study	30				<b>October 2025</b> <table> <tr> <td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr> <td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr> <td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr> <td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr> <td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td></tr> </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

**September 2025**

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, September 7, 2025**

**9:00AM**

No Assistants

**10:30AM**

**Ushers:** Jennifer Bentsen, Peggy Saylor

**Altar Guild:** Rosemary Lehman

**Communion Asst:** Tom Kellogg

**Communion Bread:** Tom & June Kellogg

**Greeter:** Vanessa Eiswerth

**Lay Asst:** Daisy Pearson

**Reader:** Cal Fetherolf

### **Sunday, September 21, 2025**

**9:00AM**

No Assistants

**10:30AM**

**Ushers:** Andrew Bruchak, Bob Bruchak

**Altar Guild:** Janine Ritter

**Communion Asst:** Sandi Wagaman

**Communion Bread:** Bruce & Sandi Wagaman

**Greeter:** Mary Schneider

**Lay Asst:** Dick Steltz

**Reader:** Jennifer Bentsen

### **Sunday, September 14, 2025**

**9:00AM**

No Assistants

**10:30AM**

**Ushers:** Zack Dimovitz, Carl Seibert

**Altar Guild:** Amy Williams

**Communion Asst:** Anita Eisenhard

**Communion Bread:** Dorothy O'Connors

**Greeter:** Carl & Esther Seibert

**Lay Asst:** Lacey Edwards

**Reader:** June Kellogg

### **Sunday, September 28, 2025**

**9:00AM**

No Assistants

**10:30AM**

**Ushers:** Rosie Gallagher, Madeline MacMechan

**Altar Guild:** Steph Wagaman

**Communion Asst:** Dick Steltz

**Communion Bread:** Melanie Dimovitz

**Greeter:** Rosie Gallagher

**Lay Asst:** Bob Bruchak

**Reader:** Martine Otto



# NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## Spirit-Led Summers at Bear Creek Camp

*Written by: Stacey Burke, Communications and BCC NEPA Synod Representative*

"I'm always struck by the simple but profound technologies that camp employs to build healthy, loving, Christ-centered community: silly songs and deep conversations, skits and games, shared meals and rituals." These words from Pastor Inge Williams of Friedens Lutheran in Shartlesville, a 2025 summer chaplain at Bear Creek Camp, reflect the deep joy and quiet transformation that unfold in the woods each season.

*All Together* was the theme this summer, focusing on growing stronger through love and service, grace-filled faith, and belonging and community. Pastor Inge witnessed this connection firsthand early in the summer

when she served as one of the camp chaplains during Family Camp. Pastor Inge shared, "On one of the first nights, I saw one of the former youth Synod Council representatives, now serving as a counselor this summer, give a high five to a toddler from Ireland who was running all over the field during a kickball game. The kindness and connection across ages, and even international borders, really exemplified what Family Camp is about."

While chapel time and worship services are typically led by the young adult summer staff, camp chaplains provide spiritual support throughout the week, leading devotions and Bible studies for campers and staff. They offer encouragement, listening ears, and join in the fun that camp has to offer. Throughout the summer, three Northeastern PA Synod pastors brought their time, energy, and Spirit-led presence to Bear Creek Camp as chaplains. Pastor Inge Williams and Pastor Jennifer Heavner of Star of Bethlehem Lutheran Church served during Family Camp, while Pastor Liz Koerner of St. John Lutheran in Stroudsburg closed out the season as chaplain during the final week.

The partnership with Bear Creek Camp, shared with the Southeastern PA Synod, is especially meaningful to our synod, as the values of camp and synod closely align. Both are deeply committed to building relationships and belonging across congregations, generations, and diverse communities. As synod, we continue to search for ways to raise leaders who serve with compassion, creativity, and courage in the church and the world, which is why our partnership with Bear Creek Camp is so important. It is prioritizing youth and allowing them space to search for ways to serve others as a natural response to God's love.



Serving others was the theme of one of Pastor Liz's Bible studies during her week as chaplain. When she met with the Junior campers (grades 2-4), she asked how they might take the ways they serve others at camp and apply them at home and in their school communities. Helping others at camp can seem second nature, especially after a full week of being together. However, campers are not only learning how to be kind to one another. They are learning life skills that will stay with them long after the week ends.

Throughout the week, they are learning how to be confident and independent through overnight tent camping experiences. They are learning about teamwork and communication as they encourage each other on high rope activities. They grow spiritually through the guidance of our chaplains, who are a daily presence within the camp schedule and help shape campers' understanding of faith and their connection to God.

We are extremely grateful for the passion and dedication of Pastor Inge, Pastor Jennifer, and Pastor Liz, who devoted their time this past summer, and for the ongoing work of Bear Creek Camp as it builds inclusive community, nurtures faith, and develops leaders who carry their experiences into the world with empathy, joy, and purpose. This certainly could not be accomplished without the hardworking, compassionate summer staff and the leadership of Executive Director Collin Grooms, Program Director Kallie Handlong, and all the other camp leaders who contribute and put youth first.

Camp doesn't end when the summer does. In addition to summer camp, Bear Creek Camp offers retreats and camps outside of the summer timeframe including the upcoming Labor Day Family Camp, Fall Women's Retreat, and Winter Camp. The camp is also open to hosting congregations, committees, or organizational retreats through their facility rentals. All this information and more can be found at [bearcreekcamp.org](https://bearcreekcamp.org). All together, Bear Creek Camp and our synod continue to walk hand in hand, creating space for love, service, and faith to flourish in every season.



**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). Looking to give to Bear Creek Camp directly? Visit [bearcreekcamp.org](https://bearcreekcamp.org)

# REGISTRATION IS OPEN



## 5K TRAIL RUN & WALK

@BEAR CREEK CAMP  
9/27/25  
**BECOME A SPONSOR!**

[bearcreekcamp.org/5k](https://bearcreekcamp.org/5k)

This family-friendly BCC event is open to all ages, and every step you take helps support our amazing campers.

**Make an Even BIGGER Difference  
by Becoming a 5K Sponsor!**

Whether you're a business, family, or individual, your tax-exempt gift directly supports our camp programming and resources.

VOLUME 30  
ISSUE 8  
September  
2025

 **Lehigh Mission District**  
NEWSLETTER

The Rev. Thomas D. Busteed, Dean  
The Rev. Jean L. Huber, Assoc. of the Bishop,  
Mission District Chair  
Linda Gery, Newsletter Editor

610-966-3834  
610-704-5133  
TBD  
610-395-5535

**LMD Rostered  
Ministers Gathering**  
September 10, 2025  
at 10:30 AM  
at The Lutheran Center  
(2354 Grove Road,  
Allentown)

Topic: What is a Mission  
District?—A candid  
conversation about our  
past and our future.

Moderated by LMD Dean:  
Rev. Thomas D. Busteed

*This event is free of charge  
and open to all pastors,  
deacons, and lay ministers  
serving congregations or  
affiliated ministries of the  
Lehigh Mission District.*

### We've moved!

Our new address is:  
Lehigh Mission District  
(or "LMD")  
PO Box 10  
Old Zionsville, PA 18068

Thank you to all our  
congregations who continue  
to regularly support the  
mission district in your  
benevolence giving!

### LMD Treasurer

Thanks to Fred Wuertele  
for volunteering to serve  
in this role for the year.



October 2025 LMD NL news  
will be due September 15, 2025.

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

## “Ohne Verdienst” part 2

Our ancestors eventually adopted the English language as the primary language for worship and preaching. This transition started all the way back in the 1740s when our ancestors began interacting with the English-speaking settlers of the Quaker colony called Penn's Woods, more commonly known as Pennsylvania. English was always the language of the wealthy and ruling class, especially as the original 13 colonies rebelled against King George III and wrote our nation's founding documents in English. Our German ancestors were divided in their allegiance: some remained loyal to the English Crown and others sided with the colonists. Zion's founding pastor, Rev. Henry Melchior Muhlenberg had to tread a very fine line in politics, eventually siding with the colonists because he thought that they would win. If he sided with the wrong side, perhaps our ancestors would have been sent back to Germany, or imprisoned, or some other less than ideal fate.

Muhlenberg started bilingual services in Trappe all the way back in the 18th century. He wanted Lutheran hymns, catechisms, and other Lutheran documents translated into English for the sake of the young people born in this country, but there's always been a resistance to progress in Lutheranism for some reason. Our ancestors were afraid that if you tried to translate Lutheran theology into English that you would lose something in translation. To some extent this is true.

Take for example the Reformation Day text from Romans. We read that God's grace is a free gift given to us by a gracious and loving God. This is still true. However, if you look at Luther's translation of Romans 3:24 you will not see the German word for 'gift.' Instead, Luther used the word 'Verdienst' which translates to 'merit.' Verse 24 reads: "und werden ohne Verdienst gerecht aus seiner Gnade durch die Erlösung, so durch Jesum Christum geschehen ist" (Translation: "and are justified without merit by his grace through the redemption that happened through Jesus Christ"). 'Ohne Verdienst' is the key phrase here. It means without merit. The old medieval system of penance assumed that after you confess your sin, you would receive absolution from the priest, and then the priest would assign you 'satisfaction' or 'penance'. Perhaps it would be as simple as reciting ten Hail Marys, or perhaps it was going on a pilgrimage to some sacred place. Whatever it was, our Christian ancestors believed that God's forgiveness required a contracted response on our part so that we would merit such grace. If we weren't truly sorry, or we lacked in keeping our end of the bargain, our salvation was in question. You can imagine how much of a revelation it was for Luther to be reading the original Greek text of Romans and coming to the insight that our salvation is "ohne Verdienst" (without our merit). Salvation happens through Christ alone. We don't earn or merit it. ...to be continued.

The Rev. Thomas D. Busteed, Dean

## CHRISTMAS INGATHERING

Wed., December 3, 2025  
at St. John's Lutheran Church  
(501 Chestnut St, Emmaus)

### Planning Meeting:

September 10, 2025 at 7 PM  
at St. John's Lutheran Church  
(501 Chestnut St, Emmaus)

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

## OPERATION SUNSHINE

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

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

Paula & Dick Skelly,  
Co-Trip Coordinators



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](http://www.LMDopsunshine.com)

**Many of the shows are close to sold out or only a few seats remaining, so don't wait!!!**

*If you are interested, we encourage you to put your name on a wait list for any of the sold-out trips.*

Please see the website or attached newsletter for details.

### St. Francis Day Animal Blessing and Fire Pit Fellowship

**When:** Saturday, Oct 4<sup>th</sup> 6-8 pm  
(raindate: Oct 11<sup>th</sup>)

**Where:** Parking Lot of Zion's Lutheran,  
Old Zionsville

**What:** Join us as we commemorate St. Francis of Assisi's feast day with a gathering celebrating God's creation. We'll say a few prayers and sing a few songs and then roast a few marshmallows together. Pets on leashes/harnesses are welcome to come for a spoken blessing. Bring a lawn chair and a blanket, and your favorite sticks for roasting marshmallows.



### Fall Basket Social

St. John's Lutheran Church  
(1028 Church Street, Fogelsville)  
Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> 6:00 - 8:00 pm  
Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup> 10:00 pm - 2:00 pm

*Please see the attached flyer for details.*

### 2025 Basket & Gift Card Social

Trinity Memorial Lutheran Church  
(535 W. Emaus Avenue, Allentown)  
Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am- 4:00 pm  
Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup> 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm

*Please see the attached flyer for details.*

In celebration of NOAH's 30th anniversary season, Sight & Sound® is broadcasting **LIVE** into movie theaters nationwide!

While the original plan was to set sail Labor Day weekend, even epic journeys are subject to delays. So, we've charted a new course! NOAH—Live! will make its way to a movie theater near you, starting September 18th! Filmed in front of a live audience, this special 30th anniversary celebration invites you to gather your crew two by two and join us on board the ark as NOAH goes from the big stage to the big screen.

For tickets or more info: [www.noahevent.com](http://www.noahevent.com)

### Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser to benefit The Kindness Project

Serving pancakes with syrup, sausage links, orange juice, coffee, tea or milk.

**Date:** Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 8 am to 11 am

**Place:** Grace Lutheran Church-Fellowship Hall (28 West Main Street, Macungie)  
610 966-3325

**Cost:** \$10.00 for adults and kids 11 and older;  
\$5.00 for kids under 10; kids under 2 eat free



Is God calling YOU to help the 2025 Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk as it supports the Lehigh Conference of Churches Kitchen, the Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank, and Church World Service in bringing help and hope to our neighbors facing food insecurity due to poverty, homelessness, and natural and human-made disasters?

LIKE us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/AllentownCROPWalk/>

The CROP Hunger Walk is a great **INTERGENERATIONAL FELLOWSHIP AND SERVICE EVENT** for families, youth groups, adult groups, businesses, organizations, and congregations.

### Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk:

**Sunday, 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)

**\*\*If you plan to be a WALKER:**  
Please **REGISTER\*\***

**\*\*If you are a TEAM LEADER:**  
Please **REGISTER** your **TEAM\*\***  
at [www.crophungerwalk.org/allentownpa](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/allentownpa)

**\*\*EVERYONE:** Please **DONATE**,  
and **DISTRIBUTE** attached Walker/Donor  
and Sponsorship **BROCHURES\*\***

Walkers who raise **\$150 or more by 10/19/25**  
earn a **FREE T-SHIRT**.

T-shirts will also be available for purchase.

**TWO ROUTES** from which walkers may  
choose: a 10K route and a "Golden Mile" route.

**A Big CROP Thank You!**



1987

2022

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



## OPERATION SUNSHINE

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

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

## 2025 JULY TO DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

### DAY TRIP CANCELLATION POLICY:

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

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

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

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**WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO ADD YOUR NAME TO OUR WAIT LISTED TRIPS AS WE OFTEN HAVE TRAVELERS CANCEL DUE TO UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES.**

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### **\*\*DAY TRIPS\*\***

#### **September 11, 2025 (Thur.) – Magic & Wonder – IMAGINARIUM - Seats are Still Available**

Go as far as imagination can take you in this **variety magic show!** Experience wonder as illusionist Brett Myers takes audiences to a larger-than-life-circus, the whimsy of Wonka, the glamour of Hollywood, and the curiosities of a Steampunk era. Your eyes will witness the impossible as people appear, disappear, and fly. All ages enjoy the wonder of this new show infused with grand-scale illusions, comedy, and variety arts. Imaginarium was awarded The Merlin Award by The International Magicians' Society as the 2021 Best Magic and Variety Show. Buffet Lunch provided at the venue prior to the show.

**Bus Leaves St. Timothy's at 10:45 AM – Return approx. 5:30 PM**

**Cost \$120**

**Payment Deadline: Thurs. Aug. 14, 2025**

Follow a group of Broadway dancers on this heart-pounding, nail-biting, ensemble audition. As the competition heats up, the director asks each performer to share about themselves and what influenced their decision to become dancers. Watch as their individual lives transform them into *A Chorus Line*! Enjoy Dutch Apple's delicious buffet lunch and their fabulous dessert selections before the show.

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

**Cost \$120                      Payment Deadline: Thurs. Sept. 18, 2025**

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**November 6, 2025 (Thurs.) – Li Greci's (Staten Island, NY) – AMERICAN BANDSTAND TRIBUTE & DANCE PARTY-WAITLIST ONLY**

New venue, but the same great shows as their sister location – THE SHORE CLUB in New Jersey. Listen to the music of the All-Star Band and dance the day away to the song and dance crazes of The Dick Clark style and era; The Twist, The Limbo, The Mashed Potatoes, The Locomotion. All that plus a great comedian. Enjoy a **FREE HAPPY HOUR** prior to the show, plus free wine and beer (plus coffee, tea or soda) during lunch. Please choose from the following entree items and **advise us of your choice at the time of booking.**

**SIRLOIN OF BEEF or, CHICKEN PARMESAN or FILET OF SOLE**

**Bus Leaves St. Timothy's at 9:15 AM – Return approx. 5:30 PM**

**Cost \$125                      Payment Deadline: Thurs. Oct. 2, 2025**

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**December 11, 2025 (Thurs) – American Music Theatre – DECK THE HALLS CHRISTMAS SHOW**

**WAITLIST ONLY**

Check in at the decked-out St. Nicholas Hotel where we find our dashing dancers and merry musicians ready to "Deck the Halls!" Bubbly Bubbly bellhops and glittery guests make merriment in preparation for a visit from Old Saint Nick. This musical holiday adventure brings together friends old and new to celebrate the season with awe-inspiring performances designed to capture the hearts of the entire family. Buffet Lunch at the Eden Resort prior to the 3 PM show.

**Bus Leaves St. Timothy's at 10:45 AM – Return approx. 6:30 PM**

**Cost \$130                      Payment Deadline: Thurs. Nov. 6, 2025**

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**\*\*MULTI-DAY TRIP\*\***

**\*\*TRIP INSURANCE AVAILABLE AND SUGGESTED FOR ALL MULTI-DAY TRIPS\*\***

For flyers with the full itinerary and trip insurance information, please contact the office at 610-435-9155.

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**WAITING LIST ONLY**

**VERMONT AND NEW HAMPSHIRE – THE HILLS ARE ALIVE – Aug 22 – Aug 26, 2025 (5 DAYS-4 NIGHTS)**

Includes Luncheon at the Trapp Family Lodge, Dinner aboard the Winnepesaukee Scenic Railroad, Tour of Ben and Jerry's, Tour of Cabot Cheese, Cruise on Squam Lake, Loon Mountain Gondola Ride, Franconia Notch Visitor Center, and Much More! (4 Breakfasts, 2 Lunches, 3 Dinners, 2 Welcome Receptions – one in Vermont, one in New Hampshire).

**\$1200 PP BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY**

**\$1450 BASED ON SINGLE OCCUPANCY**

**A \$100 PER PERSON IS DUE AT TIME OF BOOKING**

**FINAL PAYMENT DUE JUNE 19, 2025**

*St. John's Lutheran Church invites you to our*

# FALL BASKET SOCIAL



***Preview Night: October 3, 2025 from 6 - 8 PM***  
***Event on October 4, 2025 from 10 AM - 2 PM***

Tickets may be purchased/placed BOTH days! Ticket pricing:  
1 sheet/\$10, 2 sheets/\$20, 3 sheets/\$25 (1 sheet = 25 tickets)  
*Winners will be drawn at the end of the event and contacted by phone.*



*50+ gift cards to win*



*Over 100 baskets to win*



*Take out food on the 4th*

**1028 Church Street, Fogelsville PA 18051**

**[www.stjohns-fogelsville.org](http://www.stjohns-fogelsville.org)**  
**610-395-5535**





## 2025 Basket & Gift Card Social

Trinity Memorial Lutheran Church  
535 W. Emaus Avenue  
Allentown Pa 18103

Saturday October 25<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday October 26<sup>th</sup> 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$5.00 for a sheet of 26 chances  
If you purchase tickets before October 25<sup>th</sup>  
5 sheets for \$20.00 (a \$5.00 savings)

We will have over 250 baskets and gift cards.  
Again, this year there will be a variety of **childrens' baskets**. If you bring your child, 10 or under to the Social they will receive a **Free** ticket for bidding on the **Kid Zone baskets**.

We also will be having a drawing for a special super Household Basket. For each nonperishable food item you bring you will be given a ticket for this drawing. The food will be going to our Blessing Box.

We will have baked goods, snacks, cabbage & noodles, homemade turkey BBQ, hamburger BBQ, hot dogs & drinks.

There will be a drawing for an outdoor entertainment set.



For more information or to have tickets held for you at the door call the church office  
Phone #610-797-4774.

**The drawings will be on Sunday October 26<sup>th</sup>**  
**\*You will be informed by phone if you are a winner**  
**Nobody will be allowed in the building during the drawing**

Baskets will be handed out on  
Monday morning Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm  
Monday evening Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm