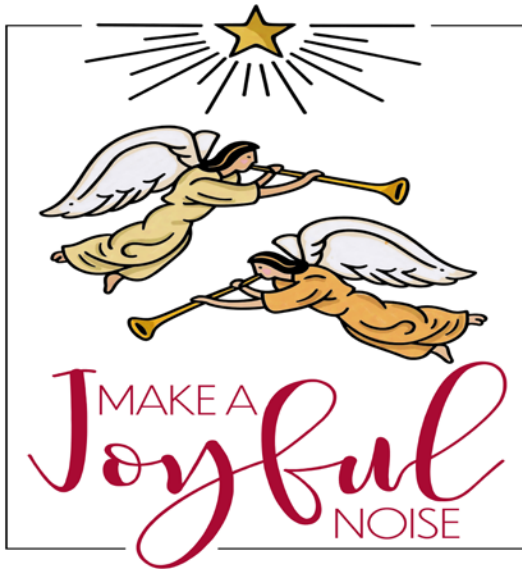


PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Breinigsville, PA

DECEMBER 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

The Pastor's Corner – HOLIDAYS ??? vs HOLYDAYS ???

“We can get together over the holidays!” How many of us have either said this or heard it?

Does it mean between Thanksgiving and Christmas or Christmas and New Years? These are the holidays we are referring to when we speak to one another. Maybe even Thanksgiving **TO** New Years. We really do intend to fit it in. Somehow. **“We can get together over the holidays!”** It wasn't meant as a shallow suggestion.

What if someone said, **“I will see you on the Holyday.”** Most of us would scratch our head trying to figure out what day are they talking about. Holyday - - h-m-m Holyday. Holyday... Christmas- Maybe ~ Easter- Possibly ~ Ash Wednesday- probably not ~ Good Friday- No.

Holidays and Holydays. Our culture has taken a sacred day, a Holy Day, and turned it into a day of festivities. BIG dinners, gifts, lavish time-consuming preparations, large ongoing family gatherings, and much more. The days before – endless busy-busy-busy – can I get it all done. And the day after? Then what? Try to re-coup the energy and money spent to pay for it all. Holy Day? Really?

How do we change our Holiday into a Holyday we can all enjoy and still celebrate it the way it was meant to be without destroying the unbridled joy and happiness, while remembering that simpler time we knew so long ago? Can we share the meaning AND include the gifts and abundance we bring to it? Will it make the day more meaningful? Or less meaningful?

Holiday or Holy Day? How will you spend your December 25th this year?

A Merry, Happy and Thoughtful Christmas, *Pastor Ginny*

WORSHIP ON DECEMBER 28, 2005

Sunday, December 28, 2025 there will only be one worship service at 10:30 a.m. There will be no Sunday School.

REVISED INSTRUCTIONS FOR RETIREMENT LUNCHEON

SAVE THE DATE!

JANUARY 4, 2026

Cindy Krasnansky is retiring after 22 years of service to St. Paul's Lutheran Church. To celebrate her and all she has done for St. Paul's and all of us, we are having a catered luncheon immediately following the 10:30am service on Sunday, January 4, 2026, in the social hall at our church.

A sign-up sheet is on the table in the Narthex. Please sign your name and the number of people attending from your family, including how many adults and how many children.

DEADLINE FOR MAKING RESERVATIONS
IS DECEMBER 15, 2025!

WHAT IS A EUCHARIST MINISTER?...

They are members of St Paul's Lutheran Church who are selected and trained in the Biblical and theological background of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. They will bring the communion meal from worship to ill and homebound members of our congregation who are unable to attend the service.

Each is now prepared to visit and administer the sacrament. They will call ahead and mostly travel in pairs whenever possible, to visit. They are: **Peggy Saylor, Sandi Wagaman, Rosemary Lehman, and Melanie Dimovitz.** Each was commissioned on Christ the King Sunday, November 23, 2025, during the second service.

It is our hope this will help you who are unable to attend worship with us to feel better connected to our Lord through receiving the consecrated elements sent out to you from St Paul's.

MONTHLY PRAYER FAMILIES

In DECEMBER we will be praying for the following families each week;

Dec 7: The Byrne Family, The Murotta Family, The Robinson Family,
The Rothermel Family

Dec14: The Otto Family, The Pavlacka Family, The Pearson Family,
The Pisauro Family

Dec 21: The Post Family, The Reichard Family, The Ritter Family,
The Sanchez Family

Dec 28: The Saylor Family, The Schlenker Family, The Schmoyer Family,
The Schneider Family

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS – NOVEMBER 2025

Council approved a 2026 budget to present to the congregation which was approved at the congregational meeting on November 16th.

Three new council members were nominated and accepted at the congregational meeting.

Sharon Bortz, George Sanchez, Dawn Wertz.

The Personnel committee updated a job description for the administrative position, interviewed several candidates, made a decision, hired Jennifer Doyle, and introduced her to council at their November 23rd council meeting.

Council has moved forward with obtaining a large screen TV by purchasing a cart to see how it will move across the rug in the sanctuary and hope to purchase the TV in early December.

Bruce Saylor brought his lightweight aluminum ramp in to access the feasibility of purchasing one for the church to use on a Sunday morning and he will now obtain the cost of a 4' and 5' aluminum ramp.

ADVENT OFFERING ENVELOPE



Enclosed in the newsletter is your Advent Offering Envelope. Extra envelopes are available in the rack at the sanctuary door.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY

The end of 2025 is almost here. In order to make sure all your contributions are posted on your Year End Giving Statement, it is important to have your 2025 contributions received in the church no later than Sunday, December 28, 2025 or if mailed, they must be postmarked by December 31, 2025. Any contributions that arrive after that, starting in January, will be posted on your 2026 giving statement.

Sandi Wagaman

WHAT IS AN OUTDOOR LIVE ACTION IMMERSION NATIVITY?

**December 18th - 21st 90-minute walk through outdoor event.
Thur. and Sun. 5, 6, 7, 8 pm ~ Fri. and Sat. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 pm
You will find yourself entering Bethlehem City 2000 years ago
called to the census by decree of the Emperor Augustus. Luke 2:1, etc.
You will find an insert within the newsletter providing you with
information as to when and where you may share in this experience.**

**It is entirely FREE. No Tickets required. Arrive 20 – 30 min. early.
DRESS WARMLY!**

Lehigh Zion Cemetery Association Treasurer Wanted

Lehigh Zion Cemetery Association is looking for a treasurer.
Please see Sharon Bortz if you are interested and have questions.
610-398-0320 sharon.stpauls@gmail.com

LEHIGH VALLEY † OUTREACH DEPOT

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.

PRAYER SHAWL GROUP NEWS



We finished up the **Octopuses for Preemies Project**, and made **50** octopuses for St. Luke's NICU. Many thanks to our makers – Kathy Conrad, Patti Everett, Judy Noll, Daisy Pearson, Sandi

Wagaman, and Steph Wagaman. Sandi Wagaman wins the prize (a mini octopus) for knitting 19 octopuses! Stay tuned for our 2026 charity knitting/crochet project.

In addition to our yearly charity 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 Plarn group meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Note that we will **not** be meeting in December. Our **January** session will be held on **Tuesday, January 20 at 1:30PM.**

PARISH NURSING NOTES

December 2025

June Kellogg RN

Holidays can be an exciting time, a sad time, a stressful time and a very spiritual time. There are many things that can elevate our blood pressure and stress level during holidays. Loneliness or missing loved ones, family dynamics, overscheduling our time, financial stress, and the pressure to be festive. It's important to take time out to pause and take care of yourself. Doing so can include using breathing techniques to calm down. An example of this could be to breathe in for 4 seconds then breathe out slowly for 6 seconds. You can also sit with a cup of tea, do some stretching or go for a walk. Do this until you feel calmer and more in control. Simply acknowledging that you are feeling overwhelmed or anxious can help as well.

It's easy to use food for comfort, and then to feel poorly after overeating. Aiming for 80% healthy foods and 20% favorite foods can help. Enjoy your favorite treats slowly, mindfully and with pleasure. A stable blood sugar helps promote a more relaxed state of mind. Short breaks from holiday preparations can also reduce your stress level. Having a non-food "comfort menu" also helps. You could take a warm shower, call a friend, light a candle and listen to some of your favorite music, or take a walk. Some faith based strategies include prayer, practicing gratitude, helping others, connecting with your church community, attending worship services and listening to music and engaging in activities that you enjoy. Hoping you have a Blessed Christmas and a Merry Healthy Year to come!

TOPS HAS CHANGED THEIR NAME

TOPS, the group that meets here on Thursday has changed their name and format. They are now, AMAZING WOMENS SENIOR GROUP.

Their purpose is Living Our Best Lives and Encouraging Women To Be Their Best As We Age.

Meetings are Thursday Mornings 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Join them and make new friends.

WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH [WELCA]

Our monthly meeting was held on Wednesday, November 12, 2025.

- Our Bible study was *Money, stewardship and generosity* Session three *Generosity: There's a wideness in God's mercy* by Christa Von Zychlin which was considering God's generosity and how we can reflect that generosity.

Plans were made for our Sunday, January 11, 2026, Soup and Sandwich Luncheon after the 10:30 a.m. worship service. After lunch, Judith Wanfried will speak on bookends of Jesus life with Mary - Madonna and Pieta.

Thank you to everyone that collected items for the Lehigh Mission District December In-gathering and filled the requests from the names given to the church. Anyone is welcome to join us on December 1st after Bible Study to help in sorting the donated items.

ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED TO THESE EVENTS

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

- The Flame should be mailed and emailed in January.
- Spring Justice Event, April 11, 2026, Hope Cherryville and topic to be decided in the near future.
- 36th 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, December 10, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.



Thank you to all the volunteers who help with the worship services, choirs, committees, scheduling, running errands, trash and recycling, kitchen and staff. You all do so much and you need a **THANK YOU**. A lot of this helps to make my job easier. Thank you to Sharon for all her help through the year. I don't know what I would do without her. Everyone, have a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.
Cindy

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 Lehigh Valley Creeks.

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.

CHRISTMAS PRAYER: THE TRUE GIFT

Dear Lord,

You have brought us to Christmastime once more. Help us not to get lost in the glitter and the glow, but to see the true glory of the birth of Your only begotten Son. Keep our hearts from clinging too tightly to parties, presents and decorations, and turn our eyes instead to Christ — who bears Your very image and brings us Your message of love and hope.

In the glorious name of Christ, we pray. Amen.



ALTAR GUILD, COMMUNION ASSISTANTS AND READERS ARE NEEDED



We are in need of people to help with the 10:30AM worship service – specifically Altar Guild, Communion Assistants, and Readers.

For Altar Guild, you would serve approximately every 6 weeks. Altar Guild is responsible for coming to church a half hour early and setting up the altar for communion – i.e. placing

the linens, wine, and grape juice on the altar, preparing the bread, and placing trays of communion cups in the sanctuary. At the end of service, Altar Guild removes everything from the altar, including fresh flower bouquets, waters them, washes the communion-ware and puts it away. You would be working with another Altar Guild member until you feel comfortable.

As a Communion Assistant, you would serve approximately every 6 weeks. Communion Assistants assist during communion –usually pouring the grape juice while the lay assistant handles the wine.

As Reader, again, you would serve every 6 weeks by reading the lessons during the service. Readers are asked to move toward the mic during the last verse of the hymn, so they are already in place when it is time to read the lessons.

Currently, many of our lay assistants are serving triple duty and are scheduled multiple times a month - because there are not enough readers and communion assistants. Please consider helping out in one of these roles. 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 to assist in worship. If you are interested in helping, please contact Steph Wagaman at 610-395-0355, stepbillwagaman@rcn.com; or call the church office at 610-398-7000.

Camerata Singers

If you are looking for something festive to do in preparation for Christmas please come to the PA Camerata Singers winter concert titled “A British Christmas”.

We will be performing music by 3 British composers:

- Ceremony of Carols by Benjamin Britten for chorus and harp
- Christmas Day by Gustav Holst for chorus and organ
- Fantasia on Christmas Carols by Ralph Vaughn Williams for baritone soloist, cello solo, chorus and organ

There will also be a few selections from Handel’s Messiah. We will wrap up with the audience participating in a few familiar carols.

We have been rehearsing since September and I think this will be an amazing concert.

Date: December 20 at 3:00pm

Location: Christ Lutheran Church 1245 Hamilton Street, Allentown.

If you are interested in purchasing tickets please contact me; Cathy Waltemyer at mom3mrg@gmail.com, or talk to me after church.

OR: You can purchase tickets online at: pacameratasingers.org

Online ticket pricing:

General Admission is \$30 + service fee.**

Senior Admission is \$25 + service fee.**

*Free entry for Students

**Service Fee is the processing fee just like ordering tickets from Ticket Master.

OR: Tickets for The Camerata Singers concerts may also be purchased by calling the PSO Ticket Office at (610) 434-7811.

Office hours are Monday through Friday, 10:00am to 5:00pm.

Ticket Prices through the PSO Ticket Office:

\$30 - General Admission

\$25 - General Admission Senior

\$20 - Group Rate (must purchase 10+ tickets)

SIGN-UP SHEETS FOR 2026

BULLETIN & ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORSHIPS

We are in need of bulletin sponsorships for 2026. 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.

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS FROM THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

December 14 – Potluck

December 19 – Pizza & Movie Night

December 24 – Worship services

Family Service at 4:30 p.m. Prelude starts at 4:00 p.m.

Festival Service at 7:00 p.m. Prelude starts at 6:30 p.m.

	3 Melanie Dimovitz 6 Amy Mutis 7 Andrew Bruchak 8 Calvin Fetherolf 11 Betty Marchetti 12 Heather Sedlak 13 Mark Strauss	16 Marion Reichard 17 Margaret Stoudt 19 Frank Bennighoff 25 Mary Ann Spengler 29 Carol Derr-Breinig 30 Richard Sicher
	11 Jerry & Heather Sedlak 19 Patrick & Sommer Cope	

THANK YOU

A thank you letter was received from the Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank for our generous donation of 173 pounds of essential items, delivered on 10/30/25.



POINSETTIA — This shrub, native to Mexico, is at the heart of legend about a poor girl who wanted to bring Baby Jesus a gift one Christmas Eve. As she walked to church, she gathered a bouquet of weeds — which Jesus miraculously transformed into lovely red flowers. Thus the poinsettia (named for Joel Poinsett, the U.S. ambassador to Mexico who first brought the plant to America) is known in Mexico as la flor de la Nochebuena (flower of the Holy Night). The poinsettia is also an ideal Christmas symbol because its leaves turn red when deprived of sunlight and its flowers (the red inner buds) bloom in December.

HIS MANY NAMES, OUR GREAT HOPE

Long before the manger in Bethlehem, the prophet Isaiah pointed God's people to the promise of a Savior. In Isaiah 9:6 (NIV) we read: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Even before Jesus' birth, his names revealed who he is and what he would bring. Each title carries a promise that still impacts our lives today.

- **Wonderful Counselor.** Jesus brings wisdom and guidance for every situation. In moments of confusion, we can lean on him to direct our steps with love and truth.
- **Mighty God.** He is strong enough to carry our burdens and powerful enough to overcome sin, fear and death itself.
- **Everlasting Father.** Jesus reflects the heart of God the Father, offering care that is constant and unchanging. His love doesn't fade with time or circumstance.
- **Prince of Peace.** In a world filled with turmoil, Jesus offers a peace that goes deeper than circumstances, a peace that guards our hearts and minds.

At Christmas, we celebrate more than a baby's birth. We celebrate the fulfillment of God's promise, a Savior with many names. Each one reminds us of his eternal love and presence. This season, let his names bring you comfort, strength and peace.

Puzzle!

The Christmas Story

Unscramble each set of letters to form a word from the Christmas story. One letter in each set doesn't belong. Write each extra letter below, on the line above the correct number. Then answer the question: What did we all receive at Christmas?

- (1) TGLBEHHEME _____
- (2) NEAGLO _____
- (3) NRMEDAG _____
- (4) ODEKSNY _____
- (5) AMGYR _____
- (6) OHESJIP _____
- (7) EFJSUS _____
- (8) ITEENMSW _____
- (9) SPHHDSREEO _____
- (10) EMCFAL _____
- (11) TLSRA _____
- (12) CSSNUEO _____
- (13) HEVSPE _____
- (14) ENIN _____



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
				9	10	11	12
				13	14		

Answers: Bethlehem (G), Angel (O), Manger (D), Donkey (S), Mary (G), Joseph (I), Jesus (F), Wise men (T), Shepherds (O), Camel (F), Star (L), Census (O), Sheep (V), Inn (E); God's gift of love

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT
NEWSLETTER IS
DECEMBER 14, 2025**

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

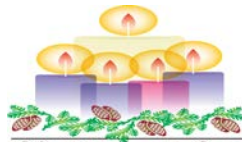


**CHURCH OFFICE: 610-398-7000
HOSPITAL CODE: #321
HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE
EMAIL: office@stpaulsbbville.org
Website: www.stpaulsbbville.org**

STAFF

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

December 2025 St. Paul's Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																	
	1 10:00 a.m.-Bible Study 1:00 p.m.-Worship & Music Committee Mtg.	2	3 9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.-Deliver Lehigh Mission District Christmas Ingathering Items To St. John's Lutheran, Emmaus	4 9:30 a.m.-Amazing Womens Seniors Group 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	5	6																																																	
7 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:00 a.m.-Worship 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 9:15 a.m.-Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m.-Worship	8 10:00 a.m.-Bible Study	9	10 9:30 a.m.-W-ELCA	11 9:30 a.m.-Amazing Womens Seniors Group 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	12	13																																																	
14 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:00 a.m.-Worship 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 9:15 a.m.-Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m.-Worship 11:30 a.m.-Potluck Lunch	15 10:00 a.m.-Bible Study	16 1:30 p.m.-Plarn Session	17 6:30 p.m.-Haafsville Board Meeting	18 9:30 a.m.-Amazing Womens Seniors Group 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	19 6:00 p.m.-Pizza 7:00 p.m.-Movie	20																																																	
21 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:00 a.m.-Worship 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 9:15 a.m.-Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m.-Worship 11:30 a.m.-Council	22 10:00 a.m.-Bible Study	23	24  <i>Christmas Eve</i> 4:30 p.m.-Family Service 7:00 p.m.-Festival Service (Prelude Music Starts A Half Hour Before Each Service)	25 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 	26	27																																																	
28 FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS 10:30 a.m.-Worship-Lessons & Carols NO 9:00 A.M. WORSHIP OR SUNDAY SCHOOL OR CONFIRMATION CLASS	29 10:00 a.m.-Bible Study	30	31 			<table border="1"> <tr> <th colspan="7">January 2026</th></tr> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td>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> </table>	January 2026							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

December 2025

If you cannot fulfill an assigned duty, please call the church office at 610-398-7000 or the Council Persons of the Month – Jennifer Bentsen 484-226-5227 / Judy Walker 610-573-7117

Sunday, December 7, 2025

9:00AM

No Assistants

10:30AM

Ushers: Zack Dimovitz, Amy Williams

Altar Guild: Janine Ritter

Communion Asst: Lacey Edwards

Communion Bread: Dorothy O'Connors

Greeter: Mary Schneider

Lay Asst: Sharon Bortz

Reader: Martine Otto

Sunday, December 14, 2025

9:00 AM

No Assistants

10:30AM

Ushers: Frank Bennighoff, Peggy Saylor

Altar Guild: Rosemary Lehman

Communion Asst: Sharon Bortz

Communion Bread: Melanie Dimovitz

Greeter: Melanie Dimovitz

Lay Asst: Bob Bruchak

Reader: Dick Steltz

Sunday, December 21, 2025

9:00 AM

No Assistants

10:30AM

Ushers: Andrew Bruchak, Bob Bruchak

Altar Guild: Jennifer Bentsen

Communion Asst: Bob Bruchak

Communion Bread: Helen Post

Greeter: Rosie Gallagher

Lay Asst: Daisy Pearson

Reader: Cal Fetherolf

Wednesday, December 24, 2025

4:30PM

Ushers: Carl Seibert, Judy Walker

Altar Guild: Esther Seibert

Communion Asst: Tom Kellogg

Communion Bread: Bruce & Sandi Wagaman

Greeter: Peggy Saylor

Lay Asst: Sandi Wagaman

Reader: Tom Kellogg

Wednesday, December 24, 2025

7:00PM

Ushers: Jennifer Bentsen, Ken Ritter

Altar Guild: Janine Ritter

Communion Asst: Dick Steltz

Communion Bread: Ken & Janine Ritter

Greeter: Ken Ritter

Lay Asst: Sharon Bortz

Reader: Daisy Pearson

Sunday, December 28, 2025 (NO 9:00AM SERVICE)

10:30AM

Ushers: Jennifer Bentsen, Madeline MacMechan

Altar Guild: Steph Wagaman

Communion Asst: Sandi Wagaman

Communion Bread: Steph Wagaman

Greeter: Alice Bastian

Lay Asst: Rosemary Lehman

Reader: Jennifer Bentsen

HOPE
FOR ALL

Make this the Christmas your family steps into the story.

Pennsylvania's Largest Outdoor Live-Action Immersion Nativity



DECEMBER 18TH - 21ST
- 4 NIGHTS ONLY

LIVING HOPE
COMMUNITY CHURCH,
DUBLIN, PA

FREE OUTDOOR EVENT
- NO TICKETS REQUIRED

50-MINUTE OUTDOOR
WALK-THROUGH DRAMA
- SCENE BY SCENE



SHOWTIMES

Thursday: 5pm, 6pm, 7pm, 8pm

Friday: 5pm, 6pm, 7pm, 8pm, 9pm

Saturday: 5pm, 6pm, 7pm, 8pm, 9pm

Sunday: 5pm, 6pm, 7pm, 8pm

Where: Living Hope Community
Church - Dublin Campus - 22H West
Route 313, Perkasio, PA, 18944

Dress warm, head to toe
Arrive 20-30 minutes early.

Scan Below For Full Details!



Presented by





NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Growing New Communities of Faith: Updates on SAWCs, SAOMs, and Mission Leadership

Written by: Deacon Kat Tigerman, NEPS Directors for Evangelical Mission



Every year, the Synod Council re-authorizes our Synod-authorized ministries, typically in October. It is also a great opportunity to hear updates from these ministries, the people they are serving, and the stories of their communities. It is always a powerful testament to God among us – often in ways we might consider “non-traditional” – ministries made possible by our NEPA congregations’ mission support and the mission support to the ELCA.

Synod-Authorized Worshipping Communities (SAWCs for short) are communities committed to worshipping together but who may do so outside the normal “walls” of the church. A SAWC may look like a recovery worship service, dinner church, messy

church, or church on the streets. SAWCs are also communities discerning and taking steps to become formal (known as “organized”) ELCA congregations. They are led by a Mission Developer. Our NEPA Synod currently has 3 SAWCs: Common Ground in Wyomissing, Common Ground in Reading, and the Indonesian Lutheran Church of Scranton (which just became a SAWC in September!).

Synod-Authorized Outreach Ministries (SAOMs for short) are ministries committed to evangelism, outreach, and discipleship. A SAOM may look like a food truck ministry, a small group ministry, or a prison ministry. They are led by a SAOM Leader. Our NEPA Synod currently has 2 SAOMs: Free to Be in Bethlehem and Hope’s Table in Reading. Free to Be is a ministry dedicated to reaching out to moms, families, and folks in recovery by building intentional small groups on the road of faith and discipleship. Hope’s Table was initially a SAWC but is in the process of transitioning to a SAOM. While Hope’s Table continues to offer weekly worship, it is a feeding ministry which builds community and creates a safe and welcoming space for all to find the love, grace, and warmth of Jesus.

Each year, to help support these leaders and connect them to one another, the ELCA hosts a Mission Leadership Training Conference for Mission Developers, SAOM Leaders, Strategic Ministry Leaders, and key leaders of various SAWCs and SAOMs. This year Seminarian April Mulvey was invited to attend as a Mission Developer Scholarship recipient along with Deacon Kat Tigerman as DEM. 118 leaders from across



the country attended the 3-day training in Chicago the last weekend of September.

The first week of October, the Region 7 DEMs (Directors for Evangelical Mission) hosted a 2-day retreat for Mission Developers, SAOM Leaders, and other new ministry leaders. There were 35 participants across the 6 Synods of Region 7 who came together to worship, reflect, connect, learn, and pray. The Retreat was facilitated by the ELCA's Organizing for Mission who grounded the time theologically as well as provided practical on-the-ground skills and tools for these leaders are the margins and cutting edges of Church. NEPA Synod participants included:

- Rev. Lauren Applegate, Free to Be
- Seminarian April Mulvey, Hope's Table
- Rev. Tom Scornavacchi, Common Ground
- Deacon Kat Tigerman (DEM)
- Rev. Dr. Jennifer Hope-Tringali (Director for New Ministries).

Region 7 was blessed to receive an ELCA grant to help make this retreat affordable to leaders who are serving ministries on the margins. Our Director of New Ministries will be piloting a learning opportunity in early 2026 to work alongside leaders who have a new ministry idea that they want to develop into a plan of action. Interested leaders are encouraged to email Pr. Jennifer at jennifer@nepsynod.org.



Thank you for all you and your congregations do to pray for and support these leaders and these ministries across our Synod and across the country!

DID YOU KNOW that your Mission Support helps fund areas of the synod and ELCA 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.

SAWC & SAOM

godslove.org/sawc-saom

Want to learn more about the NEPA Synod's Synod-Authorized Worshipping Communities and Synod-Authorized Outreach Ministries? Visit our website for details.



VOLUME 30
ISSUE 11
December
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

2025/26 Rostered Ministers Gatherings:

Thursday, December 11
beginning at 8am
at Egner Chapel,
Muhlenberg College
Advent Eucharist Service
& breakfast
(Please RSVP for breakfast to
lehighlutherans@gmail.com)

Wednesday, January 14
10:30am at the Lutheran
Center, Rev. Dr. Jennifer
Hope-Tringali - Director of
New Ministries

Wednesday, February 18
10:30am at the Lutheran
Center, Rev. Dr. Woody
Maxon - An update on
Lutheran social services

Wednesday, March 11
10:30am at the Lutheran
Center, Rev. Dr. Roger
Timm - Reengaging ELCA
Social Teaching on Abortion

Tuesday, March 31
at the Lutheran Center
Annual Chrism Mass and
luncheon (see synod news
for updates and to RSVP)

Sunday, May 3
4pm at the Lutheran
Center, Lehigh Mission
District - Annual Spring
Assembly

Thursday, June 4 -
Saturday, June 6, 2026
at Split Rock Resort
NEPA Synod Assembly

July/August - on break.
See you in September!



*January 2026 LMD NL news
will be due December 8, 2025.*

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

“Ohne Verdienst” part 5

Being German in America always brought with it a little suspicion from our neighbors who would ask themselves: “whose side are these Germans on?” Muhlenberg treaded carefully in the American Revolution. What really changed things was World War 1 and World War 2. We have forgotten, by and large, just how strong the anti-German sentiment was in this country during those wars. Speaking German was made illegal. In the late 19th century, we had over 1,000 German newspapers being regularly published in this country. The World Wars put an end to that. American advertisers would not dare advertise in a German newspaper. Suddenly German foods such as hamburgers and hotdogs became ‘American’ foods. Even though it is against Lutheran theology to have national symbols in a worship space, American flags began appearing in our Chancels. The message was clear to our neighbors: “We’re not German. We’re American.” My Irish-Catholic father remembered when he first started dating my mother, he asked her and her family what nationality they were. My father found it humorous that all her family knew to say was that they were ‘American.’ We had forgotten any tie we had to Europe. It was as though our family history was rewritten, white paint smeared over our memories of anything having to do with who we were before the war. The more English, and the more American we became, the less our neighbors questioned who we were, and in effect, other than a persistent tradition of eating sauerkraut on New Year’s Day, we successfully blended into American society, unquestioned. But in the process, we forgot all the ways we were unique and did not blend into the culture around us. We forgot the context of the saying on Zion’s back wall: “Gebet Gott, was Gottes ist.” It reminded us of stewardship, for sure; we should give God our firstfruits, the best of our time and talents. Yet, it also reminded us that we are to be in the world but not of it. Our ancestors longed for a homeland and a reality that was always somewhere beyond where we are currently. We were like Israelites wandering in the wilderness of these Penn’s woods, in hopeful expectation of soon reaching the blessed “Heimat” or “homeland” or more commonly referred to now as the “promised land” the land flowing with milk and honey. We became so at home in American society, that we’ve in some ways lost the memory of what it is like to be foreign. We were wanderers. We were seekers. We were spiritual pilgrims...*to be continued.*

The Rev. Thomas D. Busteed,
Lehigh Mission District Dean

St. Timothy's Lutheran
Grace Notes Gospel Big Band
December 14, 2025 at 3 PM
(140 S. Ott Street, Allentown)

Please join us for a Christmas concert. A free will offering will be accepted. Stay for a Christmas Cookie Reception afterwards.

Parking available on the street & across the street.

See the attached flyer for details.



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

Dear Travelers,
Our shows are sold out for this year, but keep an eye out for next year's newsletter scheduled to be released in December. Thanks for traveling with Operation Sunshine.

~ Paula & Dick Skelly,
Co-Trip Coordinators

The Lehigh Mission District would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!



Lehigh Mission District Christmas InGathering Reminder:

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

St. John's Lutheran Church (501 Chestnut Street, Emmaus, PA)

If you have any questions please contact Penny at 610-390-9694.

Sending All a Blessed Thanksgiving!



The Neighborhood Center is busier than ever! Kids are filling our center with energy, laughter, and learning. But to keep up with the growing need, we're asking for your help.

A gift today will provide safe after-school activities, homework help, warm meals, and a place where kids know they belong. You truly make it possible for us to keep serving the children who need us most.

With the holidays approaching, there are several collections and special events planned. Like us on Facebook or check out our pictures!



www.theneighborhoodcenterallentown.com
344 N. 7th Street, Allentown, PA 18102
Phone: 610-434-5799



Family Promise of Lehigh Valley (FPLV), a 501(c)(3) organization that provides shelter, meals, and case management to children and families experiencing or at risk of homelessness in the Lehigh Valley.

Our partner congregations are the backbone of our mission. As a volunteer-driven organization, our work wouldn't be possible without the support of congregations like yours. We'd be grateful for the opportunity to share this ministry with your church or your mission team. Please contact us for more information.

1346 W. Hamilton Street, Allentown PA 18102
Phone: 610-351-1368
Email: Director@FPLhighvalley.org
www.FPLhighvalley.org

THANK YOU to all the faithful walkers, community leaders, support crew, sponsors and other donors who participated in the **Sunday, October 19, 2025, Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk!**

If you or your congregation/group took any CROP Hunger Walk **PHOTOS** or **VIDEOS**, please **POST THEM** on social media and **SEND THEM** to karehad@gmail.com to include in our CROP follow-up emails to congregations and other CROP supporters!

CONGRATULATIONS to all who received awards at the Opening Ceremony! And special thanks to Mark Held for creating the awards!

2024 Golden Sneaker – Blank Slate

2024 Silver Sandal – Redeemer Lutheran Church, Allentown

2024 Bronze Bootie – The Barn

CONGREGATIONS/GROUPS: So that we can celebrate more precise YTD totals, please **send your CROP gifts ASAP** to Linda Held, Allentown CROP Hunger Walk Treasurer, 3441 Devonshire Road, Allentown, PA 18103.

LIKE us on Facebook:

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

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

Many Thanks to Our Generous Sponsors!

