

PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Breinigsville, PA

JANUARY 2026



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 – WHY ARE WE ALWAYS STANDING UP AND SITTING DOWN?

I asked someone last week, and their answer? Because my ankles hurt! Seemed like a pretty good answer. For others it could be because my knees hurt – or my back or my _____ hurts, you fill it in.

But what really struck me, was the SPECIFIC question I was asked:

WHY DO WE ALWAYS STAND UP SO MUCH IN CHURCH?

I do understand. You are fitting comfortably into your pew, nothing is falling off of your lap onto the floor, you snuggle under your coat and want to kick off your shoes under the pew - - - and then - OOPS we have to stand.

Sigh - - Didn't we just sit down? I stood for the confession/Forgiveness and opening hymn and then the Kyrie and Hymn of Praise and yes, the Prayer of the Day. Ahh--finally. The readings. I can follow along from the Celebrate. 1st reading the Old Testament, the response in the Psalm ("I better pay attention there – I have to respond.") and then the 2nd Lesson from the New Testament. OH - NOW Everybody UP! The Alleluia and it's the Gospel reading from the Pastor. I just dropped everything that was on my lap - - UGH!

WHY DO WE ALWAYS STAND UP SO MUCH IN CHURCH?

I bet it's so we don't fall asleep! Maybe we should be paying attention to those parts. Do we only stand for the important sections? I know of someone who stands for their WHOLE service. Glad I'm Lutheran.

Now we get to sit for the sermon. GOOD! The sermon is over OK - Stand up for the creed and those l o-o-o- ng prayers.

This must be an important part. WHY DO WE STAND SO MUCH? And are the parts we sit through less important?

WHY DO WE ALWAYS STAND UP SO MUCH IN CHURCH?

The answer is really quite simple. Out of respect for God and God's response to our faith – TO and FRO.

- ❖ Confession/Forgiveness *Going both ways*
- ❖ Opening Hymn, Kyrie, Hymn of Praise, Prayer of the Day *One way to God from us*
- ❖ Gospel *One way from God to us*
- ❖ Creed *One way to God from us*
- ❖ Offertory Prayer, Communion, Benediction *Going both ways in gratitude.*

We stand in thanksgiving to God for the gift of eternal life we have received. It has been freely given without cost on our part and without our asking for it. Yes, it is a free gift. Do not be afraid to help yourself to all the salvation you can carry. This is a New Year. Start each day with this gift renewed within yourself to lighten your load and allow God to carry it for you.

Have a blessed and renewed New Year each day as you stand before our Lord. Pastor Ginny

WORSHIP ON JANUARY 4, 2025,

Sunday, January 4th there will only be one worship service at 10:30 a.m. There will be no Sunday school.

NEW PARISH SECRETARY

Jennifer Doyle has joined our staff as the new Parish Secretary after Cindy has retired after 22 years. Please see below a little about Jennifer

My name is Jennifer Doyle and I am the new Parish Secretary. I will be handling all of the office duties, such as answering the phone, answering emails, preparing bulletins, newsletters and scheduling usage of the facility. I am married, have 1 son who is 23 and I reside in Breinigsville. I enjoy reading, crafting, attending concerts and spending time with family.



MONTHLY PRAYER FAMILIES

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

Jan 4: The Sedlak Family, The Seibert Family, The Sicher Family,
The Smith Family

Jan 11: The Solderich Family, The Spengler Family, The Steltz Family
The Stoudt Family

Jan 18: The Strauss Families, The Theodore Family, The Thomas Family,
The Thompson Family

Jan 25: The Trainor Family, The Wagaman Families, The Walker Family
The Waltemyer Family

Council Highlights – December 2025

The large screen TV and stand have been purchased.

Council will be purchasing a ramp for placement at the entrance of the portico.

The ramp will be stored under the coat racket and put out each Sunday before the 9 a.m. service.

Daisy Pearson will be joining council.

Pastor Goodwin has gifted St. Paul's with a nativity.

Council Installation will be part of the 10:30 a.m. service on February 1, 2026.

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

TRIMMING THE TREE



The youth of the congregation decorated the tree with our angels this year.



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

Regarding our 2026 charity knit/crochet project, we are awaiting additional information from St. Luke's NICU about premie hats and patterns. In addition to premie hats, we will also be making soap sacks for donation to the homeless. Soap sacks are small bags in which you can store a bar of soap. The loop on top allows for hanging the soap to dry, and the fabric of the bag can act as a washcloth. There is a knitted and crocheted pattern available. The premie hats and soap sacks are to be made with cotton yarn.

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 **January** session will be held on **Tuesday, January 20 at 1:30PM**. A big thank you to our loyal Plarn People for all their efforts. We delivered 9 homeless sleeping mats to Caring D.A.M. Hearts in 2025, and they are greatly appreciated. That's A LOT of plastic bags!

Parish Nursing Notes
January 2026
Peggy Saylor, MSN, RN

With the flu and COVID-19 season in full bloom, please always remember to “wash your hands!” This sounds like such a simple item to remind everyone about but proper handwashing is the best proven way to prevent the spread of infection.

Here are the five steps to use every time you wash your hands:

1. Wet your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap and apply soap.
2. Lather your hands with soap by rubbing them together. Be sure to include the back of your hands, between the fingers and under your nails.
3. Scrub for at least 20 seconds – try humming “Happy Birthday” from beginning to end!
4. Rinse well under clean running water.
5. Dry your hands using a clean towel or air dryer.

This being said, if soap and fresh water are not available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Also try not to touch your face to avoid spreading any germs.

Clean hands are the first step in preventing the spread of infection

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.

WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH [WELCA]

Our monthly meeting was held on Wednesday, December 10, 2025.

- Our Bible study was to be a devotional *Practicing Advent imagination* by Sara Olson-Smith which focused on *This Advent, we accompany Matthew's dreamers and Isaiah's visions*. Alas, our little gathered group got sidetracked and we had a discussion meeting. *The First Christmas*, an ABC production was discussed which is a history of Christ's birth.
- An email was sent regarding **2026 Gather Bible study topics**
 - **Winter** (December 2025/January/February 2026): Advent devotional, "Practicing Advent imagination: Matthew's dreamers and Isaiah's visions" by the Rev. Sara Olson-Smith. The issue also includes a two-part Bible study, "Embodied prayer" by the Rev. Liv Larson Andrews.
 - **Spring** (March/April/May 2026): "I AM: God's holy name and promise," a three-part Bible study by the Rev. Dr. Hannah Hawkinson. The issue also includes a bonus intergenerational Bible study/devotional, "Paul's letters and yours," by the Rev. Angela Shannon.
 - **Summer** (June/July/August 2026): "I am worthy," by the Rev. Sara Olson-Smith.
 - **Fall** (September/October/November 2026): "Bold faith on an unexpected journey," by the Rev. Tiffany Chaney.
 - **Winter** (December 2026/January/February 2027): Advent devotional (author details to come) and a two-part study by Wanda Frenchman (topic to come).

Mark your calendar and join us on Sunday, January 11, 2026, after the 10:30 a.m. worship service for our annual **Soup and Sandwich Luncheon**. After lunch, Judith Wanfried will speak on bookends of Jesus life with **Mary - Madonna and Pieta**.

ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED TO THESE EVENTS

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

- The Flame, NEPA WELCA news publication, is scheduled to be mailed on January 15, 2026.
- 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. Topic: *Finding Your Inner Self*.

Join us for our next meeting, Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.



UPCOMING EVENTS FROM THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

January 11 – Potluck
January 16 – Pizza & Movie Night

THANK YOU

Thank you for the beautiful prayer shawl you gave me. I really appreciated it.
Pastor Ginny

I am deeply grateful for your kindness and generosity to the Allentown Rescue Mission! Your donation has brought a warm and joyful spirit to our men during this winter season.
While this time of year is typically a time of joy and fellowship, they also bring significantly increased needs within our community, leading more men to our doors. Because of you, they have the gift of knowing someone who cares and believes in the possibility of a new beginning.
With gratitude, Stuart Smith

	3 Ken Ritter 9 John Caricari 10 Rosemary Lehman 12 Joe Mutis 12 Robert Pearson	19 Gianna Caricari 22 Westley Mironov 24 Cheryl Wilburn 27 Mark Grammes 31 Mary Gade
	3 Joe & Ali Thompson	

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.

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.

Puzzle!

In the New Testament, followers of Christ are called by many names. Use the hints to fill in the blanks. Need help? Check an NIV Bible for the missing letters.

D _____ s
(Acts 6:7)



C _____ n P _____ e
(1 Peter 2:9)



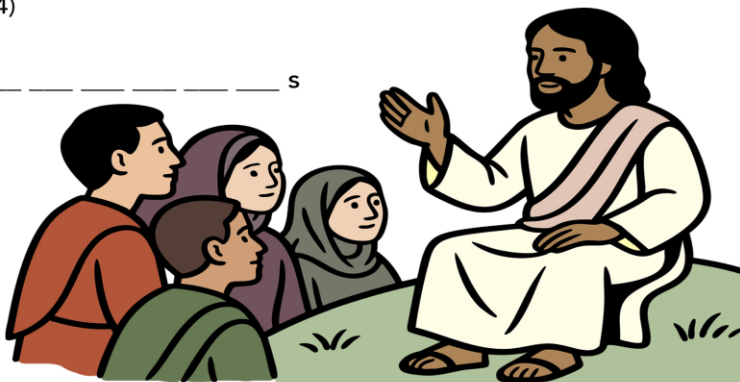
S _____ s of C _____ t
(1 Corinthians 4:1)

C _____ s
(Acts 11: 26)

B _____ s and S _____ s
(1 Thessalonians 4:9-10)

B _____ s
(Acts 5:14)

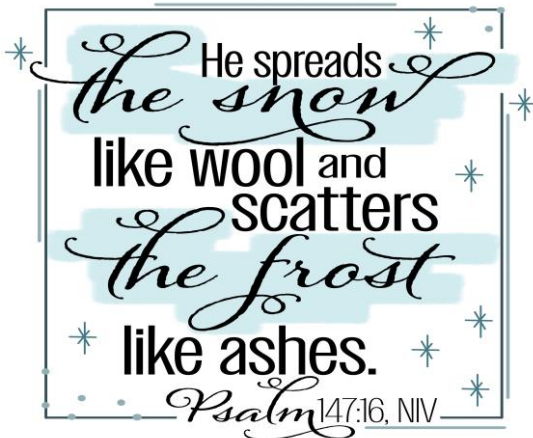
W _____ s
(Acts 1:8)



Answers: Disciples; Chosen People; Servants of Christ; Christians; Brothers and Sisters; Believers; Witnesses

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT
NEWSLETTER IS
JANUARY 11, 2026**

**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. Jennifer Doyle

January 2026 St. Paul's Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Church office closed	2	3
4 SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS 10:30 a.m.-Worship 11:30 a.m. Farewell Luncheon	5 10:00 a.m.-Bible Study 1:00 p.m. Worship & Music	6	7	8 9:30 a.m.-Amazing Womens Seniors Group 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	9	10
11 BAPTISM OF OUR LORD 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 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	12 10:00 a.m.-Bible Study	13	14 9:30 a.m.-W-ELCA	15 9:30 a.m.-Amazing Womens Seniors Group 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	16 6:00 p.m. Pizza 7:00 p.m. Movie	17
18 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 9:00 a.m.-Worship 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 9:15 a.m.-Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m.-Worship	19 10:00 a.m.-Bible Study	20 1:00 p.m. Plarn session	21	22 9:30 a.m.-Amazing Womens Seniors Group 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	23	24
25 THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 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 Meeting	26 10:00 a.m.-Bible Study	27	28	29 9:30 a.m.-Amazing Womens Seniors Group 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	30	31

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

January 2026

If you cannot fulfill an assigned duty, please call the church office at 610-398-7000 or
the Council Person of the Month – Judy Walker 610-573-7117

Sunday, January 4, 2026

10:30AM (NO 9:00AM SERVICE)

Ushers: Andrew Bruchak, Bob Bruchak

Altar Guild: Amy Williams

Communion Asst: Anita Eisenhard

Communion Bread: Bob Bruchak

Greeters: Sophia Mesko, Katie Pisauro

Lay Asst: Lacey Edwards

Reader: Rosemary Lehman

Skit Participants:

Mary: Sophia Mesko

King Herod: Bruce Saylor

Joseph: Joe Murotto

Wise Men: Anita Eisenhard, Carl Seibert,

Star Bearer: Ellie Pisauro Dick Steltz

Narrators: Sharon Bortz, Sandi Wagaman

Sunday, January 18, 2026

9:00AM

No Assistants

10:30AM

Ushers: Frank Bennighoff, Cal Fetherolf

Altar Guild: Rosemary Lehman

Communion Asst: Sharon Bortz

Communion Bread: Bob Nickisher

Greeters: Carl & Esther Seibert

Lay Asst: Bob Bruchak

Reader: Martine Otto

Sunday, January 11, 2026

9:00AM

No Assistants

10:30AM

Ushers: Zack Dimovitz, Rosie Gallagher

Altar Guild: Janine Ritter

Communion Asst: Daisy Pearson

Communion Bread: Carol Derr-Breinig

Greeters: Janine & Ken Ritter

Lay Asst: Dick Steltz

Reader: Melanie Dimovitz

Sunday, January 25, 2026

9:00AM

No Assistants

10:30AM

Ushers: Melanie Dimovitz, Peggy Saylor

Altar Guild: Steph Wagaman

Communion Asst: Tom Kellogg

Communion Bread: Alice Bastian

Greeter: Madeline MacMechan

Lay Asst: Daisy Pearson

Reader: June Kellogg



NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Sharing the Story: An Invitation to Experience Mission Support

Written by: Georgia Suranofsky, God's Work, Our Hands Storyteller



2025 Adventure Camp, supported by a NEPA Synod Witness & Service grant received by participating congregations of the Pretzel City Parish.

DID YOU KNOW that your Mission Support helps fund important initiatives across the synod? 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 values of Loving, Healing, and Engaging like Jesus.

As a God's Work, our Hands Storyteller (formally Mission Interpreter) for over 13 years I have had the privilege to share stories and say Thank You to many congregations in our synod. Charlotte Gross and I currently coordinate the storytelling ministry. We are invited to visit congregations for worship, meet with congregation councils or be part of faith formation.

I have learned about all the ministries in our synod and the ELCA including our ecumenical partners. When I first started exploring the ministries, it was overwhelming to know the support that changed many lives by doing God's work in the world. The Witness and Service Ministry Team receives a portion annually from your Mission Support giving that is used to fund grants for outreach projects and events. My own congregation has applied and used grants for outreach in my community. If I would not have been involved and understood how mission support giving is used, our outreach may not have happened. In my role, I receive the evaluations after a grant is completed. This gives me the opportunity to contact the sponsors and find out more about how the money was used. Many of the conversations are turned into stories that are shared on the synod website at godslove.org/missionsupport or under Resources, Mission Support on the synod's website.

There are many ways you could be part of the team of storytellers. I have met many people in the pews through visits or on the phone/zoom to hear how their ministries are helping others because we all share our Mission Support giving. We can do so much more together than any individual can do alone.

When I first started sharing stories and saying thank you to congregations, I had no idea that my life would be enriched by their stories and eagerness to do more. Many times, I have heard, “I can’t believe our mission support giving helps do this. I had no idea.”

Mission Support can be understood better and communicated with the help of various resources. The resources can be found on the synod website at godslove.org/missionsupport or under Resources, Mission Support. The resources are designed to be used in various media formats. The best way to gain insight into the vital importance of Mission Support is regular sharing of stories, including an in-person visits from a God’s Work, Our Hands Storyteller. Please Contact Georgia Suranofsky at georgiasuranofsky@hotmail.com to schedule a visit from a storyteller.



2025 technology upgrades project, supported by a NEPA Synod Witness & Service grant received by Ziegels Union Church



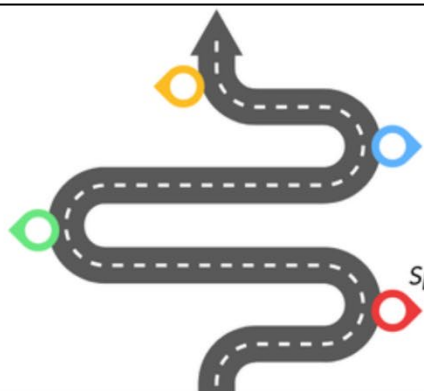
Georgia Suranofsky at the God’s Work, Our Hands Storyteller display during the 2025 Synod Assembly.



STORYTELLERS

Want to hear stories of mission support impact?

Consider inviting “God’s Work Our Hands Storyteller” to a Council meeting, faith formation, Sunday morning, or coffee break! Contact Georgia Suranofsky at georgiasuranofsky@hotmail.com



Engaging Generosity: A Roadmap for Vitality

A Generosity Extravaganza

Sponsored by the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod and Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod

January 24, 2026 + Trinity Lutheran Church, Lansdale

REGISTRATION OPEN

godslove.org/events

VOLUME 31
ISSUE 1
January
2026



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

2026 Rostered Ministers Gatherings:

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

Wednesday, February 4
PLEASE NOTE THE DATE CHANGE
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
at Split Rock Resort
NEPA Synod Assembly

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



*February 2026 LMD NL news
will be due January 12, 2026.*

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

“Ohne Verdienst” final part

As we face the challenges ahead of our community these next hundred years or so, perhaps we would do well to remember something about our past. We grew too comfortable in the 20th century and assumed things would stay mostly the same and that we would keep growing in numbers without much forethought. We took things for granted that things would for the most part stay the same. We are in different times now. Some are calling it a period of decline, but that ignores the fact that Lutheranism is growing in Africa. It also ignores the fact that Lutheranism is but one expression of the Christian church. On the whole, there are more Christians alive in the world today than there EVER were; it's just that most of them are now living in the southern hemisphere. Instead of calling this a period of decline, we would do better to recognize this as a period of significant and major transition. Who we will be 100 years from now will in many ways depend on our ability to adapt to the changing reality. However, we also must not forget where we came from. Our ancestors had to become “American” out of survival. Whitewashing our German-ness might not have been much of a choice.* Or maybe it was a choice happily made — a new identity for a new time and place. Whatever the case, Lutheranism remains a tradition of “both and.” We were German, and we are American. It's ok to reclaim parts of our past while also looking ahead to who we could become. We need not remove the white paint and plaster in order to reclaim parts of our past that can help guide our identity as a people into this next century. We can recover the old Renaissance rhythms of our old Lutheran chorales AND we can strike a beat on the drumset and play our guitars to contemporary praise music. We can sing the Gregorian chant and reenact the rich ritual of our Roman Catholic ancestors AND we can experiment with a more simplified newer style of worship service. We can continue to pray and sing in the English language which has mostly become our mother tongue AND we can be open to praising God in Spanish, Haitian, and whatever language our children's friends and classmates may speak. Whatever we do is an expression of faith; a faith in a God who loves us and redeems us *ohne verdienst*.

*(With apologies to all the other national origins of Lutherans in this area. My particular congregation is predominantly German in origin, and this sermon was originally addressed to them.)

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

Twelfth Night Festival

Jan. 10, 2026 at 1 & 4:30 PM
Jan. 11, 2026 at 1 & 4:30 PM
at Christ Lutheran Church
(1245 Hamilton St, Allentown)

For over 40 years, around the 12th day after Christmas, the Christ Church Twelfth Night Festival is a celebration of the Nativity. Twelfth Night is the "door" between Christmas and Epiphany, the Christian feast celebrating the arrival of the Wise Men.

To reserve seats or make a donation, please visit
<https://www.christ-atown.org/twelfth-night-festival>

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,
Attached you will find the Operation Sunshine Newsletter for 2026 up to August. You will notice something new: We have added that we are only accepting registration and payment for the trips in March and April, as well as both long trips right now. We certainly appreciate those of you who sign up for the whole year, but with all that occurs during the holidays, keeping all the registrations that we receive through phone, email and on-line registrations has gotten to be a monumental task for us. We feel that our accuracy will be enhanced with this change and ask you to bear with us. We want to give everyone the best experience possible.

~ Paula & Dick and the
Operation Sunshine Volunteers:
Edie, Colleen, Cathy and Ron



The Christmas InGathering Committee thanks all for your support with this annual outreach ministry. It is a pleasure to serve others. We are so thankful to all who were able to be part of this. We thank St. John's Lutheran Church in Emmaus for sponsoring us. The committee sends their blessings to all. Blessed Christmas and A Healthy New Year!

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.

As we move into the new year, check the special events we have 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, support crew, community leaders, sponsors and other donors who participated in 46th Annual Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk on Oct. 19, 2025!

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

LIKE us on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/AllentownCROPWalk/>

You have raised **OVER \$21,000** to help our food-insecure 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** will be receiving more than \$2,600 each for their vital ministries with neighbors experiencing food insecurity in our area. And **CHURCH WORLD SERVICE** will be able to help many more of our neighbors who are struggling.

CROP MINI-WALKS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE:
Thursday, October 9, was a beautiful day for the 35 residents and staff who participated in the **2025 EVERTRUE LUTHER CREST CROP Hunger Walk**, which raised more than \$2,580 to help stamp out hunger.

