

# PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Breinigsville, PA

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APRIL 2026



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

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## **Pastor's Corner - - EASTER --- FAKE NEWS?**

My daughter came running excitedly from her Sunday school class to give me her new revelation in a voice that only a three-year-old can exude. "Mommy, Mommy, did you know that God created the birds? THE BIRDS!"

At first, all I could do was stand there and enjoy her joy of discovery. Then I asked if she would like to go get lunch and after we could look for some of those birds God had created. Her response was an immediate. YES!

How much of an impact did that messenger have on that preschooler? A lifetime. When the drawings came home from school there was always a bird in the sky. When we traveled, she always pointed out a particularly graceful or colorful one. Today she lives on a property with numerous trees and bushes that provide sanctuary for her friends. No, she never joined the Audubon Society nor kept a log. I do remember how interested she was as a teenager when her grandfather pointed out a Rosette Spoonbill to her in Florida.

Who was the messenger? An 80 something Sunday school teacher made the impact. My daughter was young enough not to question but old enough to find the awe-inspiring observation in the lesson. GOD CREATED THE BIRDS!

We are wise enough to know that God created - - - in this case on the fifth day along with the sea creatures of the seas. This is found in Genesis in the Torah and was taught in the Temple and in all the synagogues. Surely, the Hebrew students would have learned this from the Rabbis.

How can you question the obvious? Why do we question? Why does anyone question? We watch the birds come, build their nests, lay their eggs, keep them warm, watch them hatch, feed their young and encourage them to fly themselves on their own. We can see the birds and know science cannot and has not been able to duplicate what they are able to do. ONLY GOD !

"Mommy, Mommy, did you know the tomb was empty?" That was obvious. "Mommy, Mommy, did you know - - Why did they question? Why did anyone question? Why do some still question today?"

Thomas, was the disciple who is remembered as the doubter. "Until I see the holes in the palms of his hands and put my fist in his side ...." Do you think he was the only one who thought this was fake news? The women came and told the others the news, "He is risen." Some went to check. Maybe muttering "Crazy women..." as they ran to the tomb.

## Pastors Corner Cont'd

Only to find it EMPTY! Fake news?

What is fake news? Something we don't know, and someone claims to? Therefore, we call it fake news? I don't know how a rocket is able to take off, but I can't call it fake news. I don't know how a drug works in my body, but I can't call it fake news. I don't know how God was able to raise Jesus from the dead, but I can't call it fake news.

If others witnessed the proof,

- the risen Jesus on the shore
- the risen Jesus in the upper room
- the risen Jesus walking along the road,

We will have to be the witnesses, too. "Did you know the tomb was empty?"

Easter is not fake news. Easter is real. "Mommy, Mommy, did you know the tomb was empty?"

YES, IT IS!

ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!

## **Pastor Ginny**

*"I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me." Philippians 4: 13 (NRSV)*

### MONTHLY PRAYER FAMILIES

In **APRIL** we will be praying for the following families each week.

**April 5:** The Heminiz Family, The Kellogg Family,  
The Kern Family, The Kessler Family

**April 12:** The Kline Family, The Lehman Family,  
The MacMechan Family, The Marchetti Family

**April 19:** The Maslany Family, The Mesko Family,  
The Messner Family, The Miller Family

**April 26:** The Mironov Family, The Morgenstern Family,  
The Mount Family, The Mutis Family

### LEHIGH VALLEY † OUTREACH DEPOT

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

610-861-7373

Are you trying to downsize? Do you have too much around your house?

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

## **Lehigh Valley Outreach cont'd**

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.

## **HOLY WEEK AND EASTER**

### **Maunday Thursday – April 2, 7:00pm**

We receive individual absolution and Holy Communion and observe the stripping of the.

### **Good Friday – April 3, 10:30am**

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

### **The Resurrection of Our Lord – April 5, 9:00am and 10:30am**

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

## **PRAYER SHAWL GROUP NEWS**

Our 2026 charity knit/crochet projects are 1) Premie Hats for LVHN NICU and 2) Soap Sacks for the homeless. We made additional copies of patterns for both projects, including the new rectangular soap sack, and put them on the table in the Narthex. Thanks to a new Thrivent grant, we have purchased yarn for your use – cotton for the soap sacks, and soft acrylic for the preemie hats. See Steph, Judy, or Sandi if you would like yarn.

Fourteen people turned out for our March Plarn session and we got a lot done! We removed a completed mat from a loom and prepared the loom for the next one, as weaving continued on the 2<sup>nd</sup> loom. We processed a TON of plastic bags, and cut countless pieces for tying into plarn. Many of you took advantage of the crochet lesson and made your first soap sack. Many thanks to all!

We will continue to offer crochet lessons and assistance at Plarn over the next several months – to help you get started on these new patterns.

Our **April Plarn Working Session** will be held on **Tuesday, April 21 at 1:30PM.**

**PARISH NURSING NOTES**  
**“GLP-1 AGONISTS” - APRIL 2026**  
**PEGGY SAYLOR, RN**

One of the “hottest” topics in the healthcare world at this point is the GLP-1 medications. GLP-1 agonists are medications that help to lower your blood sugar levels and promote weight loss.

Health care providers can help you decide if these drugs are right for you in your treatment for Type 2 diabetes or obesity which is defined as a BMI of 30 or higher.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved these drugs in 2005 so they are relatively new which means that researchers are still learning about their other potential uses, benefits and long-term effects. While some individuals may view these medications as “miracle drugs” they should not be used alone to treat Type 2 diabetes or obesity but should be combined with other treatment strategies like lifestyle and dietary changes.

GLP-1 medications are manufactured medications that work by mimicking the natural occurring hormone that your small intestine makes. If used to treat Type 2 diabetes, this medication helps to lower your blood sugar levels by triggering your pancreas to release more insulin.

To treat obesity, GLP-1 medications help to slow your digestion and reduce your food intake, appetite and hunger. Other potential benefits from these medications include lowering your blood pressure, improving lipid disorders, reducing your risk of heart and kidney disease, improving fatty liver disease and delaying the progression of diabetic nephropathy.

Since all medications are like the “good news, bad news” jokes, there are several side effects with these medications. The most common side effects are loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Other side effects can include dizziness, increased heart rate, infections, headaches and an upset stomach. Rare but severe side effects can include pancreatitis, thyroid cancer, sudden kidney disease and worsening diabetes-related retinopathy. Most of these side effects are more likely to happen when you start the medication or if you’re taking an increased dose. Risks or complications are allergic reaction and low blood sugar levels.

There are several GLP-1 agonists currently available in the U.S. market, some are injections and others are in pill form. The frequency of doses varies from twice daily to once a week.

While these medications are promising in the treatment of Type 2 diabetes and obesity, you need to have a treatment strategy prescribed by your health care provider that includes lifestyle and dietary changes along with these

## Parish Nursing Notes Cont'd

medications. Information accessed from <https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/treatments/13901-glp-1-agonists#overview> on 3/11/26.

## WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH [WELCA]

Our monthly meeting was held on Wednesday, March 11, 2026.

Our Bible Study was....*Session one—Bread, vine and light: Abiding with us* by the Rev. Dr. Hannah Hawkinson.

We begin this session by rooting and grounding ourselves in the story of Moses at the Burning Bush, learning about God's holy name, I AM—a name that holds all of time and space, all that was and all that is and all that will be, past, present and future. From there, we will explore three of Jesus's "I AM" statements: "I am the bread of life;" "I am the true vine," and "I am the light of the world." Each of these declarations bring to the fore the ways that God, whose name is "I AM," abides with God's people, providing, nurturing and sustaining us in day-to-day life.

- The **2026 Gather Bible study topics**
  - **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).

### **ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED TO THESE EVENTS**

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

- Spring Justice Event, April 11, 2026, Hope Cherryville on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Way of Peace. Registration deadline for this event was March 22, 2026.
- 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the NEPA Women of the ELCA, June 13, 2026, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Breinigsville. Topic: *Finding Your Inner Self*. The information and registration mailing was on Thursday, March 12, 2026.

Join us for our next meeting, Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. for a time of fellowship and a session of *I AM: God's holy name and promise*,

## WELCA cont'd

*Session two Gate and shepherd: Guiding and protecting us* which builds on the theme of God's abiding love as we explore another dimension of I AM, God's holy name and promise: God's guidance and protection. Guidance and protection are the major themes of the famous "Good Shepherd" discourse in John 10, in which Jesus declares that he is both the good shepherd and the gate for the sheep. Our God who abides with us is also a God who moves with us—who knows us, protects us and leads us through the ups and downs of life.

## LEHIGH ZION CEMETERY SHAREHOLDERS MEETING

April 20, 2026, Lehigh Zion Cemetery Association will have their annual shareholders meeting. *Anyone having a plot on the cemetery is a shareholder.* Officers are elected at this meeting.

APRIL 20, 2026, 7 P.M., ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, BREINIGSVILLE, PA Please contact Sharon Bortz if you have any questions. [sharon.stpauls@gmail.com](mailto:sharon.stpauls@gmail.com)

## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS – MARCH 2026

The council meeting scheduled for February 22<sup>nd</sup> was postponed until March 1<sup>st</sup> due to the church being closed for a snowstorm and at that meeting, we scheduled the March meeting for March 22<sup>nd</sup>. During March, the council approved a Craft Fair for the fall [December] which will be spearheaded by our secretary, Jennifer Doyle and her husband. They will obtain the vendors, set up, cleanup and all proceeds for table rentals will be donated to the church. A bake sale by the congregation is welcomed as well as selling hot food items. A Blu-ray player was approved and purchased for use on movie nights. The church is in the process of finding another lawn service since the person whom we used decided to retire. Synod Delegates volunteered for the Synod meeting, June 4, 5, 6, 2026 at Split Rock Lodge and will include the election of the bishop.

## CAMERATA SINGERS

Saturday May 2 at 3pm Camerata Singers will present our spring concert: **American Sings: Choral music by American composers in celebration of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.** The concert will be held at Christ Lutheran Church at 1245 Hamilton St Allentown. Tickets can be purchased in several ways: online through Eventbrite, by calling the PSO Ticket Office at 610-434-7811,

## Camerata Singers cont'd

or by contacting Cathy Waltemyer by email at mom3mrg@gmail.com.

Ticket prices are Through Eventbrite

General Admission \$30.00 + service fee

Senior Admission \$25.00 + service fee

\*\*Entry is free for students' elementary school through college

## IRONPIGS GAME

Announcing the IronPigs game, Sunday, June 28, 2026. Game time is 1:15 p.m. Gates open at 12:00 p.m. We again will be in the PenTeleData 3<sup>rd</sup> Base Party Porch. The price is \$39.00. A sign-up sheet will be on the table in the Narthex or you can call the church office at 610-398-7000.

## HOME HEALTH PRODUCTS FOR ENCAMPMENT RELOCATION PEOPLE

We are asking for Home Health Products to help those needing temporary housing. 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, toothbrush and paste, lip balm, deodorant, razors, shaving cream, woman's products (pads and tampons) Anything you use we missed on the list.

## UPCOMING EVENTS FROM THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

**April 17 - Pizza/Movie Night 6 pm**


**April 19 – Potluck 11:30 am**



To the knitting group at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Please accept our deepest thanks for the beautiful hand-made octopuses you generously donated. Your kindness brings comfort, color and joy to our tiniest patients and their families. These are more than just adorable gifts; they become soft companions and security during the fragile moments of a baby's early life. We thank you for thinking of us and our patients. With Gratitude, The NICU Nurses (St. Lukes)



Dear Members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church. On behalf of the Food Bank, I extend our heartfelt thanks for your generous food donation of 134 pounds of dry groceries, made on 2/5/26. Your contribution is invaluable in keeping our shelves stocked with much needed items and helps stretch our budget further.

 A colorful graphic for "April Birthdays" featuring a pink ribbon, a purple umbrella, a birthday cake, a butterfly, and a flower.	3 Nick Bellucci 4 Richard Hartley 5 Kimberly Sicher 10 Brook Brumbach, June Kellogg 17 Janine Ritter 18 Ginny Goodwin Peggy Kern	26 Finley Cope Robert Nickisher 30 Bruce Saylor  <b>If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, please let the office know. We want to include you</b>
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### **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

## Altar Guild Cont'd

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 varied 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](mailto: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.

## HOSPITALIZED?

Due to the changes in the Chaplin's offices at our local hospitals, the Hospital Code number we have been using, 321 cannot be used to identify our congregation. They do not have the volunteers needed to keep the office staffed to notify or accept calls regarding admissions. Please call the office at St Paul's if you want us to know of any hospitalizations. 610-398-7000

**The Church office will be closed on Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Can't get to Church on Sunday? Watch us on Facebook.  
You do not have to be registered to do so.**

[www.facebook.com/stpaulsbyville](http://www.facebook.com/stpaulsbyville)

### **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.



**We email readings, prayers and other resources each Friday so that you may reflect from home. Contact us to be added to the list**

#### **Sunday, April 5, 2026 – Resurrection of Our Lord**

**Acts 10:34-43** God raised Jesus on the third day

**Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24** I This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**Colossians 3:1-4** Raised with Christ to seek the higher things

**Matthew 28:1-10** Proclaim the resurrection

#### **Sunday, April 12, 2026 – Second Sunday of Easter**

**Acts 2:14a, 22-32:** Christ's resurrection: the fulfillment of God's promise to David

**Psalm 16:** In your presence there is fullness of joy.

**1 Peter 1:3-9:** New birth to a living hope through the resurrection

**John 20:19-31** Beholding the wounds of the risen Christ

#### **Sunday, April 19, 2026 – Third Sunday of Easter**

**Acts 2:14a, 36-41** Receiving God's promise through baptism

**Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19** I will call on the name of the Lord

**1 Peter 1:17-23** Born anew through the living word of God

**Luke 24:13-35** Eating with the risen Christ

#### **Sunday, April 26, 2026 – Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**Acts 2:42-47** The believers' common life

**Psalm 23** The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want

**1 Peter 2:19-25** Follow the shepherd, even in suffering

**John 10:1-10** Christ the shepherd

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT  
NEWSLETTER IS  
APRIL 16, 2026**

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



**CHURCH OFFICE: 610-398-7000  
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. Jennifer Doyle

# *St. Paul's Lutheran Church*

## *April 2026*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 Maundy Thursday 9:30 a.m.-Amazing Womens Group 6:00 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:00 p.m.Worship 8:15 p.m. Choir	3 Good Friday 10:30 a.m. Worship	4
5 EASTER SUNDAY 9:00 a.m.-Worship 10:30 a.m.-Worship	6 10:00 a.m.-Bible Study  Church office closed	7	8 9:30 a.m.-W-ELCA	9 9:30 a.m.-Amazing Womens Group 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	10	11
12 Second Sunday of Easter 9:00 a.m.-Worship 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship	13 10:00 a.m.-Bible Study 1:00 pm-Worship And Music	14	15 6:30 Haafsville	16 9:30 a.m.-Amazing Womens Group 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	17 6:00 pm- Pizza 7:30 pm - Movie	18
19 Third Sunday of Easter 9:00 a.m.-Worship 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship 11:30 a.m. Potluck	20 10:00 a.m.-Bible Study 6:30 pm – Lehigh Zion Cemetary Shareholders Meeting	21 1:30 pm PLARN	22 7:00 pm Council Meeting	23 9:30 a.m.-Amazing Womens Group 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	24	25
26 Fourth Sunday of Easter 9:00 a.m.-Worship 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship	27 10:00 a.m.-Bible Study	28	29	30 9:30 a.m.-Amazing Womens Group 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir		

# WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

April 2026

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

## Maundy Thursday, April 2, 2026

**7:00PM**

**Ushers:** Carl Seibert, Judy Walker

**Altar Guild:** Steph Wagaman

**Communion Asst:** Sandi Wagaman

**Communion Bread:** Helen Post

**Lay Asst:** Rosemary Lehman

**Reader:** Sharon Bortz

**Stripping of Altar:** Sharon Bortz, Susan Ferguson,  
Rosemary Lehman, June Kellogg, Tom Kellogg, Daisy Pearson,  
Carl Seibert, Esther Seibert, Sandi Wagaman, Judy Walker

## Good Friday, April 3, 2026

**10:30AM**

**Cross Bearer:** Sharon Bortz

**Lay Asst:** Daisy Pearson

**Reader:** June Kellogg

## Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026

**9:00AM**

No Assistants

**10:30AM**

**Ushers:** Carl Siebert, Zack Dimovitz

**Altar Guild:** Esther Seibert

**Communion Asst:** Tom Kellogg

**Communion Bread:** Bob Bruchak

**Greeter:** Bruce Wagaman

**Lay Asst:** Bob Bruchak

**Reader:** Daisy Pearson

## Sunday, April 12, 2026

**9:00AM**

No Assistants

**10:30AM**

**Ushers:** Cal Fetherolf, Peggy Saylor

**Altar Guild:** Janine Ritter

**Communion Asst:** Rosemary Lehman

**Communion Bread:** Bob Nickisher

**Greeter:** Ken Ritter

**Lay Asst:** Sharon Bortz

**Reader:** Melanie Dimovitz

## Sunday, April 19, 2026

**9:00AM**

No Assistants

**10:30AM**

**Ushers:** Rosie Gallagher, Madeline MacMechan

**Altar Guild:** Amy Williams

**Communion Asst:** Anita Eisenhard

**Communion Bread:** Lisa Newhard

**Greeters:** Sophia Mesko, Ellie Pisauro

**Lay Asst:** Lacey Edwards

**Reader:** Dick Steltz

## Sunday, April 26, 2026

**9:00AM**

No Assistants

**10:30AM**

**Ushers:** Melanie Dimovitz, Judy Walker

**Altar Guild:** Jennifer Bentsen

**Communion Asst:** Bob Bruchak

**Communion Bread:** Dorothy O'Connors

**Greeter:** Dorothy O'Connors

**Lay Asst:** Sandi Wagaman

**Reader:** Tom Kellogg

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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

Lehigh Mission District  
mailing address:  
PO Box 10  
Old Zionsville, PA 18068

## LMD Spring Assembly

Sunday, May 3 at 4pm  
at the Lutheran Center  
(2354 Grove Road,  
Allentown)

*Hors d'oeuvres will be  
served starting at 3:30pm.*

Every LMD active rostered leader and every LMD lay voting member to NEPA Synod Assembly is expected to attend. Please email your RSVP to [lehighlutherans@gmail.com](mailto:lehighlutherans@gmail.com) by April 15<sup>th</sup>. It would be great to have as many of you there as possible!



## 2026 NEPA Synod Assembly

June 4-6, 2026  
Split Rock Resort  
(428 Moseywood Rd,  
Lake Harmony, PA 18624)

The Synod Assembly is the annual gathering of the synod's congregations, pastors, and leaders to worship, conduct business, and discern the church's mission together. This year it will also include election of a bishop.

## Registration runs April 7-May 11

"Renewed Spirit Synod Assembly Grants" are now available and requests must be submitted by 3/31/26.

Congregations with financial need may apply by contacting Pastor Rob Argot Jr. at [rev-rob@hotmail.com](mailto:rev-rob@hotmail.com)



*May 2026 LMD NL news  
will be due April 13, 2026.*

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

## Orpheus and Jesus

*'A Collaborative History of the Lehigh Mission District, part 3' will resume in June.*

There's an old Greek legend about a man named Orpheus whose wife Eurydice died and went to the underworld. Orpheus was a musician and he wrote a love song about his dead wife that was so intensely sad that the gods allowed Orpheus to go beneath earth's surface, down to the "underworld," to retrieve his wife's soul and bring her back up to life. But there was a catch: Eurydice would have to walk behind Orpheus on their journey upward to life. If Orpheus turned back to see if Eurydice was really following him, she and all the souls ascending with her would immediately be returned back to the underworld. In other words, Orpheus needed to have faith; he needed to trust that Eurydice was behind him, following him back upward to life.

And so Orpheus began his journey, trusting that Eurydice and all the souls of the dead were right behind him, hands joined together, following him upward to life. And up and up Orpheus went until finally the light of the surface world was visible. He was almost back to the surface when suddenly his faith faltered and he snuck a little glance over his shoulder. As his eyes locked with Eurydice's eyes, they both gasped. Orpheus looked with unconsolable horror as Eurydice and all the other souls were immediately snatched away and returned to the underworld, never to see the surface again.

Luckily for us, Jesus is not Orpheus. Jesus does not doubt that we are right behind him, following him all the way upward to the cross and onward to life. In Christ's name, we are invited to reach out our hands to the other souls on this same journey with us, helping one another to follow Jesus upward to life. One day there will no longer be people separated and alone in an "underworld" of hunger, illness, loneliness, systemic injustice, and despair, but instead all hands will join together in one great fellowship of all the people Jesus has both nourished and loved back to life.

This holy season, may we look to Jesus with hopeful expectation, and may we help one another.

*Wide open are your arms,  
A fallen world to embrace,  
To win to love and endless rest  
Our wayward human race.  
Lord, I am sad and poor,  
But boundless is your grace;  
Give me the soul transforming joy  
For which I seek your face.*

~Bernard of Clairvaux (trans. Charles Porterfield Krauth)

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



## Spring Fling Dance

featuring the Hanover Big Band  
St. Timothy's Lutheran Church  
(140 S. Ott Street, Allentown)

Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 7 to 10 PM  
in the Fellowship Hall  
(enter from rear parking lot)

All are welcome to this evening of fun and dancing!

Dress is casual. Tickets are \$15/person. They may be purchased by calling the office (610-435-6512 x200) or are available at the door.

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

Registration is **NOW OPEN** for the last 3 advertised shows as well as our two multi-day trips!

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

Please see the attached newsletter or visit the website for more info.



The Neighborhood Center is dedicated to providing early childhood education, specifically designed for our Early Learners, to prepare them for kindergarten. We also offer an Elementary Program and a Teens Program that meets regularly after school and during the summer.

A gift today will provide safe after-school activities, homework help, warm meals, and a place where kids know they belong!



[www.theneighborhoodcenterallentown.com](http://www.theneighborhoodcenterallentown.com)  
344 N. 7th Street, Allentown, PA 18102  
Phone: 610-434-5799

With Easter quickly approaching, if anyone would be able to donate eggs for the kids to dye for Easter, we would greatly appreciate it. They will be used for an Easter egg hunt, along with plastic eggs filled with jellybeans. Donations of jellybeans, Easter candy, and Easter grass are also being collected right now as well in preparation for our upcoming Easter celebration. Additionally, if you have any baskets that you would be willing to donate, we would love to have those available to hand out to the kids. All items are needed by Wednesday, March 25th.

In addition to our donation requests for Easter, we are also in need of a bookshelf, buttons for art projects, and a two-line phone. Please feel free to contact us if you would be willing to help us with any of these needs as well.

**Your support is always greatly appreciated!**



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.

**2026 is already off to an incredible start. Because of YOU:**

- 3 families have already graduated into stable housing
- Prevention efforts are expanding
- Nearly a quarter million votes helped secure critical funding
- Volunteers, partners, and donors continue to show up in powerful ways

**This is what community truly looks like!**  
**Thank you for believing that every child deserves a home.**

1346 W. Hamilton Street, Allentown PA 18102  
Phone: 610-351-1368  
Email: [Director@FPLhighvalley.org](mailto:Director@FPLhighvalley.org)  
[www.FPLhighvalley.org](http://www.FPLhighvalley.org)



### A Big CROP Thank You!

**THANK YOU** for helping our 2025 Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk raise **over \$28,700** 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** are each receiving more than \$3580 for their vital ministries with neighbors experiencing food insecurity in our area.

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

### Please Save the 2026 CROP Hunger Walk Date!

Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk:  
**Sunday, October 18, 2026** at 1:30 p.m.,  
with registration beginning at 1:00 p.m.  
at St. Timothy Lutheran Church  
(140 S. Ott St., Allentown, PA 18104)

**CHRISTMAS, BIRTHDAY, or ANNIVERSARY GIFT IDEA: DONATE ANYTIME** at

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



Alternatively, **CHECKS FOR "CWS/CROP"** may be given through your congregation/group or sent directly to Linda Held, Allentown CROP Hunger Walk Treasurer, 3441 Devonshire Road, Allentown, PA 18103.

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



# NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## Listening, Healing, and Engaging Through Podcast Ministry



Mission Support makes it possible for the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod to support creative ministries that reach people in new ways and respond to real needs in our communities. One recent example is a podcast project developed by Pastor Kim Truebenbach called *Condemned Happy*, supported through a Witness & Service Grant.

The project began with conversations between Pastor Kim and young adults who were wrestling with difficult experiences related to faith and religious communities. Many of these individuals carried deep questions or painful memories connected to their spiritual upbringing. Recognizing a need for compassionate listening and honest conversation, Pastor Kim began exploring how a podcast could create space for people to share their stories and reflect on faith, healing, and hope.

Through recorded conversations and storytelling, the podcast offered listeners a place where experiences could be shared without judgment. Rather than providing quick answers or trying to “fix” complex situations, the project focused on something deeply pastoral: listening. In doing so, it embodied the synod’s commitment to love, heal, and engage like Jesus, offering a reminder that sometimes the most faithful response we can offer one another is presence, understanding, and compassion.

The project also reflects several of the synod’s ministry lanes. By engaging conversations that resonate with younger generations who often encounter faith discussions online, the podcast reflects the synod’s commitment to Growing Young, meeting people where they are and listening to the questions and experiences shaping their lives today. Using accessible digital tools and online platforms, the ministry also demonstrates Gaining Strength, experimenting with new forms of communication that allow the church to connect with people beyond traditional settings.

At the same time, the project reflects the spirit of Going Beyond Death to Life, walking alongside individuals who have experienced spiritual hurt or who feel disconnected from church communities. By creating space for reflection and conversation, the podcast invites listeners to rediscover hope, trust, and the possibility of healing in their relationship with faith.

Technology made it possible for the conversations to reach a wide audience. Episodes were recorded through simple online tools and shared across podcast platforms and YouTube, places where many younger adults already spend time learning and engaging with ideas. According to podcast analytics, the episodes were downloaded more than 260 times, with listeners across the United States and internationally, demonstrating how digital ministry can connect people in unexpected ways.

While the podcast created an online space for conversation, its impact was also personal and relational. Pastor Kim noted that several young adults in her extended family began reaching out more frequently for conversation and support, knowing they would be met with openness and compassion. These relationships became opportunities for deeper listening and pastoral care, strengthening trust and connection in meaningful ways.

For Pastor Kim, the work became a reminder that faith is often lived out through small but significant acts of presence. Listening carefully, honoring someone's story, and creating space for honest conversation can become powerful expressions of God's love at work in the world.

Projects like this are made possible through Mission Support, which allows the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod to encourage creative ministry, support leaders exploring new ways of sharing the Gospel, and walk alongside people seeking healing, hope, and community. Through ministries like this podcast, we continue to live out our calling to love, heal, and engage like Jesus, trusting that even simple conversations can open doors to deeper understanding and renewed faith. Those interested in exploring the conversations can find the *Condemned Happy* podcast on YouTube, where the episodes remain available to listen and share.

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

## 39<sup>th</sup> NEPA SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Grounded in Ephesians 3:14–21, the 2026 Synod Assembly theme **IMAGINE** invites us to trust the God who can do far more than we can ask or imagine. As we gather in June, the synod will also prayerfully discern and elect a bishop for the next six-year term.

### How You Can Help

Synod Assembly voting will be conducted by paper ballot this year, and volunteers are needed to help distribute and count ballots. To learn more or volunteer, visit the Assembly webpage.

THE REV.  
**CeCee Mills**  
ELCA Representative



**June 4-6, 2026**

Split Rock Resort • Lake Harmony, PA  
Registration Opens: April 7  
Registration Closes: May 11

[godslove.org/assembly2026](https://godslove.org/assembly2026)