

PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Breinigsville, PA

JUNE 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

Pastor's Corner

Pastor's Corner -- LIMITS

What kind of limits do we have? Who or what sets them?

- Does it depend on our age? 6, 16, 18, 21, 35, 59 ½, 62, 65, 67+, 73
- Does it depend on how much money we have? \$10, \$100, \$1000, \$10,000, \$100,000. \$1,000,000, -- or more?
- Does it depend on how educated we are? HS, GED, Bachelor's, Masters, PHD
- Does it depend on who we know or who knows us? H,mmm.

I wonder...

We all live with some limits. No matter how we try, those limits show up whether they are for our safety such as speed limits, railings at cliffs, or wearing seat belts we realize they are in our best interests and we must stay within the boundaries of caution for them to be meaningful to us. Perhaps, some are for our well-being like too many sweets, get enough sleep, or study for that test coming up tomorrow. Maybe we should save a percentage of our income for the future and/or to help others when we are able and we see the need.

LIMITS: We tend to place our own limits upon others when we notice someone is over-stepping certain parameters.

- "They can't do that - they will get hurt!"
- "Get off the grass – it isn't your lawn."
- "Walk your dog somewhere else."
- "As long as you live in this house..."
- "What do you mean I have to wait until I am 16 or 18 or 21?"

Or, you pick your number for the limitations you have to work with. We all have them. Some are set by law, some by common sense and some are simply household customs that make living together more palatable for a shared community.

Where does God fit into this dynamic? Well, we can start with the 10 commandments. **THOU SHALT NOT...** They seem to cover a bevy of regulations and limitations. Then there are the customs and rules and common-sense measures mentioned above that seem to fall under most of the 10 as we learned them,

So, we see God on the **THOU SHALT NOT...** paradigm. Those are limits – sure enough!

Pastor's Corner cont'd

What about the “I love you so much, I want you to have the best life possible. “ Is that God's will for us? Where are the limits there? And just who are all those limits for?

Obviously, they are for us. Can we accept that God has no limits? Ponder that thought for a moment. God has no limits. Then why do we place limits on God? How big is God? Why do we place limits on heaven? How big is heaven? We try to ascribe our limitations onto God to make God more like us, rather than work to be more like God ourselves.

LIMITS: While we tend to place our own limits upon others – we sometimes forget that yes, we even limit God. A good thought to ponder this summer when we are at our leisure and have some time to muse. Thank God for the guard rails and praise God for the comfort and satisfaction you can have in knowing the only one you need to know is God.

Pastor Ginny

MONTHLY PRAYER FAMILIES

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

June 7 - The Schneider Family, The Sedlak Family
The Seibert Family, The Sicher Family

June 14 - The Smith Family, The Solderich Family,
The Spengler Family, The Steltz Family

June 21 - The Stoudt Family, The Strauss Families
The Theodore Family, The Thomas Family

June 28 - The Thompson Family, The Trainor Family
The Wagaman Families, The Walker Family

IRONPIGS GAME

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 3rd Base Party Porch.

LEHIGH VALLEY † OUTREACH DEPOT

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

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

Prayer Shawl Group News



Got Yarn? We just got more yarn for our ongoing charity projects! Everyone has been so productive, we needed to restock. Thanks to a Thrivent grant, there is now more yarn for your use – cotton for the soap sacks, and soft acrylic for the premie hats. See Steph, Judy, or Sandi if you would like yarn.

Knitting and Crochet lessons are available during Plarn. If you would like to learn how to knit a soap sack, bring size 6 knitting needles, and Sandi will step you through it. Crochet lessons will continue – bring a size H crochet hook and Judy will help you with the crocheted soap sack.

Our June Plarn day is **Tuesday, June 16 at 1:30PM**. Come and join us!

WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH [WELCA]

Our monthly meeting was held on Wednesday, May 13, 2026.

Our meeting was finalizing the preparation for the NEPA WELCA Convention being held at St. Paul's on Saturday, June 13th. Since we needed to get everything planned, we ran out of time and never got to a Bible Study this month.

- 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).

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

- Fall Fun & Service Event, Saturday, September 19, 2026, Hope Tatamy. More information will be given at the Convention on June 13th.
- The Flame is scheduled to be mailed on July 23rd. Ladies, please let Sharon Bortz know of anything you would like included in The Flame by July 1st.

Join us for our next meeting, Wednesday, June 10, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. for a time of fellowship a Bible study.

EMMAUS CHORALE PRESENTS

SHALOM

June 7, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.



Faith Presbyterian Church

3002 2nd Street, Emmaus, PA

Works by Maurice, Duruffle, Moses Hogan, Dolly Partyon, Dan Forest, Aaron Copland plus, selections from Porgy and Bess, Wicked and West Side Story

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS – APRIL/MAY 2026

May 20th meeting. It was brought to councils' attention that Pastor Goodwin's contract was up as of June 1, 2026. With Pastor Goodwin's consent, council voted to renew her contract for another year. Council discussed the church's path forward and contact will be made with the synod to see how we proceed forward. The Council and a Synod representative will need to complete paperwork for us to move forward. Council met with the confirmands, Sophia Mesko and Ellie Pisauro, prior to their confirmation. There is a need for a calligrapher and anyone knowing someone, please contact the office. Council met with the confirmands, Sophia Mesko and Ellie Pisauro, prior to their confirmation. There is a need for a calligrapher and anyone who knows someone, please call the office.

 <p>A colorful graphic for June Birthdays featuring a birthday cake, balloons, a party hat, and streamers. The text 'June Birthdays' is written in a playful, cursive font.</p>	<p>1-Matthew Bruchak 3-Sharon Bortz 6-Paul Trainor 8-Vanessa Eisenwerth Sandi Wagaman 12-Cathy Waltemyer 14-Sandy Bennighoff 16-Christine Neme 19-Baileigh Mount Keith Theodore</p>	<p>21-Sydney Mesko 24-Tracy Grammes 25-Gerry Sedlak 27-Shirley Binkley 29-Rebecca Theodore 30-Mari Eiswerth</p> <p>If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, please let the office know. We want to include you</p>
 <p>A graphic for June Anniversaries featuring a heart-shaped ribbon, a heart with a cross, and a heart with a star. The text 'June Anniversaries' is written in a cursive font.</p>	<p>9-James & Cindy Krasnansky 13-Paul & Denise Trainor 15-Dick & Nancy Steltz 16-Steph & Bill Wagaman 17-Edwin & Daisy Pearson 18-Frank & Sandy Benninghoff 19-Roger & Kathy Conrad 22-Bruce & Sandi Wagaman</p>	<p>26-Jeffrey & Melody Pavlacka 30-Robert & Kim Bruchak</p> <p>If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, please let the office know. We want to include you</p>

PARISH NURSING NOTES
SUSAN FERGUSON MS, RN
A SPIRITUAL EXERCISE FOR A HEALTHIER LIFE

Being committed to helping make our world a better place means to intentionally live as a divine human being. When we act with love, we honor God and create a connection of compassion with all those we encounter. This small action has the power to produce an uplifting wave that will shift one's separation to oneness and joining.

Look for the light within each person and respond with kindness and compassion. As you Practice this exercise, act with peace in your heart. Each time you do this invite the flow of God's grace.

Our hope is that these actions will begin to spread harmony throughout people. Living in harmony with others and doing your part to heal and preserve relationships will help you to find the good in this often-troubled world. We may not be able to heal all conflict among friends, family and nations, but we can tend to our own hearts.

Even more important, communicate in times of disagreement, offering forgiveness and Practicing acceptance of people in your life.

When you greet others with positivity and understanding, you will shine a bright light on a small corner of our world.

Praying for others and their healing, growth, and joy will expand your awareness. You will feel more Connected, Compassionate, and open to Grace. As you pray for another's wholeness, you will become more aware of your own feelings, and the same love will begin to support you.

You may not have control over others, but you will have the power to decide how to respond to any person or situation. Committing to this exercise, you will find yourself in the flow of life, Accepting, Adapting and feeling more at peace within yourself. Living a life of peacefulness will bring you greater happiness and new blessings from God.

May Our Lord Bless You and Grant You Peace.

ST. PAUL'S CEMETERY ASSOCIATION BOARD
MEMBER WANTED

A little background regarding the Cemetery Board.

The Trustees forming the Board of Trustees shall be elected by the St. Paul's United Church of Christ Council and St. Paul's Lutheran Church Council at their December meeting; the number of Trustees to be elected is six, three from St. Paul's United Church of Christ and three from St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Trustees are elected for two-year terms and may serve for no more than six consecutive years.

The board meets quarterly, January, April, July, October, on the third Wednesday of the month. For the past year or so, the meetings have been at St. Paul's Lutheran Church starting at 6:30 p.m. Generally, the meetings last for about an hour, or a little longer. A copy of the Constitution/By-Laws is available upon request.

I will be ending my 6 years of serving on the board at the end of this year and am now looking for someone to replace me on the board. Please see me if you have questions regarding being a board member. Other Board members from our church are Robert Bastian and Cal Fetherolf.

Sharon Bortz

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

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.

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.

ALTAR GUILD, COMMUNION ASSISTANTS AND READERS ARE NEEDED

Altar Guild, you would serve approximately every 6 weeks, coming to church a half hour early and setting up the altar for communion. At the end of the service, remove everything from the altar, including fresh flower bouquets, water them, wash the communion-ware and put it away.

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

Reader: you would serve every 6 weeks to read the lessons during the service. Please consider helping in one of these roles. Contact Steph Wagaman with any questions.

Christmas in July

Lehigh Zion has accepted our invitation to celebrate Christmas in **July on the 26th**. We will gather for worship at 10:30. There will not be a 9 am service that day.

We will share a meal together and then take the opportunity to be the ones giving the gifts. We are planning to put snack packets together for the unhoused in Allentown.

Because they are non-perishable, they will have a longer shelf life, so, we are not limited to how many we could prepare.

Each packet need not have everything in every packet. These packets can include the following:

Granola, Protein or Fruit Bars (no peanuts)

Individual Packs of Cereals

Tuna Creations Deli Style Tuna Salad Pouch

Chicken Creations Deli Style

Dried fruit

Snack size Fruit cups and applesauce

Gluten Free Foods

Lunch Bags

Ziploc snack and sandwich bags.

There will be a box in the narthex for the collection labeled **Christmas in July** to accept the items.

UPCOMING EVENTS FROM THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

6/14 - Potluck

6/19 – Pizza/movie night



Sunday, June 7, 2026 – The Second Sunday after Pentecost

Hosea 5:15; 6:6 God desires steadfast

Psalm 50:7-15 Call upon me in the day of trouble, says your God

Romans 4:13-25 The promise to those who share Abraham's faith

Matthew 9:9-13;18-26 Christ heals a woman and raises a synagogue leader's daughter

Sunday, June 14, 2026 – The Third Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 19:2-8a The covenant with Israel at Sinai

Psalm 100 We are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.

Romans 5:1-8 While we were sinners, Christ died for us

Matthew 9:35-10:8 The sending of the Twelve

Sunday, June 21, 2026 – The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 20:7-13 Jesus' companions at prayer after his departure

Psalm 69:7-10 Answer me, O Lord, for your love is kind.

Romans 6:1b-11 Buried and raised with Christ by baptism

Matthew 10:24-39 The cost of discipleship

Sunday, June 28, 2026 – The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremia 28:5-9 The test of a true prophet

Psalm 89:1-4,15-18 Your love, O Lord, forever will I sing

Romans 6:12-23 No longer under law but under grace

Matthew 10:40-42 Welcome Christ in those he sends

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

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT
NEWSLETTER IS
JUNE 17TH**

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






**CHURCH OFFICE: 610-398-7000
HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE
EMAIL: office@stpaulsbbv.org
Website: www.stpaulsbbv.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

June 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 10:00 a.m.-Bible Study	2	3	4 Synod Assembly 9:30 a.m.-Amazing Womens Group	5 Synod Assembly	6 Synod Assembly
7 Second Sunday After Pentecost 9:00 a.m.-Worship 10:30 a.m.-Worship	8 10:00 a.m.-Bible Study	9	10 9:30 a.m. WELCA	11 9:30 a.m.-Amazing Womens Group	12	13 9:00 a.m. NEPA WELCA Convention
14 Third Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 a.m.-Worship 10:30 a.m.-Worship 11:30 a.m. – POTLUCK 	15 10:00 a.m.-Bible Study 1:00 p.m. Worship and Music	16 1:30 p.m. PLARN	17 6:30 p.m. Haafsville Board Meeting 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting	18 9:30 a.m.-Amazing Womens Group	19 6:00 p.m. Pizza 7:00 p.m. Movie 	20
21 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 a.m.-Worship 10:30 a.m.-Worship 11:30 a.m. – Blood Pressure Check 	22 10:00 a.m.-Bible Study <hr/> 29	23 <hr/> 30	24	25 9:30 a.m.-Amazing Womens Group	26	27
28 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 a.m.-Worship 10:30 a.m.-Worship						

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

June 2026

If you cannot fulfill an assigned duty, please call the church office at 610-398-7000 or
the Council Person of the Month – Sharon Bortz 610-248-5385

Sunday, June 7, 2026

9:00AM

No Assistants

10:30AM

Ushers: Ken Ritter, Judy Walker

Altar Guild: Janine Ritter

Communion Asst: Bob Bruchak

Communion Bread: June Kellogg

Greeter: Mary Schneider

Lay Asst: Sandi Wagaman

Reader: June Kellogg

Sunday, June 21, 2026

9:00AM

No Assistants

10:30AM

Ushers: Frank Bennighoff, Carl Seibert

Altar Guild: Rosemary Lehman

Communion Asst: Sandi Wagaman

Communion Bread: Bruce & Sandi Wagaman

Greeter: Carl & Esther Seibert

Lay Asst: Dick Steltz

Reader: Jennifer Bentsen

Sunday, June 14, 2026

9:00AM

No Assistants

10:30AM

Ushers: Andrew Bruchak, Bob Bruchak

Altar Guild: Jennifer Bentsen

Communion Asst: Sharon Bortz

Communion Bread: Jennifer Bentsen

Greeter: Peggy Saylor

Lay Asst: Daisy Pearson

Reader: Melanie Dimovitz

Sunday, June 28, 2026

9:00AM

No Assistants

10:30AM

Ushers: Cal Fetherolf, Rosie Gallagher

Altar Guild: Amy Williams

Communion Asst: Tom Kellogg

Communion Bread: Helen Post

Greeter: Madeline MacMechan

Lay Asst: Lacey Edwards

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

NEPA Assembly REMINDER:

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



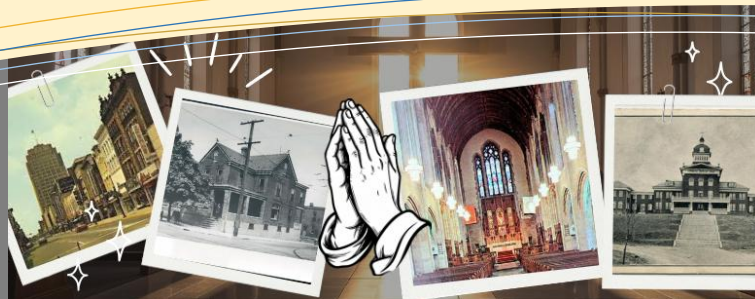
CHURCH YARD SALE

May 30, 2026
(raindate - June 6, 2026)
8:00 AM - 1:00 PM
St. Andrew's
Lutheran Church
(4330 W. Rock Road,
Allentown)

Confirm your table today
for \$20. Tables are
available for rent
for \$5/each (limited
quantities available).

Treasures Galore!
Something for everyone!

See attached flyer to post.



*July/August 2026 LMD NL news
will be due June 15, 2026.*

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

A Collaborative History of the Lehigh Mission District, part 3

20th Century

The Allentown Conference played a role in founding various schools and agencies including Muhlenberg College, the Good Shepherd Home, and the Lutheran Home at Topton (originally begun as an orphanage, later expanded into a home for the elderly). The Good Shepherd Home (6th and St. John Street) was the first of its kind, providing care and support for disabled orphans of any and all faiths and skin colors (see Papa Raker's Dream by Dick Cowen, Kutztown Publishing Company, 1988).

The mid-20th century marked a major shift in the conference as denominational and synodical initiatives sought to dissolve union churches. In Rev. Harold W. Sell's January 5, 1960 report to his congregation (see Minutes in the archives of Faith Lutheran, Whitehall) he reports three goals set by the "Town and Country Workshop" at the Ministerium Camp:

1. A service in every church every Sunday.
2. Every congregation constituted in a separate parish.
3. Every congregation in its own building.

Collaboration between congregations was reconfigured into various ministries while congregations simultaneously became competitors with one another. Collaboration also shifted from a conference structure to focusing more on urban centers. The Allentown Area Lutheran Parish (AALP) was formed and began joint youth outreach programs such as Summer Bible School, Summer Disney Movies, and Epiphany Bible School reunions at Muhlenberg College. AALP established a Spanish speaking Lutheran congregation called St. Martin de Porres. AALP also took a lead role in establishing the Allentown Food Bank, the Literacy Council, and English as a Second Language programs. As suburbs around the area developed, some congregations moved out of the city into the suburbs and new ones were established, including Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit in Emmaus.

Operation Sunshine began its ministry in the 1980s as a lunch club for seniors. As this ministry grew to include bus daytrips a newsletter was begun and distributed to the congregations advertising these trips and notifying the congregations of other joint endeavors.

By the end of the 20th century, another denominational merger created the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and reconfigured AALP as a conference once again. This conference was named the Lehigh Mission District

(continued on the next page ⇨)



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

Remaining trips are WAIT LIST ONLY

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

Worship on Wednesdays

7:00 PM at St. Timothy
Lutheran Church

(140 S. Ott Street, Allentown)
at the pavilion or inside during
inclement weather

WE WELCOME ALL OUR
FRIENDS OLD AND NEW
It is always a JOY to
worship together!

June 10 - Catholic Friends
SPEAKER: Pr. Cynthia Rader Geyer
Community Org: Sixth Street Shelter

June 17 - Freely Given Gospel
Community Org: Street Medicine
Program

June 24 - The Dulcimer Boys
SPEAKER: Pr. Glenn Simmons
Community Org: The YMCA
Warming Station

More dates in July & August!!

*Each week a freewill offering will be taken
& funds will be given to a specific group.*

PLEASE JOIN US FOR GOOD
MUSIC, THE WORD &
FELLOWSHIP!!!

See attached flyer to post.

(continued from previous page)

(LMD) and grew to reincorporate the rural congregations into common mission with the urban congregations. The LMD Council consisted of representatives from each of the more than 30 congregations in the mission district. The combined financial support of these congregations funded a LMD office space and a full-time salaried coordinator...to be continued

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

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

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!



**We offer a range of volunteer opportunities
that invite both students and adults to make
a meaningful impact on the community.
Visit the website for more info.**



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. Please contact us for more information.

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

Family Promise of Lehigh Valley is excited to be chosen to participate again in the **Annual Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community on Saturday, June 13, 2026, at DeSales University.** [Register online!!](#)



A Big CROP Thank You!

THANK YOU for helping our 2025 Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk raise **over \$28,783.31** 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.

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

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)

Birthday, Anniversary, or Anytime GIFT IDEA

In honor of loved ones, give the gift of life!
DONATE ANYTIME at

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.



NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Meeting Neighbors Where They Are

Written by Pastor Jim Farnsworth of St Mark Lutheran Church, Birdsboro



When congregations across the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod share Mission Support, they are participating in something much bigger than any one ministry. Together, we are making it possible for congregations to dream, collaborate, and step into new ways of loving, healing, and engaging like Jesus.

One powerful example comes from St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Birdsboro, whose Witness & Service Grant helped support their Our Daily Bread Mobile Food Ministry. What began as an idea discussed for years became a reality through faith, partnership, and community support. Within just a few months, they raised \$54,000 to launch a fully equipped mobile kitchen, allowing them to bring meals directly to people in need.

Today, that mobile kitchen is on the move, serving at veterans' events, supporting local outreach efforts, partnering with other ministries, and showing up in places where people may not otherwise experience the Church. Rather than waiting for neighbors to come through their doors, St. Mark's is going out to meet people where they are, offering both nourishment and connection.

Through this ministry, relationships are being built across congregations, nonprofits, and community organizations. Volunteers and partners are working side by side, and new connections continue to grow. As those involved share, they see God at work in the faces and stories of the people they serve, reminding them that those they encounter are "the treasures of the Church."

This is what Mission Support makes possible.





Through your shared gifts, the synod is able to invest in ministries like this through initiatives such as Witness & Service Grants, equipping congregations to respond to real needs in their communities. These are not just projects, they are expressions of the Gospel in action, rooted in relationships and shaped by the hope of Christ.

Together, we are connecting congregations for life-giving mission and ministry, so that, as a synod, we can continue to love like Jesus, heal like Jesus, and engage like Jesus, bringing the good news beyond our walls and into the world.

Thank you for the ways you make this work possible through your Mission Support.

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.



Would you like to propel an idea into action, engaging both congregation and broader community leaders?

A variety of learning opportunities are available including:

- Small- and Large-Scale Context Mapping
- World and Spirit Cafe Methodologies
- Launching Fresh Expressions
- Demographics Research
- Biblical Models of Evangelism
- Forming Action Plans
- And More!

QUESTIONS

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