

PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Breinigsville, PA

JULY/AUGUST 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 – SCARCITY OR ABUNDANCE

Pastor's Corner -- TRANSITIONS

We are entering into a transitional time in the seasons. Spring to summer will take the gentle cool breezes and turn them into hot steamy days and humid nights. We will go from busy work times to lazy vacation times. We also have transitional times in our personal lives; baby time, toddlers, pre-teen to teenage years and then finally adulthood. Do we expect to find transitions as we enter such a grown-up time? Jobs, marriage, babies, new house - - should I go on?

We expected adulthood to be a stable time of life. What a surprise. Maybe God was preparing us for “Real Life” in our early years by having us experience changes through growth. And it is truly a disruption as we grew into our new schedules. The phrase we use to describe it is, “Life Happens.”

It is the same in the church. Members come and then move away for various reasons. Pastors come and then leave for various reasons. Each time one of these events occurs there is a disruption in our day-to-day life. Most of us realize that we will never go back to what life was like before the particular event took place. Yet, there are some who want everything to stay the same. No two people are the same. Nothing stays the same. It isn't possible. Once that branch falls under the weight of the ice storm, the tree will never be the same. And you can't plant another to replicate it. Each one is different. Can it be better? Yes – but it can't be the same. When you add a new member to your family whether it be a new child or an in-law the dynamics of the family has changed forever. It has transitioned.

God has our lives in a perpetual state of transition from day to day. Our earth- the orbit, the moon- the phases, stars- light years away, the seas- the tides, birds and animals- their annual migrations, and yes, our very lives. Is this God's plan? YES, and YES and YES! It is a reminder to all of us who is in charge. We cannot change the earth's orbit, the tides of the seas, the phases of the moon or the migration of the birds and animals. And try as we might, we cannot stop the changes that will occur in our own lives and in our church. We can only trust that God is in charge and all will be OK. Because, with God it always is OK.

Pastor Ginny

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

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS

This year, July 26th is our Christmas in July, an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. This year, St Paul's and Zion Lehigh is inviting to join together in the service project.

St Paul's would like to include Zion Lehigh in a celebratory dinner after church on **Sunday, July 26th**.

We will provide meat, beverages and table service. All are asked to provide side dishes and desserts. A signup sheet will be on the table in the narthex.



AN OUTDOOR SERVICE AND PICNIC WITH ZION LEHIGH CHURCH AUGUST 30th LOCKRIDGE PARK, ALBURTIS AT 10 A.M.

Zion will provide meat, beverages and table service. We are asked to provide side dishes and desserts. Someone will be contacting us about potential numbers, and they would appreciate our best guess. A signup sheet will be on the table in the narthex.

MONTHLY PRAYER FAMILIES

In **July/August** we will be praying for the following families each week.

- July 5 -** The Waltemyer Family, The Weiser Family,
The Wenz Family, The Wertz Family
- July 12 -** The Wilburn Family, The Williams Family,
The Younger Family, The Zahour Family
- July 19 -** The Apgar Family, The Bastian Family,
The Bellucci Family, The Bennighoff Family
- July 26 -** The Bentsen Family, The Berghold Family
The Bortz Family, The Bruchak Family

MONTHLY PRAYER FAMILIES

In **July/August** we will be praying for the following families each week.

- August 2 -** The Brumbach Family, The Caricari Family
The Conrad Family, The Backstrom Family
- August 9 -** The Byrne Family, The Cope Family,
The Danner Family, The Derr-Breinig Family
- August 16 -** The Dietrich Family, The Dimovitz Family,
The Edwards Family, The Eisenhard Family
- August 23 -** The Evans Family, The Ferguson Family,
The Fetherolf Family, The Figner Family
- August 30 -** The Gade Family, The Gallagher Family,
The Grammes Family, The Goodwin Family

NEPA SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2026

Daisy Pearson, Sharon Bortz, and Pastor Ginny attended the 2026 Northeast Pennsylvania Synod Assembly “Imagine” that was held June 4-6, 2026, at Split Rock Resort. The main purpose was to elect a bishop. After casting ballots five times, The Rev. Jennifer Dee was elected. Executive reports and committee reports were given, and the 2027 budget was approved. It was a great opportunity to meet people from other areas of the synod and exchange ideas and contact information.

UPCOMING EVENTS FROM THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

- 7/12/26 Potluck
- 7/17/26 Movie and Pizza Night
- 7/26/26 Christmas in July Worship & Picnic with Zion Lehigh Church,
10:30 a.m. No 9 a.m. worship
- 8/9/26 Potluck
- 8/21/26 Movie and Pizza Night
- 8/30/26 Worship & Picnic with Zion Lehigh Church at 10:30 a.m. at
Lockridge Park in Alburdis – No 9 a.m. worship.

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

Prayer Shawl Group News



We're halfway through 2026, and have made considerable progress on our charity knit and crochet projects. So far, we have 64 preemie hats and 100 soap sacks. Thanks to all our makers!

For the congregation – we are collecting bath-size bars of soap to fill each soap sack. If you would like to help out, please consider purchasing bar soap and placing it in the “Home Health Items” collection box in the Narthex.



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.

In addition, our Plarn team continues to work hard processing bags into Plarn, and weaving/crocheting sleeping mats for the homeless. We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of every month. Our July Plarn day is **Tuesday, July 21 at 1:30PM**, and our August Plarn day is **Tuesday, August 18 at 1:30 PM**. Come and join us!

WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH [WELCA]

Our monthly meeting was held on Wednesday, June 10, 2026.

Our business meeting was finalizing preparations for the NEPA WELCA Convention being held at St. Paul's on Saturday, June 13th.

Our Bible Study was I am worthy Session one A am created IN God's image (No matter what anyone else says.) by Sara Olson-Smith.

WELCA cont'd

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

- About 30 women attended the NEPA WELCA 36th annual convention on Saturday, June 13, 2026. Pastor Ginny and Bishop deForest conducted the worship service. Bishop deForest address the women after the worship service and Pastor Ginny remained most of the day.
- Fall Fun & Service Event, Saturday, September 19, 2026, Hope Tatamy. Complete information and registration will be included in the July mailing of The Flame.
- The Flame is scheduled to be mailed on July 23rd. Ladies, please let Sharon Bortz know of anything you would like to include in The Flame by July 1st.

Join us for our next meeting, Wednesday, July 8, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. for a time of fellowship a Bible study.

Our meeting in August will be on the 12th.

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.

PARISH NURSING NOTES - SUMMER 2026

Happy Summer!

Last month we shared some recommendations to bring peace and harmony in our troubled world. Hopefully, you have been able to practice responding to others with kindness and compassion.

Psalms 51:10 Create in Me a clean heart, O God, and put a new, and right spirit within me.

Luke 6:37 Forgive, and you will be forgiven.

When I think of what is important to me, I consider the people that I love and the things I value. As I continue to grow and change, I sometimes realize it's time to let go of feelings and behaviors that are no longer healthy or nourish my soul. Letting go can be difficult and painful, but in doing so opens me to new spiritual growth.

As take time to pray and center myself with God, I am opened to new wisdom. I focus on fulfilling new relationships and new activities. When I hold onto resentment or negative thoughts, I remain stuck in my pain.

Forgiveness is key to freeing my soul from this twisted thinking. I forgive those who have hurt me. I also ask for forgiveness of those I may have harmed.

I believe that I and others are worthy of forgiveness, love, grace and renewal.

Today, let us begin again, to be open, free and receiving of the forgiveness that God has offered to us.

Ultimately, it is a return to love.

Let us forgive and bless each other

I pray the peace and grace that flows from our forgiveness will bless others.

Let's spread love and compassion.

May Our Lord Bless You and Grant You Peace.

Susan Ferguson, MS,RN

**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.



- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 6 Dorothy O’Connors | 25 Sienna Burley |
| 10 Kathy Maslany | 25 Kylee Maslany |
| 14 Briana Mironov | 28 Anita Eisenhard |
| 15 Melody Pavlacka | 28 John Thomas |
| 16 Sarabeth Mesko | 28 Earl Wenz |
| 16 Brandon Robinson | 29 Kayla NemeH |
| 21 Ed Pearson | |
| 25 Kim Bruchak | |



- | |
|--------------------------|
| 16 Bob & Kim Pearson |
| 21 Mark & Kathy Maslany |
| 22 Kim & Shawn Sicher |
| 30 Bob & Donna Nickisher |



3 Maria Evans
4 Robert Bastian
8 Kay Schlenker

12 Joseph Mironov
22 William Heminitz
25 Jeffrey Heminitz
30 Jennifer Rothermel



6 Joe & Amy Mutis
7 Bill & Cheryl Wilburn
10 Tom & June Kellogg
12 Michael & Kelly Morgenstern
16 Ginger & Bill Hallock
24 Bruce & Peggy Saylor



Dear St. Paul's

On behalf of the Ruth and Rebekah Circles from St. John's Lutheran church in Nazareth, we want to thank all of you that were involved in making the convention for the Ladies of WELCA possible.

It was a lovely day – your church service with the bishop being part of the sermon was awesome. It was wonderful that he could be with us one more time before our new lady bishop starts her duties. Please be sure to thank the ladies in the kitchen for serving breakfast and lunch, they did a great job.

Sincerely your partner in Christ,
Louis Morris
St. John's WELCA



Sunday, July 5, 2026 – The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Zechariah 9:9-12 The king will come in humility and peace

Psalms 145:8-14 The Lord is gracious and full of compassion

Romans 7:15-25a The struggle within the self

Matthew 11:16-19,25-30 The yoke of discipleship

Sunday, July 12, 2026 – The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 55:10-13 The growth of the word to accomplish God's purpose

Psalms 65: [1-8] 9-13 Your paths overflow with plenty

Romans 8:1-11 Live according to the Spirit

Matthew 13:1-9,18-23 The parable of the sower and the seed

Sunday, July 19, 2026 – The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 44:6-8 There is no other God than the Lord

Psalms 86:12-25 Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk
in your truth.

Romans 8:12-25 The revealing of the children of God

Matthew 13:24-30,30-43 The parable of the weeds

Sunday, July 26, 2026 – The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 3:5-12 Solomon's prayer for wisdom

Psalms 119:129-136 When your word is opened, it gives light
and understanding

Romans 8:26-39 Nothing can separate us from God's love

Matthew 13:31-33,44-52 Parables of the reign of heaven



Sunday, August 2, 2026 – The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 55:1-5 Eat and drink that which truly satisfies
Psalms 145:8-9,14-21 The Lord is gracious and full of compassion
Romans 9:1-5 The glory of God's people Israel
Matthew 14:13-21 Christ feeding five thousand

Sunday, August 9, 2026 – The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 19:9-18 the Lord speaks to Elijah on Mount Horeb
Psalms 85:8-13 I will listen to what the Lord God is saying
Romans 10:5-15 Hearing the confessing the word of faith
Matthew 14:22-23 Jesus walking on the sea

Sunday, August 16, 2026 – The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 56:1,6-8 A house of prayer for all peoples
Psalms 67 Let all the peoples praise you, O God
Romans 11:1-2a,29-32 God's mercy to all, Jew and Gentile
Matthew 15[10-20]21-28 the healing of the Canaanite woman's daughter

Sunday, August 23 – The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 51:1-6 The enduring foundation of God's salvation
Psalms 138 O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever
Romans 12:1-8 One body in Christ, with gifts that differ
Matthew 16:13-20 The profession of Peter's faith

Sunday, August 30 – The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 15:15-21 God fortifies the prophet against opposition
Psalms 26:1-8 Your love is before my eyes
Romans 12:9-21 Live in harmony
Matthew 13:21-28 the passion prediction and rebuke to Peter

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT
NEWSLETTER IS
AUGUST 16TH**

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



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

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

July 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 9:30 a.m.- Amazing Women's Group	3	4
5 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 a.m.-Worship 10:30 a.m.-Worship	6 10:00 a.m.-Bible Study	7	8 9:30 a.m.-W-ELCA	9 9:30 am to 2pm.- Amazing Women's Group party	10	11 Funeral service for Richard Mauthe Calling hours 10am-11am Service 11am
12 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 a.m.-Worship 10:30 a.m.-Worship 11:30 a.m. – Potluck	13 10:00 a.m.-Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting	14	15 6:30 p. m.-Haafsville Board Meeting	16 9:30 a.m.- Amazing Women's Group	17 5:00 p.m. Pizza 6:00 p.m. Movie	18
19 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 a.m.-Worship 10:30 a.m.-Worship 9:45 a.m. Blood Pressure Checks	20 10:00 a.m.-Bible Study	21 1:30 PLARN	22	23 9:30 a.m.- Amazing Women's Group	24	25
26 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost Christmas in July (no 9 am service) 10:30 a.m.-Worship Outdoor Service with Zion Lehigh	27 10:00 a.m.-Bible Study 1:00 p.m. Worship and Music	28	29	30 9:30 a.m.- Amazing Women's Group		

8227 Hamilton Boulevard, Breinigsville, PA
(610) 398-7000 / office@stpaulsbbv.org

Can't get to Church on Sunday? Watch us on Facebook. You do NOT have to be registered to do so.
www.facebook.com/stpaulsbbv

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

August 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 a.m.-Worship 10:30 a.m.-Worship	3 10:00 a.m.-Bible Study	4	5	6 9:30 a.m.-Amazing Women's Group	7	8
9 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 a.m.-Worship 10:30 a.m.-Worship 11:30 a.m.-Potluck	10 10:00 a.m.-Bible Study 7:00 Council Meeting	11	12 9:30 a.m.-WELCA	13 9:30 a.m.-Amazing Women's Group	14	15
16 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 a.m.-Worship 10:30 a.m.-Worship 9:45 a.m. – Blood Pressure Checks	17 10:00 a.m.-Bible Study	18 1:30 PLARN	19 6:30 p.m.-Haafsville Board Meeting	20 9:30 a.m.-Amazing Women's Group	21 6:00 Pizza 7:00 Movie	22
23 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 a.m.-Worship 10:30 a.m.-Worship	24 10:00 a.m.-Bible Study	25	26	27 9:30 a.m.-Amazing Women's Group	28	29
30 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:30 a.m.-Worship Combined with Zion Lehigh Lockridge Park (no 9am worship)	31 10:00 a.m.-Bible Study			September Notice: Bells and Choir will resume on Sept. 10th		

8227 Hamilton Boulevard, Breinigsville, PA
(610) 398-7000 / office@stpaulsblue.org

Can't get to Church on Sunday? Watch us on Facebook. You do NOT have to be registered to do so.
www.facebook.com/stpaulsblue

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

July 2026

If you cannot fulfill an assigned duty, please call the church office at 610-398-7000 or
the Council Persons of the Month - Daisy Pearson 610-509-4905 on 7/5 and 7/12
Sharon Bortz 610-248-5385 on 7/19 and 7/26

Sunday, July 5, 2026

9:00AM

No Assistants

10:30AM

Ushers: Zack Dimovitz, Peggy Saylor
Altar Guild: Judy Walker
Communion Asst: Dick Steltz
Communion Bread: Carol Derr-Breinig
Greeter: Carol Derr-Breinig
Lay Asst: Rosemary Lehman
Reader: Melanie Dimovitz

Sunday, July 19, 2026

9:00AM

No Assistants

10:30AM

Ushers: Frank Bennighoff, Judy Walker
Altar Guild: Steph Wagaman
Communion Asst: Rosemary Lehman
Communion Bread: Lisa Newhard
Greeter: Bruce Wagaman
Lay Asst: Sharon Bortz
Reader: Martine Otto

Sunday, July 12, 2026

9:00AM

No Assistants

10:30AM

Ushers: Cal Fetherolf, Ken Ritter
Altar Guild: Janine Ritter
Communion Asst: Sharon Bortz
Communion Bread: Bob Nickisher
Greeter: Ken Ritter
Lay Asst: Bob Bruchak
Reader: Cal Fetherolf

Sunday, July 26, 2026

NO 9:00AM

SERVICE

10:30AM

Ushers: Rosie Gallagher, Carl Seibert
Altar Guild: Esther Seibert
Communion Asst: Tom Kellogg
Communion Bread: Dorothy O'Connors
Greeter: Dorothy O'Connors
Lay Asst: Sandi Wagaman
Reader: Jennifer Bentsen

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

August 2026

If you cannot fulfill an assigned duty, please call the church office at 610-398-7000 or the Council Person of the Month – Bruce/Sandi Wagaman 610-203-8085

Sunday, August 2, 2026

9:00AM

No Assistants

10:30AM

Ushers: Frank Bennighoff, Peggy Saylor

Altar Guild: Jennifer Bentsen

Communion Asst: Bob Bruchak

Communion Bread: Helen Post

Greeter: Frank & Sandy Bennighoff

Lay Asst: Dick Steltz

Reader: June Kellogg

Sunday, August 16, 2026

9:00AM

No Assistants

10:30AM

Ushers: Melanie Dimovitz, Ken Ritter

Altar Guild: Janine Ritter

Communion Asst: Tom Kellogg

Communion Bread: Ken & Janine Ritter

Greeter: Mary Schneider

Lay Asst: Sharon Bortz

Reader: Tom Kellogg

Sunday, August 9, 2026

9:00AM

No Assistants

10:30AM

Ushers: Zack Dimovitz, Carl Seibert

Altar Guild: Judy Walker

Communion Asst: Sandi Wagaman

Communion Bread: Esther Seibert

Greeter: Zack Dimovitz

Lay Asst: Rosemary Lehman

Reader: Martine Otto

Sunday, August 23, 2026

9:00AM

No Assistants

10:30AM

Ushers: Rosie Gallagher, Judy Walker

Altar Guild: Rosemary Lehman

Communion Asst: Sharon Bortz

Communion Bread: Jennifer Bentsen

Greeter: Rosie Gallagher

Lay Asst: Sandi Wagaman

Reader: Cal Fetherolf

Sunday, August 30, 2026

NO 9:00 AM

SERVICE

10:30AM

Ushers: Ken Ritter, Carl Seibert

Altar Guild: Steph Wagaman

Communion Asst: Dick Steltz

Communion Bread: Steph Wagaman

Greeter: Cal Fetherolf

Lay Asst: Bob Bruchak

Reader: Melanie Dimovitz

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July/August
2026



Lehigh Mission District NEWSLETTER

The Rev. Thomas D. Busted, 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 Rostered Leaders Gathering:

Wednesday, September 9
at 10:30 AM

Zion's Lutheran, Old Zionsville
(5901 Kings Highway S.)

We shall reconvene after our summer hiatus to reconnect and also review the scriptures verses collected at the LMD Spring assembly last May. Bring your ideas and your hopes for our monthly sessions this year. Snacks, coffee, and tea provided.

For those who are interested, a brief tour of the one room schoolhouse just a short 5-minute drive down the hill will be available. Although the present schoolhouse building is from the 19th century, it is on the site where Rev. Henry Melchior Muhlenberg preached in 1748 (and almost died in the swamp on his way getting there). Since then, the property is still jointly owned and managed by the Lutheran, UCC, and Mennonite congregations.

Game Day

1-4 PM on the 3rd

Thursday of the month
(July 16, Aug 20)

Zion's Lutheran, Old Zionsville
(5901 Kings Highway S.)

Come play games and eat snacks. Faith, fellowship, family, and fun!



*September 2026 LMD NL news
will be due August 10, 2026.*

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

A Collaborative History of the Lehigh Mission District, part 4

21st Century

By the early part of the 21st century, organizations once intimately integrated into the life of the local Lutheran church had become more formally independent institutions and began to lose their Lutheran identity. Some organizations such as Muhlenberg College attempted to reclaim its Lutheran heritage through initiatives like the "Red Door Project." Despite this, relationships between these organizations and the church became more historical than actual as they became separate legal entities with separate governance.

Congregations in the Lehigh Valley that once boasted membership rosters of thousands dwindled to a couple hundred or a few dozen. Church staff decreased in size and full-time staff became the exception instead of the norm. The LMD no longer has an office and its dean is an unpaid volunteer. The Covid-19 pandemic accelerated a decline in church participation, but it also opened the door to new ministries such as live-streaming of worship services.

Hopes and Dreams

In some ways our present reality is similar to our reality as it was 100 years earlier—before we built our stone cathedrals, before full-time pastorates were the norm, and before the post-war boom in church participation. We are having to relearn how to work together and share resources while also letting go of perceiving other congregations as competitors. This will require a redefinition of what we consider to be vital and successful ministry. This will require reframing the building boom of the mid to late 20th century as an anomaly rather than a norm. As we once again live into seeing the gift of working together, new doors are open to us that weren't available in previous generations. The ELCA is in full-communion with more denominations than any other denomination. Our church could potentially become a crossroads of various liturgical and theological traditions married together in shared witness to the Gospel. May we be faithful in proclaiming the Gospel in word and deed as we seek new ways of working together in a shared mission.

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

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!

July 1 - Bobby Siegfried,
Emmanuel's Luth. Church, Bath
SPEAKER: Pr. Barry Mitchell
Community Org: Ripple Church

July 8 - The Blend,
The Barn, Allentown
SPEAKER: Pr. Joanne Marchetto
Community Org: Family Promise

July 15 - Union Lutheran
Praise Team, Schnecksville
SPEAKER: Pr. Gordon Camp
Community Org: The MULE
Community Cabinet

July 22 - Marked By Grace,
St. Mark's, Allentown
SPEAKER: Pr. Brian Riedy
Community Org: Church Hunger
Ministry Catasauqua

July 29 - Worship Team of
Episcopal Church of the
Mediator, Allentown
SPEAKER: Rector Dale Grandfield
Community Org: Refugee
Community Center

August 5 - The JCS Band,
St. Luke's, Allentown
SPEAKER: Pr. Maritza Torres Dolich
Community Org: Second Harvest

August 12 - Grace Notes
Gospel Big Band, LV
SPEAKER: Pr. Bud Daneker
Community Org: Allentown Area
Ecumenical Food Bank

August 19 - St. Timothy
Lutheran Church **ANNUAL
PEACH FESTIVAL** 6-7:30 PM
Music by Lehigh Valley Folk Society

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.



OPERATION SUNSHINE

1933 Hanover Ave, Allentown, PA 18109
Phone: 610-435-9155

Open: Mon 11-3 and Wed. 11-3

Email: LMDopsunshine@aol.com

Website: www.LMDopsunshine.com

Paula & Dick Skelly, Co-Trip Coordinators

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

**Some seats have become available in July,
and new shows added thru the end of the year!**

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.**

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

We rely on compassionate individuals to carry
this work forward. There is always a need for
volunteers to assist with meal prep, overnight
hosting, driving, office support, and move-in
assistance. Mark your calendars too for our
upcoming **Sip & Mingle- August 19th!**



A Big CROP Thank You and Final 2025 Totals!

THANK YOU for helping our 2025 Greater
Allentown CROP Hunger Walk raise
\$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 nearly \$3600 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.

OPERATION SUNSHINE



1987 2022

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



OPERATION SUNSHINE

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

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

DAY TRIP CANCELLATION POLICY:

- 1. If you cancel your reservation prior to the Payment Deadline – Full Refund
2. If you cancel your reservation after the Payment Deadline, but provide a paying replacement traveler - Full Refund
3. If you cancel your reservation after the Payment Deadline, but cancellation is due to a hospitalization – Full Refund
4. If you cancel your reservation after the Payment Deadline and none of the above can be applied – 50% Refund
1. Website – www.LMDopsunshine.com – Read about all the upcoming trips, Register for trips on-line, contact us
2. Office Phone – 610-435-9155 – Register for trips, Call with questions. Office hours are Mon and Wed. 11 AM to 3 PM. You may leave a message and someone will get back to you.
3. E-Mail Address – LMDopsunshine@aol.com – Questions, Make a reservation, Update your personal information
4. Follow up any reservation with a check made Payable to Operation Sunshine and mail to the office BY THE DEADLINE at:
Operation Sunshine
1933 Hanover Ave.
Allentown, PA 18109
5. When making a reservation, please be sure to include your name and phone number (Cell Phone Preferred) and the names of your traveling companion(s) so we can be sure to seat you together. However, be sure your traveling companion (Other than a spouse) also registers for the trip. Please include your meal choice should one be required.

DAY TRIPS

July 22, 2026 (Wed.) – Dutch Apple - MARY POPPINS – SEATS AVAILABLE

Everyone’s favorite nanny is back! Adventure abounds as you get whisked away to meet dancing chimney sweeps and an array of colorful characters in this beloved musical. Hear classics like Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious, A Spoonful of Sugar, and Chim Chim Cheree. Prior to the show feast on Dutch Apple’s scrumptious buffet and desserts galore.

Bus Leaves St. Timothy’s at 9:45 AM – Return approx. 5:30 PM

Cost \$125

PAYMENT DEADLINE: Thurs., June 18, 2026

August 26, 2026 (Wed.) – Penn’s Peak – THE DISCOTEKS – DISCO AND MOTOWN TRIBUTE – WAIT LIST ONLY

Paying tribute to the golden era of disco and Motown, The Discoteks perform all the classic hits that made the 70s a musical revolution. Dressed in eye-catching, sequin-filled attire, their stage presence is as dazzling as their sound—guaranteeing a day of non-stop fun, audience participation, and dancing. Whether you’re reliving the disco fever or discovering it for the first time, The Discoteks is the ultimate party band that keeps the spirit of the 70s alive and kicking! Served lunch at your seat prior to the show.

Bus Leaves St. Timothy’s at 10:15 – Return approx.. 5:00 PM

Cost \$100

PAYMENT DEADLINE: Thurs., July 23, 2026

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2026 OCTOBER TO DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

DAY TRIP CANCELLATION POLICY:

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DAY TRIPS

October 15, 2026 (Thurs) – Fulton Theatre – RAGTIME

"Ragtime" is a sweeping musical set in the early 1900s, "Ragtime" follows three distinct groups in the United States: African Americans, represented by Coalhouse Walker Jr., a talented Harlem pianist; upper-class suburbanites, represented by Mother and her family in New Rochelle, New York; and Eastern European immigrants, represented by Tateh, a Jewish artist from Latvia, and his young daughter, Little Girl. The musical blends fictional characters with historical figures such as Harry Houdini, Evelyn Nesbit, Booker T. Washington, J.P. Morgan, Henry Ford, Emma Goldman, and others, highlighting the social and cultural transformations of the era. Luncheon Buffet at Eden Resort.

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

Cost \$150

PAYMENT DEADLINE: Thurs., September 3, 2026

November 11, 2026 (Wed) – Li Greci’s, Staten Island– THOSE OLDIES BUT GOODIES – DOO WOP TO DISCO

The Fabulous Reflections Show Band will be performing a classic rock tribute of the songs you know by heart from the golden 50’s, 60’s and 70’s – plus a hilarious comedian. Your price includes 2 adult beverages as well as wine or soft drinks during lunch.

Lunch choices are:

Sirloin of Beef, Chicken Marsala or Filet of Sole

Please indicate your choice at time of reservation.

Bus Leaves St. Timothy’s at 9:45 AM – Return approx. PM 5:30 PM

Cost \$ 130

PAYMENT DEADLINE: Thurs., October 1, 2026

December 8, 2026 (Tues.) – Hunterdon Hills Playhouse – CHRISTMAS AT THE PLAYHOUSE ‘26

Each year Hunterdon Hills unveils a Playhouse original written especially for them by award-winning writers. Filled with original stories that are both hilarious and heartwarming, this show is designed to be the perfect complement to your holiday season. There’s something for everyone – traditional holiday favorites, pop Christmas hits, seasonal spirituals, spectacular dance numbers, and more...all backed by their renowned orchestra.

Bus Leaves St. Timothy’s at 10:15 AM – Return approx. 5:00 PM

Cost \$130

PAYMENT DEADLINE: Thurs. November 5, 2026

St. Timothy Lutheran

140 So. Ott Street, Allentown 2026

Worship on Wednesdays 7pm

Welcome Worship Center Pavilion
(inside if weather is unfavorable)



WE WELCOME ALL OUR FRIENDS OLD AND NEW TODAY

It is always a **JOY** to worship together

THEMES: Homelessness & Hunger

The weeks for Homelessness will be June 10, 17, & 24, July 1 & 8.
The weeks for Hunger will be July 15, 22, & 29, August 5 & 12.

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

July 1-Bobby Siegfried, Emmanuel's Lutheran Church,

Bath— SPEAKER: Pr. Barry Mitchell
Community Org.: Ripple Church

July 8- The Blend, the Barn, Allentown

SPEAKER: Pr. Joanne Marchetto
Community Org.: Family Promise of Lehigh Valley

July 15-Union Lutheran Praise Team Schnecksville

SPEAKER: Pr. Gordon Camp
Community Org.: The MULE Community Cabinet

July 22- Marked By Grace, St. Mark Lutheran Church,
Allentown

SPEAKER: Pr. Brian Riedy-Holy Trinity Memorial
Lutheran Church

Community Org.: Church Hunger Ministry Catasauqua

July 29 - Worship Team of Episcopal Church of the
Mediator, Allentown


SPEAKER: Rector Dale Grandfield
Community Org.: Refugee Community Center

August 5- The JCS Band, St. Luke's Lutheran Church,
Allentown

SPEAKER: Pr. Maritza Torres Dolich
Community Org.: Second Harvest Food Bank

August 12- Grace Notes Gospel Big Band, Lehigh Valley

SPEAKER: Pr. Bud Daneker
Community Org.: Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank

 August 19- St. Timothy Lutheran Church **ANNUAL PEACH FESTIVAL** 6-7:30 p.m.

Members of the Lehigh Valley Folk Society will be playing for the Peach Festival!

*PLEASE JOIN US FOR GOOD MUSIC, THE WORD & FELLOWSHIP
Each Week a Freewill Offering Will Be Taken & those Funds
will be given to the presenting Community Organization*



Praising God
Sharing the Story
Spreading the Love



NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

We Are Stronger When We Serve Together

Submitted by Stacey Burke, NEPA Synod Director of Communications

When a fire forced St. John's Lutheran Church in Allentown out of its building during Lent, neighboring congregations stepped in to help. Members of St. John's and Christ Lutheran in Allentown worshiped together, shared leadership, and supported one another through the challenge.

Reflecting on the experience during the 6261 Ministry Communities panel, Deacon Michael Krenz shared, "We have a sense of joy and we know that if we have trials and tribulations, the other congregations will say, 'Can I help?'"

Throughout the 2026 Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly, one theme surfaced again and again. Whether discussing ministry communities, new worshiping communities, global partnerships, or emerging ministries, participants shared a common message: we are stronger when we serve together. Mission Support helps create and strengthen those connections.

At assembly, participants heard stories from 6261 Ministry Communities, where congregations are exploring new ways to share leadership, resources, and ministry. Panelists spoke honestly about both the challenges and joys of collaboration. While the work requires patience, communication, and trust, many shared how relationships formed through these partnerships have strengthened congregations and expanded their ability to serve their communities.

The assembly theme, *Imagine*, was reflected in stories shared during the Fresh Expressions panel. Participants heard about ministries reaching people through community meals, recovery ministries, young adult gatherings, video game nights, mobile shower ministries, and other creative efforts designed to meet people where they are. Together, these ministries demonstrate how God is at work beyond traditional church walls. Speaking during the panel, April Mulvey of Hope's Table in Reading shared, "I serve a big God. So I dream big and I believe that God will just make it happen." Her words captured the spirit of ministries that are willing to try new things, build new relationships, and trust God to open new opportunities for sharing the gospel.





The assembly also celebrated the growth of the Indonesian Lutheran Church of Scranton, which was authorized as a Synod Authorized Worshiping Community (SAWC) in 2025. Worshiping in both Indonesian and English and building relationships with neighboring congregations, this ministry is a visible reminder that the church continues to grow in new and life-giving ways.

Beyond Northeastern Pennsylvania, assembly attendees were reminded that we are part of a much larger church. Through companion synod relationships in Tanzania, Saxony, Argentina and Uruguay, Slovenia, and our domestic partnership with the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, congregations are connected to a global community of faith. These relationships allow us to learn from one another, pray for one another, and discover new ways God is at work throughout the world.

As Bishop Christopher deForest reflected, "We're coming together not just to survive. We're coming together not just to thrive, but we're coming together to do mission of God in the world." Through relationships with congregations, ministry partners, companion synods, pastors, deacons, licensed lay ministers, and church leaders, we are continually discovering new opportunities to participate in God's mission.

Assembly also highlighted how Mission Support helps leverage additional resources for ministry. Through partnerships with the ELCA, seminaries, and grant programs, congregations and ministry leaders have received support for new worshiping communities, outreach ministries, leadership development, Fresh Expressions training, and collaborative ministry initiatives.

Following her election as bishop, Bishop-Elect Jennifer Dee reflected on her excitement for how God is calling the NEPA Synod to serve together, sharing that she is "incredibly excited to see how God calls us to do ministry together." Her words echoed what had already been demonstrated throughout the assembly: ministry is not something we do alone.



Every congregation that shares Mission Support is helping make these ministries possible. Together, through Mission Support, we are not simply sustaining ministry. We are strengthening congregations, raising up leaders, forming new ministries, and joining God's mission in the world. If you would like to learn more about the ministries and stories shared at assembly, recordings of the plenary sessions are available on the synod's YouTube channel, with links and assembly resources available at godslove.org/assembly2026. Together, we are imagining what God can do next.

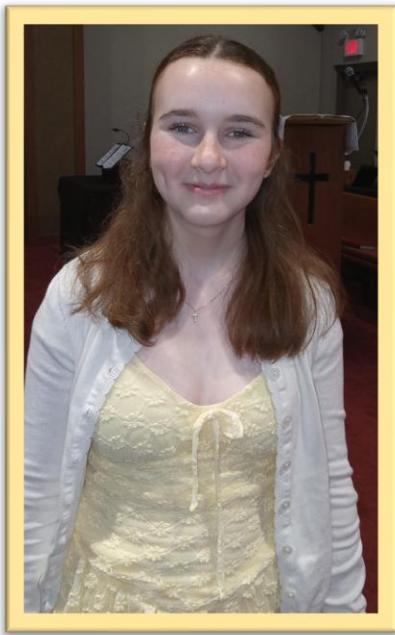


Help Make Ministry Possible

Through Mission Support, congregations share resources, support leaders, and expand ministry. Thank you for helping strengthen congregations, support leaders, and launch new ministries. Learn more about Mission Support and how your congregation can support at godslove.org/missionsupport.



Miss Ellie Pisauro



Miss Sophia Mesko




PENTECOST

Sunday, May 24, 2026