

# PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Breinigsville, PA

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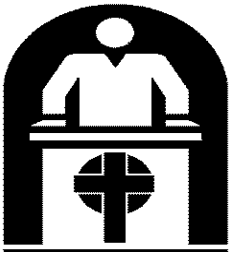
**JANUARY 2025**



**EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

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



Dear Members and Friends,

Next to our Lord's resurrection on Easter, the Epiphany revelation of God to the people of the world is an equally mindboggling, history-changing event. Yet today little is made of the Epiphany revelation of the Savior to an international group of wise men. In the western world all our attention goes to the heart-warming scenes of Christmas.

Compared with Christmas twelve days earlier, the Day of Epiphany is a celebration especially for the non-Jewish people of the world. But like them, we also long for God to come and set the world right.

Epiphany celebrates the discovery that, indeed, a Savior has come to us – the Lord himself – revealing the unimaginable depth of his love.

- The magi discovered that revelation in a baby lying in a humble manger under a majestic star.
- John the Baptizer hears that revelation in a heavenly voice as he officiates at Jesus' baptism
- And a merry wedding party at Cana experienced that revelation with the delivery of a special gift of wine by guest Jesus of Nazareth.

Parties and banquets mark Epiphany in England, where it is known as Twelfth Night, a grand climax to the Christmas season.

In Italy, France and Hispanic countries it is the wise men, not Santa, who bring holiday gifts on Epiphany, not Christmas. Spanish children leave their shoes outside overnight with straw for the camels and food for "the kings" who leave behind treats for them.

And in Protestant churches, the Season of Epiphany ends with the celebration of Christ's Transfiguration, a moment in which still brighter glory is revealed to us in our Lord.

This year, as the weeks of the Epiphany season "wind down" from the frantic pitch of Christmas to the quiet vision of Transfiguration, let the miracle sink in: God has shown himself at last! And the news is good!

Blessings,  
Pastor Miller

## SNOW/CANCELLATION INFORMATION



Winter advisory...Please be sure to check St. Paul's website, [www.stpaulsville.org](http://www.stpaulsville.org) or WFMZ storm center to see if any church service or event is cancelled due to snow or ice.



**SAVE THE DATE      February 9, 2025**  
Pot Luck Lunch followed by our Annual Congregational Meeting.

## SIGN-UP SHEETS FOR 2025 BULLETIN & ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORSHIPS

We are in need of bulletin sponsorships for 2025. 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.

## UPCOMING EVENTS FROM THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

**January 17** – Meal & Movie  
**January 19** – Pot Luck Lunch  
**February 14** – Meal & Movie.  
**February 16** – Pot Luck Lunch – Chocolate Theme  
**March 7** – Meal & Movie  
**March 16** – Pot Luck Lunch – St. Patrick's Theme  
**March 30** - Concert

# PARISH NURSING NOTES

## “Walking Pneumonia in Children”

Peggy Saylor, RN

According to recent reports from the CDC, the rate of cases of “walking pneumonia” has been rising. Known as *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*, “walking pneumonia” rates have significantly risen among children and especially in the 2 – 4 year age range. Experts speculate that this rise in rates may be attributed to the “immune debt” in children from the reduced rates of illnesses during the COVID pandemic. A reduced rate of exposure can lead to a weaker immune system. As the grandmother of an eleven year old who had a recent bout of “walking pneumonia”, I thought it would be interesting to share the facts of this disease.

Symptoms are typically mild but can be severe as well. Symptoms include a dry cough, fever, fatigue, headache and sore throat. Some individuals will also have a loss of appetite leading to decreased nutrition and dehydration.

Treatment is determined by your health care provider but can include antibiotics, increased rest, maintaining fluid intake and staying at home until symptoms improve.

Since “walking pneumonia” is a respiratory illness, it is spread by droplets. Prevention starts with ill children staying home when sick to avoid spreading the disease, good hand washing and coughing into one’s elbows. Symptoms are often attributed to just allergies but if they don’t improve or start to get worse, contact your health care provider.

Hope you have a healthy winter season and just remember that Spring is only a few months away!!

Information taken from: <https://newsroom.clevelandclinic.org>. Accessed December 9, 2024.

# 2024 LEHIGH MISSION DISTRICT CHRISTMAS INGATHERING UPDATE

“Thank you” to all of you who made contributions toward this years Christmas Ingathering. We delivered gifts to St. John’s Lutheran in Emmaus be taken to Topton Home Children’s Services so that ten children could have something special for Christmas and another set of gifts for seven residents at the Good Shepherd Home Raker Center. In addition, the YMCA Warming Center received 186 small items that were on their wish list and the Boys & Girls Club of Allentown received 346 small items. They were all very grateful for your donations.

## MLK on what really matters



Exactly two months before his assassination, Martin Luther King Jr. preached his final sermon at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta. On February 4, 1968, the civil-rights icon spoke about how

he wanted to be remembered at his funeral. He preferred that people recall not his education or achievements but that he “tried to give his life serving others” and “tried to love somebody.”

Adapting a 1952 homily by J. Wallace Hamilton, King decried the “drum major instinct — a desire to be out front, a desire to lead the parade.” Humans often want to be great and first, as evidenced by the disciples James and John requesting prime seats in paradise. But King urged listeners to focus on the “reordered priorities” of Jesus, who wants us to “be first in love.”

As Jesus showed, “everybody can serve,” King said. Your background or status doesn’t matter, as long as you have “a heart full of grace” and “a soul generated by love.”

## PRAYER SHAWL GROUP NEWS



Our next charity crafting project is [Crocheted/Knitted Octopuses for Premies](#). You can read more about this project on their Web site at the link above. Research has shown that when a crocheted or knitted octopus was placed with the preemie, some babies in the NICU experienced better breathing and more regular heartbeats, and were less bothered by the various monitors and IVs around them. The recipient will be St. Luke's Hospital NICU, where they

have been using Preemie octopuses for years. Look for our display on the Narthex table after Christmas – where you can find patterns and a sample crocheted octopus. Many thanks to Cathy Waltemyer for getting us copies of the crocheted octopus pattern that St. Luke's uses.

Plarn Project/Monthly Working Sessions – Our January Plarn session will be **January 21 at 1:30PM**. Hope to see you there - it is a fun and productive working session. We've submitted 8 sleeping mats so far, so at 700 bags each – we've process over 5,600 bags!



To all the wonderful people at St. Paul's Prayer Shawl Ministry, Thank you for the donation of knitted hats for our patients. They are lovely. The variety of styles and colors make it a difficult choice for our patients, but truly offers something for everyone

We so appreciate your generosity and have the opportunity to offer patients a little something to brighten their day.

All the best to you.

Sincerely,

The Staff at the Infusion Center LVHN Cedar Crest

## **WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH [WELCA]**

Our Soup and Sandwich Sunday will be the first Sunday in January. January 5, 2025, with a snow date of January 12, 2025. Judy Wanfried will be our speaker and discuss The Last Supper Art.

NEPA WELCA Spring Justice Event theme *Protecting Our Children* is scheduled for March 29, 2025, at Christ United Lutheran Church in Ashland, PA.

NEPA WELCA 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention is scheduled for June 14, 2025, at St. John's Nazareth; topic is *Renew Yourself with Gods Word*: Registration Fee: \$25.00. A registration packet will be included in the mailing of *The Flame* in January 2025.

*The Flame* will be published in the beginning of January which will have the registration form for the Spring Justice Event as well as other information from the NEPA WELCA.

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

Our December Bible study was a Devotional on *In God's garden What fig trees teach us about Advent*, by Hannah Hawkinson. Week 1: Impossible Possibilities; Week 2: Bearing Fruit; Week 3: "I Saw You"; Week 4: Learn Its Lesson.

Join us on Wednesday, January 8, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. for our next meeting.

### **WELCA Soup and Sandwich Luncheon, January 5, 2025**

#### **Judith Wanfried, Speaker Biography**

Having been invited to speak at St. Paul's by the ladies of the WELCA group, let me introduce myself. My name is Judith Wanfried and I am the niece of Martha Lindenmuth. I grew up in Palmyra PA, attended Hershey Junior College and Kutztown State College (no it was not yet a university!) graduating in 1965 with a degree in art education. I taught art in the Northern Lebanon School District at the elementary level for 38 years, retiring in 2003. In addition, I was a founding partner of Scaramouche Costumes in the Lehigh Valley where we designed and built theatrical costumes. As a member of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Allentown I began giving talks on Christian art which I continued with the adult forum at Christ Lutheran Church after the merger of the two churches. I currently live in Myerstown in Lebanon County. I regularly visit my aunt in Breinigsville and continue to be a member of Christ Lutheran Church, Allentown.

Topic: the Last Supper - Snow Date, January 12, 2025

## USHERS/WORSHIP ASSISTANTS ARE NEEDED

We are in need of people to help with the 10:30 a.m. worship service. For the service, worship is the same as before Covid 19 – i.e. hymns are sung, offering is collected in the pew, and communion is taken at the altar. You will be handing out the bulletin, helping to collect offering, and directing the congregation to the altar and handing them a communion cup. If you would be willing and interested in helping, please contact Steph Wagaman at 610-395-0355 or [stepbillwagaman@rcn.com](mailto:stepbillwagaman@rcn.com) or call the church office at 610-398-7000.

## Giving your best



Like the Magi, we can respond with our best gifts — our industry, our devotion, our very lives. We disciples are Christ's tangible presence in the world. That same Child whose light brought such joy to the Magi now, through us, offers his mercy to every person.

Through us, every day, Christ feeds multitudes; he heals, teaches and guides countless people. Through individual volunteers and major institutions, through simple acts of kindness or worldwide coordinated efforts, the world can encounter, through the Christian community, the enduring, tangible presence of Christ.

## HOSPITALIZED?

Parish Code for hospitalized parishioners is 321. Please give this code when you are admitted to the hospital so the pastor can be made aware that you are a patient and can administer the pastoral care you require while you are hospitalized.

Please take note, that if you are admitted on a Thursday night, Friday, Saturday, or Sunday, the pastor will not be aware that you are hospitalized until Monday mid-morning, since the church does not have office hours on Friday, and the hospital pastoral care office is not available on Saturday or Sunday.

This means, if you would like the Pastor to know you are hospitalized on the weekend, please call the church office or the Pastor.



## 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.

## “Dyeing” with Christ

The Greek word *baptizo*, which means to immerse, became associated with the dyeing trade. When a cloth is immersed in dye, the union leads to an altered condition. The cloth's previous color no longer exists; it has a permanent new identity.

*Baptizo*, which has no English equivalent, is a spot-on description of what happens in the sacrament of baptism. When we're merged with Christ through water and the Word, we leave behind our original sinful condition. Through that union, Jesus gives us a new identity in him — so “we too may live a new life” (Romans 6:4, NIV).

Bible scholar James Montgomery Boice offered another great example of *baptizo* from, of all places, a 200 B.C. pickle recipe. Nicander, a Greek poet and physician, explained that a vegetable must first be “dipped” (*bapto*) into boiling water and then “baptized” (*baptizo*) in a vinegar solution. “Both verbs concern the immersing of vegetables in a solution, but the first is temporary,” Boice writes. “The second, the act of baptizing the vegetable, produces a permanent change.”

In the New Testament, *baptizo* “more often refers to our union and identification with Christ than to our water baptism,” according to Boice. “Christ is saying that mere intellectual assent is not enough. There must be a union with him, a real change, like the vegetable to the pickle!” And like the cloth to the dye.

## JANUARY



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



3 Joe & Ali Thompson



## Thank You Notes

*Your kindness means the world to me.  
Your hug made my day!!!!*

*Kay Schlenker*

*Thank you for remembering me and to  
everyone that signed the card.*

*Marion Reichard*



*Dear WUA! Supporter,*

Thank you for your beautiful handmade donation to Warm Up America! this past week! Warm Up America! items bring more than warmth to people. They bring comfort and the feeling that someone cares for them at a most difficult time in their lives. Thank you for being part of this program! We truly appreciate your support!

Through the Warm Up America! program, more than one million hand crocheted and knitted blankets, clothing and accessories have been distributed since this program began in 1991. These items have been distributed to fire and flood victims, families seeking refuge in women's shelters, senior care facilities, hospitals, foster care organizations and a network of social service agencies. However, the need is always greater than our supplies can fill, and donations such as yours help us continue this service.

Thank you,

Cheri Prachniak

*WUA Administrator, WUA Coordinator*

# Puzzle!

Complete the maze to help people from all directions hear the good news. Then, starting at the N (north) and going clockwise, read John 3:16, NIV.

perish but have eternal life." N "For God so loved the world that  
N he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him shall not  
John 3:16,  
NIV

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT  
NEWSLETTER IS  
JANUARY 12, 2025**

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



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**CHURCH OFFICE: 610-398-7000**  
**HOSPITAL CODE: #321**  
**HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE**  
**EMAIL: [office@stpaulsbbville.org](mailto:office@stpaulsbbville.org)**  
**Website: [www.stpaulsbbville.org](http://www.stpaulsbbville.org)**

**STAFF**

Pastor..... The Rev. Carey L. Miller  
Organist/Choir Director ..... Ms. Judy Noll  
Handbell Director..... Mr. Richard Steltz  
Parish Secretary ..... Mrs. Cindy Krasnansky

# January 2025

# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																										
			<b>1 OFFICE CLOSED</b> 	2	3	4																																										
<b>5 SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS</b> 9:00 a.m.-Worship 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship 11:30 a.m. – WELCA Soup & Sandwich 12:30 p.m. – The Last Supper Art	<b>6</b> 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study 4:00 p.m. – Lehigh Zion Cemetery Mtg.	7	<b>8</b> 9:30 a.m.-W-ELCA 7:00 p.m.-Council	<b>9</b> 9:30 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers	<b>10</b> 10:00 a.m.- NEPA WELCA Board Mtg. 1:00 p.m. – The Flame Mailing	11																																										
<b>12 BAPTISM OF OUR LORD</b> 9:00 a.m.-Worship 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship	<b>13</b> 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	14	<b>15</b> 6:30 p.m. – St. Paul's Cemetery Board	<b>16</b> 9:30 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers	<b>17</b> 6:00 p.m. - Meal 7:00 p.m. - Movie	18																																										
<b>19 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY</b> 9:00 a.m.-Worship 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship	<b>20</b> 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	<b>2</b> 1:30 p.m.-Plarn	<b>22</b> 6:00 p.m.-Girl Scouts	<b>23</b> 9:30 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	24	25																																										
<b>26 THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY</b> 9:00 a.m.-Worship 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship	<b>27</b> 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	28	29	<b>30</b> 9:30 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir		<b>February 2025</b> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
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# WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

## January 2025

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

### Sunday, January 5, 2025

#### 9:00AM

No Assistants

#### 10:30AM

**Ushers:** Anita Eisenhard, Rosemary Lehman No Assistants

**Altar Guild:** Rosemary Lehman

**Communion Asst:** Tom Kellogg

**Communion Bread:** Alice Bastian

**Greeter:** Zack Dimovitz

**Lay Asst:** Sharon Bortz

**Reader:** Daisy Pearson

### Sunday, January 19, 2025

#### 9:00AM

#### 10:30AM

**Ushers:** Rosie Gallagher, Carl Seibert

**Altar Guild:** Steph Wagaman

**Communion Asst:** Bob Bruchak

**Communion Bread:** Helen Post

**Greeter:** Frank & Sandy Bennighoff

**Lay Asst:** Daisy Pearson

**Reader:** Rosemary Lehman

### Sunday, January 12, 2025

#### 9:00AM

No Assistants

#### 10:30AM

**Ushers:** Madeline MacMechan, Ken Ritter No Assistants

**Altar Guild:** Janine Ritter

**Communion Asst:** Sandi Wagaman

**Communion Bread:** Joshua Solderich

**Greeter:** Vanessa Eiswerth

**Lay Asst:** Bob Bruchak

**Reader:** Dick Steltz

### Sunday, January 26, 2025

#### 9:00AM

#### 10:30AM

**Ushers:** Melanie Dimovitz, Judy Walker

**Altar Guild:** Amy Williams

**Communion Asst:** Peggy Saylor

**Communion Bread:** Jennifer Bentsen

**Greeter:** Dorothy O'Connors

**Lay Asst:** Lacey Edwards

**Reader:** Jennifer Bentsen





# NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## Gaining Strength Together: The Journey of NEPA Synod Cohorts

Following the Bishop's Conference in the fall of 2021 with Rev. Doug Hill (author of "Cultural Architecture"), the Synod launched its first Gaining Strength Cohort. This cohort, while initially similar to the cohorts happening across the country in the ELCA, turned out to be quite different. This cohort was comprised entirely of pastors from the NEPA Synod instead of pastors around the country. This gave the cohort the opportunity to develop deeper relationships that could continue to be supported and built up over time and in a mutual context.



While this 1<sup>st</sup> cohort was finishing in October 2023, a 2<sup>nd</sup> cohort was launched. The 2<sup>nd</sup> cohort was the first cohort to include Deacons as well as Pastors. A 3<sup>rd</sup> cohort was launched in April 2024. While each cohort has its own character based on the individual participants, there are some key similarities. Cohorts meet for a period of 18 months. They have 4 in-person retreats (fall and spring) with Zoom check-in meetings in between the retreats. Each cohort has about 10-14 Rostered Ministers in it.

They work through many of the key principles of "Cultural Architecture" with Pastor Doug facilitating the retreats. Additionally, they discuss the Enneagram, Clifton's Strength Finders, organizational intelligence, cultural transformation, and the state of the church at present. More than that, the retreats provide intentional time to connect with one another and with God. Each day centers on Scripture and provides time for contemplative action. How can we lead congregations if we are not taking the time to practice waiting on and listening to God ourselves?

A few of the current cohort members shared their gratefulness to have time to think about shared values, contemplative action, and their own God-given strengths. Pr. Inge Williams was "also grateful to do some deeper reflection on who I am, as a child of God, knowing that we glorify God by living into our individual gifts and strengths rather than spending energy trying to 'fix' ourselves."

Pr. Samantha Drennan shared three key take-aways she has experienced through the Gaining Strength cohort:

- 1) Seek to maximize strengths rather than focus on shortcomings - since I have begun to do this, I have experienced significant positive changes in my call as well as in my life in general.
- 2) Embrace contemplative action - as we make decisions for ourselves or for our faith communities, we must integrate contemplation and action. Before acting, make time to discern what the Spirit is already doing in, through, and around us.
- 3) Surrendering all outcomes to God - easier said than done sometimes! And, a vital component of the process.

The Synod is grateful that these Rostered Ministers have embraced this opportunity, are willing to be present with one another, and are being bold in leaning into the Spirit in their own lives and places of ministry.

There has been so much interest in participating in these Gaining Strength cohorts that the Synod anticipates launching another 1-2 cohorts in 2025. One of the hopes is that one of the cohorts will bring together congregations who have multiple Rostered Ministers on staff so that they can participate simultaneously. If you are interested in joining one of the upcoming Gaining Strength cohorts, please reach out to DEM Dcn. Kat Tigerman at [kat@nepsynod.org](mailto:kat@nepsynod.org).

*Submitted by: Deacon Kat Tigerman, NEPA Synod Director of Evangelical Mission*

**DID YOU KNOW** that your Mission Support helps fund areas of the synod 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 directions of Growing Young, Gaining Strength, and Going Beyond Death to Life, along with the values of Loving, Healing, and Engaging like Jesus. To learn more, visit [godslove.org/missionsupport](https://godslove.org/missionsupport).

**JAN 20, 2025**

**MARTIN**

**LUTHER KING JR.**

DAY OF PRAYER AND  
SERVICE

Starting at 10:00am with worship followed by opportunities to participate in various service projects, and conclude with lunch together.

2354 GROVE ROAD ALLENTOWN, PA

For more information, visit:  
[godslove.org/MLKday](https://godslove.org/MLKday)



If you are off that day and would like to help at this event, please register to ensure we have an accurate headcount for lunch.



## REMINDERS to the Lehigh Mission District Rostered Leaders

*Please keep the following  
dates on your calendars:*

January 8, 2025 - Insights  
from the Allentown  
Collaborative  
Group Presentation

February 12, 2025 - State of  
Lutheran Social Ministries  
The Rev. Dr. Woody Maxon

March 12, 2025 - Topic: Calls  
to Ministries  
The Rev. Jira Albers, Licensed  
Lay Ministry Director

April 9, 2025 - State of  
the Synod  
Bishop Christopher deForest

May 4, 2025 - LMD Spring  
Assembly at 4:00 P.M.  
Lutheran Center, Allentown

May 30-31, 2025 - Synod  
Assembly "Connect the Dots!"  
Christ Hamilton United  
Lutheran Church  
(419 Bossardsville Road,  
Stroudsburg, PA)

June, July, August - OFF

*Event updates will be made  
available at meetings and  
here, in the LMD Newsletter.*



*February 2025 LMD NL news  
will be due January 13, 2025.*

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

## From our Living Room to a Public Faith

Dear Lehigh Mission District,

Jesus said, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." *John 13:34-35*

The concerns brought to the December Rostered Ministers' Monthly Zoom Meeting with Bishop Christopher deForest of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod were stressful.

Why were these ministers stressed out and concerned? Because of the possible effects of the recent election.

The tense conversation crept through my zoom screen and into my living room.

People talked about the prospect of mass deportation with the separation of immigrant families and how this will affect the church. Ministers expressed concerns for the emotional mental health for sexual abuse survivors. Others expressed concerns about affordable healthcare.

Our Lutheran churches in the mission district have two positions to take. The first is to do what the church does best in these tense moments and pray. For some, prayers help numb the decisions that led to this outcome. As people of prayer, the second position is for the church to come out of the privacy of our living room and into the public arena.

Jesus calls the church to love their neighbor.

To this end, Bishop deForest presented Eleven Points shared in consultation with other bishops:

- Stay grounded; rest is resistance
- Connect to local networks for bystander training, rapid response, sanctuary
- Reach out to vulnerable populations/members and let them know that they are not alone
- Form networks of solidarity for action
- Help families that anticipate separation (undocumented parents with citizen children) make a plan
- Connect with others throughout the synod
- Activate community organizing networks

*(continued on the next page ⇒)*

## St. John's Lutheran Church

(501 Chestnut Street, Emmaus)

**A German Christmas Service**  
January 5, 2025 at 5:45 PM

A service spoken and sung in German. Guest musicians: Ted & Sarajane Williams on classical guitar and harp.

A German cookie and coffee fellowship to follow.

See the attached flyer for details.

## Trinity Memorial Church invites you:

(535 W. Emaus Ave, Allentown)

### CLOTHING CLOSET

1st & 3rd Saturday  
Hours: 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

### PANERA BREAD GIVE AWAY

Pick up on Mondays at 10 AM

Questions? Call the church office at 610-797-4774 or email [tmlcadmn@gmail.com](mailto:tmlcadmn@gmail.com)

## 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](mailto:LMDopsunshine@aol.com)  
[www.LMDopsunshine.com](http://www.LMDopsunshine.com)

Paula & Dick Skelly,  
Co-Trip Coordinators

Dear Travelers,  
Hope this message finds you all well and happy. We are sending you an early Christmas present - our Operation Sunshine Newsletter January through June 2025 (see attached). We look forward to a new season of traveling with you.

Have a wonderful holiday season and we'll see you in the new year.

~Paula & Dick

(continued from previous page)

- Make sure that we are not funding the deportation apparatus and that our investments/retirement/endowments are screened for GeoCorp and other private prison corporations that are ramping up
- Share broadly with others helpful authors, books, essays (Bonhoeffer, etc.)
- Resist Christian nationalism at every level of our church
- Focus on discipleship

In addition, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's website provides a "Supportive Spaces" group that is a confidential support group for faith leaders to engage in conversation in these transitional times.

It is my hope that we can join together in our public faith for our neighbors in the mission district.

The peace of the Lord be with you,  
The Rev. Nelson Quiñones, Lehigh Mission District Dean



### Lehigh Mission District Christmas InGathering:

Wishing you a Most Blessed Christmas and Healthy New Year!

Thank you for all your support with the Annual Christmas InGathering. It is a blessing to serve and help many people, God's work in action. We are grateful for St. John's Lutheran Church for sponsoring us.

## Thanks for Making a Difference for Neighbors in Need!

**THANK YOU** to all the faithful walkers, community leaders, support crew, sponsors and other donors who participated in the Sunday, October 13, 2024, 45th Annual Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk!

You have raised **OVER \$30,000** to help our food-insecure neighbors in the Allentown area and beyond!

As a result of your generosity, the **LEHIGH CHURCHES' CONFERENCE KITCHEN** and the **ALLENTOWN AREA ECUMENICAL FOOD BANK** will be receiving more than \$3700 each for their vital ministries with neighbors experiencing food insecurity in our area. And **CHURCH WORLD SERVICE** will be able to help many more of our neighbors who are struggling in the aftermath of floods, fires, droughts, and other disasters throughout the United States and the world.

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

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

**CHRISTMAS, BIRTHDAY, or ANNIVERSARY GIFT IDEA:**  
In honor of loved ones, give the gift of life! **DONATE ANYTIME** to the CROP Hunger Walk at [www.crophungerwalk.org/allentownpa](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.

