

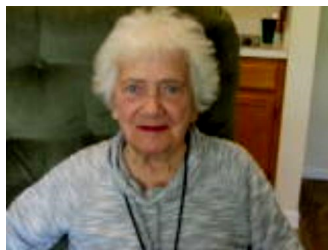


Concordia Celebrates Three Centenarians

Concordia of Fox Chapel resident Leo Schauerman celebrates his 100th birthday on December 24, 2017. Born in Erie, PA, he married Jean MacInnes on September 6, 1946. They had two children - Jan Arnold who lives in Fox Chapel and Chris Schauerman of John's Creek, GA. The couple had four grandchildren and one great granddaughter. After Jean passed away, he married Charlotte Veihdeffer in 1980. Leo was an insurance agent with Prudential Insurance Company for 40 years. A member of Elmwood United Presbyterian Church in Erie, he also sang with the Maennerchor Club. He was at home in Erie until 2 ½ years ago when he moved to Concordia of Fox Chapel. Leo enjoys golf and watching baseball. He attributes his longevity to good genes, an active lifestyle and eating some Smith's bologna every day.

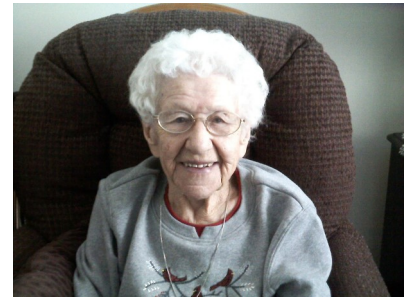


Concordia of the South Hills Health Center resident Frances Prus celebrates her 100th birthday on January 1, 2018. She will be celebrated on Jan. 5 in the Personal Care Dining Room at Concordia of the South Hills with family and fellow residents. Born in the Greenfield section of Pittsburgh, Frances Prus lived there for 80 years taking care of her parents and other ill family members. Frances moved to a condominium in Mt. Lebanon before she became a resident at Concordia of the South Hills Health Center in July of 2016. She was a beautician in the former Jenkins Arcade in downtown Pittsburgh for more than 50 years. Frances has two nieces who are like daughters to her; Camille Cain and Edwina (Eddie) Ferrari of South Hills. Eddie has twin daughters, Heather and Lauren and both have a set of twins whom Frances calls great-great



nieces. Frances was an avid church-goer and credits her longevity to "God and family first." She also advises eating junk food, whatever makes you happy but never indulging and adds an occasional glass of Merlot to the recipe for reaching 100. Golf, dancing the Polka and traveling to far-away places were among her favorite things.

Concordia at Cabot Personal Care resident Christina Kislak Wahala celebrates her 100th birthday on January 3, 2018. Born in a small coal mining town near Greensburg one of eight children, Christine Kislak Wahala married



Joseph on October 1, 1938 at St. Louise RC Church near Homer City. The couple had two children; Christine Heinz of Butler and Ronald who lives in Woodbridge, VA. After 67 years of marriage her husband passed away on January 27, 2006. Chris counts five grandchildren; Heather, Michelle, Wendy, Melinda and John and 11 great grandchildren; Grace, Abby, Anna, Ava, Amelia, Ronald, Elizabeth, Kate, Daniel, Esther and Mary. She always had a flower garden and loved to dance, especially the polka. Well-known for her apple pies, Chris was the perfect homemaker canning vegetables, making jelly, crocheting, and sewing her own clothes. She is looking forward to celebrating with dinner at a local restaurant and cake with her family and friends at her home at Concordia. She moved to Personal Care five years ago from Waterman, in Indiana County. Chris says her secret for reaching centenarian status was the fact that she ate vegetables and berries and walked a lot.

100

Mark your Calendar

February

- 1 Open House, Redeemer Lutheran School, each Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
- 5 Nar Anon, Bethel Lutheran, Glenshaw, each Monday 7:00 p.m.
- 5 Concordia Haven Open House, Cabot, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- 12 Ascension Community Fellowship Luncheon, Second Monday of each month, 11:30 a.m.
- 12 Concordia Haven Open House, Cabot, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- 13 Sweets O Rama, Concordia Haven I, Cabot, 2:00 p.m.
- 14 Ash Wednesday Communion Services, Ascension, McCandless, 11:30 a.m. Luncheon, 1:00p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Communion Services
- 14 Ash Wednesday with Holy Communion/Ashes, Redeemer, Oakmont, 5:00 and 7:30 p.m.
- 18 Open House, Highpointe at Rebecca, Allison Park 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
- 19 Open House, Highpointe at Rebecca, Allison Park 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- 19 Concordia Haven Open House, Cabot., 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- 21 Open House, Concordia of South Hills, Mt Lebanon 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- 21 Lenten Services, Redeemer, Oakmont, 5:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- 21 Lenten Service, Ascension, McCandless. 7:00 p.m. with supper at 5:00 p.m.
- 27 Young at Heart lunch and fellowship, Ascension, Every 4th Tuesday, 11:30 a.m. Location TBA
- 28 Lenten Services, Redeemer, Oakmont, 5:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- 28 Lenten Service, Ascension, McCandless, 7:00 p.m. with supper at 5:00 p.m.

March

- 4 Lisa Rock Band, Concordia Haven I, Cabot, 6:00 p.m.
- 23 Education Fair, Redeemer School, Location/time TBA

April

- 7 Kick the Tires Missional Living and Disciple Living Workshop, Good Shepard Lutheran, State College, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- 20 -21 Beauty and the Beast Musical, Redeemer School, Times TBA
- 29 Martin Luther Hymn Festival, Heinz Chapel, University of Pittsburgh, 7:00 p.m.

Lenten Services

Every Wednesday throughout Lent

Redeemer, Oakmont: 5:00 and 7:30 p.m.

Ascension, McCandless: 7:00 p.m. with supper at 5:00

See individual articles for details.

Thank you for subscribing to the new digital Pittsburgh Lutheran!

Our look is the same, except for the colored pictures, just a new way of receiving this newsletter. Thank you for adding your email address to our master list. If you know of anyone who would like to receive The Pittsburgh Lutheran (free of charge), please tell them to send an email to pittsburgh.lutheran.editors@gmail.com giving us their name and email address.

Remember any congregation can submit their office email and redistribute this newsletter to their congregation. They can also print hard copies for anyone who does not have a computer.

We welcome any comments or suggestions. As stated before articles are due on the 10th of each month except for June and December since no newsletter will be published for the months of July and January.

Therefore, as you are texting...

by Pr. Bob McCandless, PALM Mission Director

So how do you like this, first-ever, DIGITAL edition of The Pittsburgh Lutheran? Pretty snazzy, huh? For those especially, who never took the print version, I hope this electronic version is one you can really sink your teeth into; that you discover what all your brothers & sisters in Christ throughout western PA & MD are doing to share & grow the faith. For many decades, we've shared that news, not TOO differently than Luther's writings got shared among the people in his day - by the printed word.

But what was revelatory in 1517, the printed word was, by 2017, "O-L-D school," and not necessarily in the good sense, as our children & grandchildren use that phrase. Yet the danger in new technology, is the fear that SOMEONE will get left behind. Hopefully, someone in your congregation is taking the point, to print this version out, for those whom computer technology has passed on by.

One of the interesting realities of being a Pastor in these days is, you're ALWAYS "the whippersnapper," right up until THE day you retire. I certainly don't FEEL like a whippersnapper anymore; I note that I've been seriously using computers for half my life now, but I do NOT care to own or operate a smartphone, or an I-Pad, and I only got my first LAPTOP this past summer (I've been building my own desktops for 20 years though). My children operate smartphones, tablets, and other 'tiny' electronics like pros, and have almost since birth. That is the world THEY are growing up in. I get distressed, when I don't see them come home from school with the same ARMLOADS of textbooks that I had to tote in my day (in the days before backpacks, I might add). I worry that they're not "learning anything," because they're not reading BOOKS! I graduated seminary, with all my BOOKS, in 1998. I built my first computer, in 1999. Both those events, seem like ancient history sometimes. And sometimes, they seem like yesterday.

Whether we read our Bible on a Kindle, a Chrome-

(Continued on page 3)

Devotion

by Rev'd Brian Westgate

"Remember, O man, that 'thou art dust, and unto dust thou shalt return.'" – Genesis 3:19.

It's a cruel coincidence that Easter falls on April Fool's Day and Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day this year. We'll ponder Easter in a couple of months, but Ash Wednesday/Valentine's Day is a couple of weeks away, halfway through this month called February. Can these days have anything to do with each other? It sure doesn't seem like it. Valentine's Day is a day to celebrate love. Lovers dream of lives together, lives that will last a long time and be full of joy. Ash Wednesday is a day full of sorrow, of repentance for sins, and of recognition of our mortality.

So, we hear those words written above over and over, as forehead after forehead gets the ashes. But those ashes are put on you like a cross. And there we can see a connection from Valentine's Day to Ash Wednesday. For the cross is the picture of God's love for you.

You don't repent just because you're afraid of God. You repent, you are sorry for your sins, you desire to do better because Jesus died for you. He paid the price for all your sins on His Cross. God loves you!

By the way: Did you know Valentine was a Christian pastor around Rome who was martyred on February 14?

(Continued from page 2)

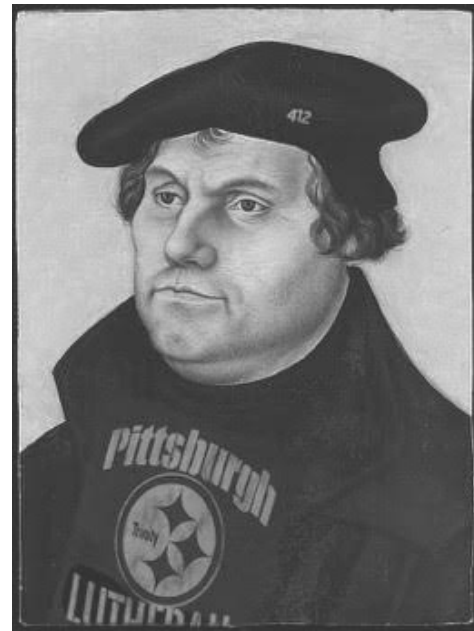
book, from a CD in a computer, or "O-L-D school" - with a hardback cover - one thing we note that technology CAN'T replace, is Christian mission, and evangelism. Wouldn't it be GREAT, to baptize 3,000 in ONE DAY, like in Acts 2: 41?! Get it ALL done at ONCE. That WAS a great day indeed, in the history of the Church; a powerful witness to the work of the Holy Spirit. But throughout The Bible, MOST of the witness and conversion stories, are one-on-one encounters. Jesus converts an ENTIRE Samaritan village in John 4, but that begins, with a solitary woman at the well.

The Apostle Phillip is sent specifically to convert a lone Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8. St. Paul's work at Philippi, begins with only a few women, down by the river, in Acts 16. Yet among those women, he meets Lydia, and she ends up being instrumental in supporting the early Church at Thyatira. She becomes the FIRST European convert, in fact! And what does Jesus Himself promise in Mt.18: 20? "Wherever two or three are gathered in my name, there I shall BE also."

Technology advances, because it makes work more efficient. Toting around a Gutenberg (printing press) Bible, was a WHOLE lot easier than trying to carry a leather vellum, hand-written copy, that was as big as a church cornerstone, and weighed only slightly less! But the mission of the Church - evangelism of the faithful - must ALWAYS be done "O-L-D school" - one-on-one - personally - as Jesus Himself taught us

We might be digital in our news delivery now, but PALM is still about the mission of telling the Good News about Jesus, to every, single, one of you; SERVING, every, single, one of you - because Jesus is still about saving, EVERY, SINGLE, ONE. Never mind, that 99 lambs have stuck around - the lost ONE, is worth going and saving (Mt.18: 12-13).

We will leave NO ONE behind - we will overlook NO ONE going forward. Technology may change, but the mission of PALM remains the same. The Gospel of Jesus, reaching EVERY, SINGLE, ONE, in our midst. Always.



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Mileposters News

Mileposters closed out 2017 by preparing and mailing (pictured) over 318 letters for Puerto Rico hurricane victims and First Trinity Campus Ministry. Headlining the first Campus Ministry ride was blind stoker Penny Fleckenstein, who was herself a beneficiary of Mileposters fundraising two years ago, when she was provided with her own tandem bicycle. Captaining for Penny was trail mom Beth Kloss.



Several Mileposters enjoyed participating in the early community Thanksgiving dinner on Troy Hill. At one point there were two Jenga games going at once, including the group leader and stoker Bella Collington. Her brothers Jonathon and Jayden got into some intense checkers games, as well as playing Battleship (pictured).



Planned 45-Minute Specials (held right after Sunday morning worship) include an extended Bible drill with a lighted fidget spinner as grand prize, historical still and motion picture processes, chess, checkers, and roller skating.

Is It Worth It?

by Augusta R Mennell, Campus Ministry Director

I dreaded stopping at Xiu's (pronounced Shoe) house. I was tired. I hated to stand in the cold winter air pounding hard on the door so that she could hear me knock; she is hard of hearing. Most of all, it didn't seem that she really wanted to see me, even though she loved to get the little Chinese language Christian booklets I always took to her. She loves reading the stories about Jesus in Chinese because she knows almost no English. I am very grateful that I did stop at her house that day, because for the first time I realized that it was worthwhile. This is the story.

The story began twenty-two years ago when Xiu's daughter, Crystal, came to America to start a new life. She knew very little English and had almost no money. Fortunately, friends in Grove City helped her and so did En-yaa an international student from Taiwan who brought Crystal to Bible Class at All Saints Lutheran Church and Student Center. By attending the Bible classes Crystal learned a little English, but most of all she learned that Jesus is God's Son. She was baptized by Rev. Allan E. Opper on July 7, 1996.

Some years after Crystal was baptized she brought her mother, Xiu, to live with her. This was not easy because Crystal had to work all day every day, at local restaurants. That meant her mother was alone a lot. So, I invited Xiu to walk the three blocks to ASLC so we could visit, practice English, and read Bible stories. Learning English did not work since it was much too stressful for Xiu, but we did form a friendship which has continued to this day. Over the years, even when Crystal had to move to Texas to work, Xiu and I kept on enjoying our short visits. Xiu looked forward to visits, Christian booklets, reading her Chinese Bible which ASLC had given her. Since our ability to communicate was limited, I was not sure she really understood when I asked her if she had been baptized. She said that she had, but I was not sure she understood me.

Xiu's health is not good anymore. She cannot walk to All Saints as she used to do. Her daughter has had to come back to Slippery Rock to care for her mother. I was overjoyed to see Crystal again, but dismayed when she seemed to always be too busy to visit when I came to the house. I thought that I was not welcome. Nevertheless, I did continue to knock on the door as loud as I could, to take Chinese Christian magazines, and to let them know that they matter to All Saints.

It is easy to misread people. Increasingly, it seemed that Xiu did not really want me to stay very long when I came to visit. But I just could not stop. All I could think was, "How will she know and believe and stay strong in the faith if she does not hear?" It matters. So that is why I walked to the door when I was really ready to go home, pounded loudly so she could hear, yet expected not to get an answer or to be greeted for even a short visit.

But this time it was different! I was overjoyed when Xiu's daughter Crystal opened the door and invited me in with the biggest, most welcoming smile imaginable. I expected her to dart away on errands, but she urged me to



sit down to talk. She told me that she was in Slippery Rock to take care of her mother. She told me how hard it was to work in Texas where the heat is so intense, the traffic so heavy and overwhelming. She smiled. She is glad to be home. We talked leisurely about everything. I let her know how pleased All Saints would be to see her. Nervously, I dredged up the courage to ask a question which had bothered me for years. I asked Crystal to ask her mother in Chinese if she had been baptized. Without any hesitation, Xiu answered her daughter in Chinese that she had been baptized!

Her answer made the effort worthwhile! What a fabulous blessing to know that she is God's child. Her Bible resting on the table testifies to her faith.

Campus Ministry at All Saints knows that outreach is worthwhile. Our congregation knows that we will continue to find ways to evangelize. We will create a Christian coffeehouse one way or another. We have decided not to rent the empty storefront across the street to use as a student coffeehouse, but we are going to try to enhance our undercroft so that it might serve as a coffeehouse.

What is the likelihood that this will happen? About the same likelihood that a Crystal and a Xiu would be baptized! With God all things are possible.

Kid's Corner

Do you know a child who loves to create? We are currently accepting submissions of children's drawings, paintings, art, and poetry for future issues of The Pittsburgh Lutheran. Send submissions to: Pittsburgh.lutheran.editor@gmail.com

Christmas Eve

by Eric R. Andrae

Pictured with Pastor Eric Andrae are Pitt and CMU students from China attending their first Christian worship ever on Christmas Eve 2017 at First Trinity Lutheran Church, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Also, these students attended a Christmas party on December 27, at the home of Anna Mussmann, our ESL instructor. The students really loved and greatly appreciated both events!



THANKS TO ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR VITAL SUPPORT AND ESSENTIAL PRAYERS, as we reach out to, teach, baptize, and edify today's students and their families who need the Gospel!

Make checks out to First Trinity with "Campus Ministry" in the memo line, and mail to: Campus Mission, 535 N. Neville St., Pittsburgh, PA 15213.

If you are a Thrivent member, please contribute through Thrivent Choice to "Lutheran Student Fellowship of Pittsburgh, PA". You can also donate online: scroll about half-way down at www.LSFPgh.com/donate.

ASCENSION LUTHERAN

McCandless

We praise God that 229 boxes were collected from Ascension Lutheran Church for Operation Christmas Child in 2017! This far exceeded the goal of 150 boxes that was set. Henrietta Doren, the Allegheny County Church Relations Coordinator for Operation Christmas Child, was a guest speaker on kickoff Sunday. We pray that the children who receive these boxes will come to know the saving love of Jesus.

Ascension Lutheran Church (8225 Peebles Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237) invites you to join us for the following events:

THE ASCENSION COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON is a free luncheon that is held at Ascension on the second Monday of each month at 11:30 p.m. Lunch is served at Noon. The next luncheon will be on February 12, 2018. This is a time for food, fellowship, and the making of a community of people who can share their lives with each other. Please join us and invite a friend!

YOUNG AT HEART is a retiree group that meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 11:30 a.m. at various locations to enjoy a casual lunch and fellowship. You are invited to join us!

On Ash Wednesday (February 14, 2018), Ascension Lutheran Church (8225 Peebles Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237) will have Communion services at 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. A lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. prior to the 1:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday service. Weekly Lenten services will be held on Wednesday evenings at 7 PM. Beginning Ash Wednesday and each Wednesday in Lent, you are invited to join us at our delicious soup and salad suppers from 5:00 p.m. until our service at 7:00 p.m..

For information about any of the above events, please call Barbara at the Ascension church office (412-364-4463).

BETHEL LUTHERAN

Glenshaw



Fred and Donna Heintz, Heidi, Tad and Gary Swanson, Pastor Litke and Marie standing with seminary student Christian Schultz at St Luke church in Cabot

Bethel is starting the New Year in comfort. Thanks to memorial donations, Bethel purchased red pew cushions to match the red rug and altar kneelers.

A handful of Bethel parishioners went to the Epiphany Evening prayer service at St. Luke in Cabot. The Kantorei from Fort Wayne Indiana Seminary sang and rang hand bells throughout the service. Christian Schultz, one of the seminary students participating in this tour was once a member of Bethel many years ago.

CHRIST LUTHERAN

Forest Hills

Members of the Women's Service Guild at Christ Lutheran packed cookies for our shut-ins for Christmas and for the Sonshine Kitchen in McKeesport. Pictured L-R are Dee Law, Joyce Purucker, and Kathy Sourbeer. They were happily received by all.



CONCORDIA LUTHERAN

Brentwood

Congratulation to Silas Xavier Bauer, who was baptized during the Divine Service on December 31. The son of Billy & Vicki Bauer, he is their third child, and has already contributed greatly to the life of the congregation, even at the tender age of three months! He got to portray "baby Jesus" during our children's annual Advent Event program, back on Sunday, December 10!



Concordia's Advent Event Youth Program



Concordia's Choristers, Christmas caroling at Concordia - South Hills.

Our study of the Augsburg Confession resumed on Tuesday, January 16. We still have room and study guides, for anyone who would like to join us, at 1:00pm on Tuesday afternoons. as part of our 500th Anniversary of the Reformation series, we will study Luther's Table Talk when our AC study is completed. Call the church at (412) 881-3005 for more details.

January 26 was our most recent "Movie Nite" at Concordia. We watched the 2006 film, "Amazing Grace." We'll go on hiatus during Lent, but our next movie night will be Friday, April 22. Call for details, if you'd like to join us!

Our Lenten worship schedule begins with the Ash Wednesday evening Divine Service at 7:30pm on February 14. Wednesday evening services will be held on 2/21, 2/28, 3/7, 3/14, and 3/21, and 7:30pm as well.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN *State College*

Kick the Tires: Intro to Missional Living & Discipleship Workshop

Saturday, April 7th, 9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m. at Good Shepherd Lutheran in State College.

Come learn from Greg Finke (author of *Joining Jesus on His Mission & Joining Jesus Show Me How*) and his wife Susan as they discuss living out the call of Jesus to love God and love our neighbor everyday of our lives. The workshop is open to anyone interested in learning how to join Jesus on His mission as part of their everyday lifestyle

This workshop will be free to those interested (donations are welcome to help cover the cost). Lunch will be provided. For those traveling a distance we will have a limited number of places where people can stay with a host family on Friday evening for free. First come, first serve. We will need to have a rough count of attendees. Please E-mail Pastor Bryan Spang at pastorbspang@gmail.com if you are planning on attending.

MT. CALVARY LUTHERAN

West View

"Busy" is the only way to describe Mt. Calvary in West View during the holidays. The activity started at the beginning of December when the congregation enjoyed its annual Christmas luncheon after the service on December 3. This time the meal was catered, rather than being potluck, giving the helpers a chance to relax and enjoy the food and fellowship, instead of running back and forth to take care of everything.

Then on the evening of December 7, members of the congregation gathered at the church to put together gift bags for residents of the Kane Regional facility. By the end of the evening, 240 bags were assembled, containing such items as hand lotion, lip balm, socks, a word search puzzle book, a pen, a bookmark made by the ladies of the church, a package of tissues, and a bottle of water, among others.



Gift bags for the residents of Kane.



Gift bags for the residents of Kane.

The following Sunday, after a light lunch at the church, members of the congregation then transported the items to Kane, and the group sang Christmas carols through the halls while delivering the gift bags. The residents were

delighted to receive the presents and sing along with the carols, but the visitors agreed they received the greater benefit.



Caroling at Kane Regional Facility.

On December 17, Mt. Calvary celebrated its annual family Christmas program following the regular Sunday service. Entitled "Mary Had a Little Lamb – That's My Story and I'm Sticking to It," the program was put together by organist Sharon Pritchard. As told by Head Shepherdess Rachel, Mary did indeed have a Baby named Jesus, but that Baby was also the Lamb of God.

In addition, performances by the voice choir and bell choir complemented the services throughout December.



Head Shepherdess Rachel.



Christmas Program "Mary had a little Lamb."

TRINITY LUTHERAN Monroeville

The Trinity Women (LWML) held their annual Christmas Luncheon on December 9 (pictured), calling attention to their efforts to raise support for abused women and children at Mercy House in Flint, Michigan.



An annual activity of the congregation is to gather food for Unity Community Mission in Homewood. A large table in the back of the sanctuary was set aside, and was completely filled by Christmas Eve.

Mileposters participated in both services December 24. Morgan Sinclair and Makayla Schriver read the first two lessons for morning worship. Devon Lex was crucifer for the Christmas Eve service that night, and Bella Collington (pictured) placed the baby Jesus in the manger.



ZION LUTHERAN Bridgeville

2017 Zion Annual Children's Christmas Program -- "And It Came to Pass..."

A Presentation of the Jesse Tree

Congratulations, well done, and thank you, for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ so beautifully!

Readers: Jack, Pippa, Sam, Kate, Claire, Decklan, Max, Luke, Stone, Joshua, Will, Christian, Lizzie, John, Aiden, Isabella, Carly, Callista, Lindsey, and Lauren.

Ornament Bearers: Brooke, Lexi, Lily, Emily, Claire, Rex, Roland, Dominic, Samuel, Aidan, Madison, Lucas, Jeremy, Michael, Daniel, John, and Alex.

Stage Guides: Sarah and Ava

Thanks you to the production team and all who assisted with rehearsals, ornament workshops, costumes, music, luncheon preparation and service... and to parents, grandparents, and audience members for encouraging these children in the faith.



2017 Children's Christmas Program

February Mission Month Events

- February 4th: Cards for Zion's homebound and ill
- February 11th: Letters and drawings for U.S. Troops
- February 18th: Operation Stars and Stripes Assembly
*volunteers needed
- February 25th: Field Trip to Broadmore Senior Living

Operation Stars and Stripes

Last year we sent 510 bags of love to American troops in Afghanistan, Korea and Greenland. Help make our 6th year the BEST EVER

Each February, Zion's Sunday school children choose a project that reaches out to the local community and beyond. This year the Sunday school has chosen to collect items for our troops overseas through the non-profit organization, Operation: Stars and Stripes.

Items will be collected January through mid-February, packaged by the Sunday school children and then shipped to Operation: Stars and Stripes in Atlanta, Georgia where the packages are distributed.

To make this project as worth-while as possible, Zion's Day school has joined our efforts in collecting items desperately needed and greatly appreciated by our troops and their families.

Other ways to help:

- We will also be accepting monetary donations to help cover the cost of shipping, which we expect to be rather costly. Please make checks payable to: Zion Lutheran Church Sunday School and put in the memo, "OSS Donation".
- Write a THANK YOU note to a soldier. Must be written on provided letterhead.
- Draw a picture on our Operation: Bag of Love drawing page
- Pray for our Troops!
- Help Sunday School kids assemble items on Sunday February 18th at 9:15 a.m.

For more information about Operation: Stars and Stripes, Inc., please visit their website at www.operationstarsandstripes.org.

Our Collection is underway!

REDEEMER LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Penn Hills / Oakmont

Happy New Year from Redeemer Lutheran School!

Redeemer's Christmas musical program was once again held at Penn Hills Senior High School Auditorium on Friday, December 15th. Preschool through 8th grade classes, along with band and choir, proclaimed Christ's birth through song, with a beautiful live on-stage Nativity. The Holy Family was portrayed by music director Mrs. Dalbo's own daughter, son-in-law, and infant granddaughter, accompanied by Redeemer student shepherds, wise men, angels, and animals. It was a wonderful way to gather and celebrate the season. Thank you to Mrs. Dalbo for her hard work with our students!



Nativity at Redeemer Lutheran School's Christmas program.

While we might only be in the very beginning of 2018, we are already gearing up to prepare for the 2018-2019 school year at Redeemer. Open House sessions are held each Thursday morning from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. at both of our campuses, with additional evening sessions held at our Penn Hills campus on Thursday, February 8th, and Thursday, February 22nd, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. All interested families are welcome to visit us during these sessions! Call us at 412-793-5884 for more information.

Our parent/toddler class has just begun its spring session. This class gives parents of little ones a chance to get out of the house during the cold weather and meet other families! Mrs. Bethanie Westgate, wife of Pastor Brian Westgate, is again leading the class. We are glad to offer this class to families of young children in our community. For those parents of young ones in our area, it is never too late to join us! Contact us at 412-793-5884 or admissions@redeemer-oakmont.org for more information.

Looking ahead:

March 23rd: Education Fair, open to the community

April 20th & 21st: Beauty and the Beast musical

ZION LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

Bridgeville

As part of our Christmas program this year, we included a slide show of the children acting out the story of Christ's birth. During the month of December each "Jesus time" was spent learning about Mary and Joseph, the angels, shepherds, wise men and of course, baby Jesus. Acting out the story brought a new excitement to the learning process, and a tear to their parents' eyes.

Our littlest angels learn the story of Christ's birth. Mary and Joseph make the long journey to Bethlehem.

Why is Lent 40 Days Long?

by Chaplain Roger Nuerge

Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, is February 15 this year. Did you know the word Lent is not in the Bible? There is no command to observe Lent. Over the years, as the Christian Church celebrated Good Friday and Easter, Lent developed into a 40-day season to help God's people prepare to celebrate Good Friday and Easter more fully.

One might wonder, why 40 days? The significance of the 40 days for the believer is that the scripture records that Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. After fasting for 40 days and 40 nights, Jesus was hungry. It was then that the tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." (Matthew 4) What kind of Messiah was Jesus to be?

Would he accomplish his mission by using his supernatural power for his own needs and change stones to bread so he could eat? No! Instead Jesus quoted Deuteronomy 8:3 "Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."

Would he accomplish his mission by using his power to win a large following by carrying out extravagant miracles or magic like throwing himself down from the top of the temple? No! Instead Jesus quoted Deuteronomy 6:16, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."

Would he accomplish his mission by compromising with Satan and bowing down and worshipping him? No! Instead Jesus quoted Deuteronomy 6:13, "Worship your God and serve him only."

Jesus resisted the temptations of the devil even when he was hungry and weak because he had no inward inclination or desire to sin. He is God, and he did not sin in any way: whether in action, word or inner desire. Jesus' temptation was real. He was tempted as we are, yet without sin. (Hebrews 4:15) Jesus used the most powerful weapon there is to defeat Satan. He used the sword of the Spirit, which is God's word. (Ephesians 6:17)

He did that for us because we don't do so well. We, like the children of Israel in their 40-year wilderness wandering, grumble and complain when we face a lack of life's necessities. When tempted and tested, we are quick to blame God for our life of misfortune and hardship, and we fail to use and believe God's word to find our support, strength and help.

The 40 days of Lent is a reminder to believers that Jesus is the one we need. He resisted the temptation of the devil all the way to the cross of Good Friday so we could be forgiven, and He rose again from the dead on Easter Sunday to open death and the grave for us so we can live with our Creator and Savior eternally.

The 40 days of Lent truly prepare us to celebrate Good Friday and Easter more fully.

Concordia Lutheran Ministries Board of Directors Elects Leadership

Stephen W. Johnson has been elected as chairman of the Board of Directors and Peter Humphrey as vice-chairman for 2018 according to officials at Concordia Lutheran Ministries. The team will serve those positions for the second consecutive year.

Stephen W. Johnson, who served as chairman of the Concordia Board of Directors last year, is Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer of CONSOL Energy, Inc., the largest producer of high-Btu bituminous coal in the United States. Johnson has been a member of First Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church in Oakland for more than 30 years.

Peter Humphrey was re-elected to serve a second consecutive three-year term in November. He has been president of SYNTHEON, Inc. since 2012. SYNTHEON Inc. designs and manufactures products for building and construction industries. He and his wife Terri are members of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Freedom.

Eighteen board members comprise the governing body and represent 32 Lutheran Churches Missouri Synod in the western Pennsylvania area. This parent board has oversight for 11 subsidiary corporations in various locations including: Concordia Lutheran Health and Human Care, Concordia Lutheran Ministries of Pittsburgh, Concordia Lutheran Ministries Foundation, Concordia Community Support Services, Providence Pharmacy, Good Samaritan Hospice, Concordia Medical Equipment, Concordia of Ohio, Concordia at Rebecca Residence, Concordia of Monroeville, and Concordia Physician Practice.

Concordia was the 7th accredited CARF-CCAC Aging Services Network in the world serving more than 31,000 in the past 12 months.

According to the 2014 Leading Age Ziegler 150, Concordia is in the top 35 non-profit senior care providers in the country, as ranked by number of beds/units. This does not include Concordia's extensive network of community services.

Sweet-O-Rama Celebration Scheduled at Concordia at Cabot

The retirement living residents at Concordia havens are celebrating "Fat Tuesday" with a Sweets-O-Rama and a Dixieland Jazz Band on Tuesday, Feb. 13 at 2 p.m. and the community is invited.

Local performer Joe Barth and his Dixieland Jazz Band will have top billing in the Haven I Dining Room, 112 Marwood Rd., Cabot.

In Mardi Gras style, entertainment, decorations and all the sweets you heart can handle will be available to all who attend. Take the afternoon off and enjoy a special kind of Mardi Gras right here. Registration is preferred but not required. Contact Lynn Turner at 724-352-1571, ext. 8518.

Concordia of the South Hills Retirement Living Hosts Open House Event

The public is invited to learn more about why Concordia is the best retirement value in the area on Wednesday, February 21 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at Open House on our South Hills campus located at 1300 Bower Hill Road in Mt. Lebanon near St. Clair Hospital.

Attendees will have the opportunity to tour the building including retirement living apartments as well as personal care and short-term rehab/skilled nursing units. Refreshments will be served in the Harmony Room in the common area of the community.

For more information or to register online visit the Events and News section of the website at www.concordialm.org/events-news or call Director of Marketing Christie Wahlen at 412-278-1300. Visit us online at www.concordia-southhills.org. Personal tours are available any time by appointment.

Concordia Retirement Living Hosts Open House Events

Concordia Haven Apartments is hosting Open House events every Monday during February from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Haven I located at 112 Marwood Road (Entrance 2A) beginning January 8, 2018.

Interested persons are invited to learn more about the Concordia Haven Apartments. Tours of the Haven I building, and model apartments will be offered, and guests will have the opportunity to ask questions. Learn more about why Concordia is the best retirement value in the area.

Visit www.concordiahaven.org for more information. To register or to schedule a personal tour, call Peggy Trettel at 724-352-5378.

Highpointe Residents Host Local Painter

Highpointe at Rebecca residents hosted Robert Griffing on Monday, January 22 at 6:00 p.m. at the new retirement community located at 1871 Highpointe Lane, Allison Park. Six of his paintings, which have been donated anonymously to the apartment complex will be displayed and dedicated.

According to his website, Griffing grew up in Linesville, PA where he roamed the fields and beaches around Pymatung Lake collecting stone artifacts. After graduating from the Art Institute of Pittsburgh, he worked for an advertising agency for 30 years. His love of history and native cultures made him pursue the Eastern Woodland Indian of the 18th century. Paintings depicting Forts Duquesne and Pitt, the Battle of Bushy Run and numerous other historical scenes of that period have become well-known locally.

Open House Events Held at Concordia Newest Retirement Community

Our newest location, Highpointe at Rebecca in Allison Park will feature three model apartments, one bedroom, two bedrooms, and large two bedrooms, to the public. Public Open House events in honor of President's Day will be held on Sunday, February 18, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., and Monday, February 19 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., featuring entertainment.

Highpointe residents have said that their new home and service package is the best retirement living value in the Pittsburgh North region, and there's still time to join them at a discounted rate. Now is the best time to learn more about these limited-time offers:

1. A 6% discount on your Entrance Fee, Monthly Fee, and Second Person Fee. Effective February 28, 2018 this discount will decrease to 5%.

2. A 3% veteran's discount on your Entrance Fee for veterans/spouses who meet eligibility requirements.

3. A 10% discount on future health care services at Concordia at Rebecca Residence, located on the same campus.

For more information or to RSVP, call 724-444-1521 or visit us online at www.HighpointeRebecca.org. Come and meet our founding residents to learn more about the community and why they chose Highpointe at Rebecca.

Lisa Rock and Close to You Band Plays a Tribute to the Carpenters at Concordia

Concordia Havens host singer Lisa Rock and a trio from the Close to You Band on Sunday, March 4 at 6 p.m. in the Haven I Dining Room, 112 Marwood Rd., Cabot.

Since 2010, Lisa Rock has been performing to sold-out crowds for years. She's written more than 15 original concerts and cabarets that have been seen across the country. Rock's amazing four octave range allows her to sing the hits like "We've Only Just Begun" and "Rainy Days and Mondays" in their original key, keeping the songs genuine and more recognizable for the audience, according to the Close to You Band web site.

Karen Carpenter captured the attention of a generation with her unabashedly catchy pop music. The Carpenters' beautiful, memorable love songs topped the Billboard charts with more than a dozen number one hits. Now singer Lisa Rock and her band are bringing the music of The Carpenters back to the stage with their spot-on renditions of Carpenters classics with Close to You: The Music of The Carpenters.

Carpenter fans won't want to miss this one. Registration is preferred but not required. Contact Lynn Turner at 724-352-1571, ext. 8518.

CLM “Season of Hope” Campaign Another Success

Donors and friends of Concordia Lutheran Ministries helped propel our annual Season of Hope campaign to another bright result. Because of donor generosity, Concordia received over \$177,000 during November and December for system-wide support, including its Good Samaritan Endowment Fund, which provides charitable care to residents and patients in financial difficulty, inspired by Christ’s legacy of love and service to the poor.

Because of our loyal supporters, Concordia is able to continually strengthen our aging community with a high-quality continuum of options in a Christian environment. We want to convey our heartfelt thanks to our Concordia Family’s amazing outpouring of support for Concordia’s Season of Hope. Your love shown to those we serve is greatly appreciated.

To support Concordia with a charitable gift, please visit <http://give.concordialm.org>.

Concordia Provides Free Speakers Bureau

The Speakers Bureau at Concordia Lutheran Ministries (CLM) is dedicated to community education. It offers your organization or community group the opportunity to listen to senior care professionals discuss critical issues about related topics. A professional group of experts in senior care address a broad range of topics.

It is simple to request and schedule a speaker. Just call the Coordinator Cathy Questiaux at 724-352-1571 ext. 8560 or e-mail cquestiaux@concordialm.org at least four weeks in advance and request a complete list of topics. Please have available information regarding your meeting, including time, date, location, size of group, and any other pertinent information about your organization.

Topics include but are not limited to Fall Prevention and Chronic Disease Management and Senior Nutrition, Senior Living, Advance Directives, End of Life Decision Making, Health and Wellness, Dementia and Alzheimer’s Disease Education and Nutrition for a Healthy Lifestyle.

The lectures are provided free of charge to all community and service organizations. Our Speakers Bureau will help your organization become better informed about important healthcare topics.

Calling all Choir Members

“Dear Christians, One and All Rejoice; a Martin Luther Hymn Festival” will be held at 7 pm on Sunday, April 29, 2018 in Heinz Chapel at the University of Pittsburgh. As a continuation of celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation, the Festival will be celebrated among the three major Lutheran denominations in western Pennsylvania. Representing LCMS are Rev. Brian Westgate, pastor at Redeemer and Ruth Miller, organist at Zion, Lawrenceville, and former Pittsburgh Lutheran Chorus Director. Also leading the coordination of choirs is First Trinity’s organist, Kantor Cyril Hurnyak. If you wish to participate in the LCMS choir, please contact Ruth Miller at 412-486-6738.

Concordia Retirement Allows Couple to Start Their New Journey

The best way to tell the story of Highpointe at Rebecca and our other retirement living communities in South Hills and the Havens at Cabot is through the voices of those who have made the decision to move. This is the first in a series of testimonials from those who enjoy Concordia’s brand of worry-free living. Don’t miss our commercial on major TV networks featuring a few residents giving their unscripted, unrehearsed opinions on why they chose Concordia, what they love about us and more.

Paul, 86, and Marjorie Sober, 83, are one of the first couples to move in to Highpointe at Rebecca. They were married for 64 years. The couple was blessed with two children, James lives in Dana Point, Ca. and Jennifer resides in Allison Park, Pa. They also have five grandsons. Paul Sober worked for the Allegheny Ludlum Steel Corporation and retired in 1991.



After nearly 60 years of living at their home in Leesburg, Pa., they decided it was time for change. Initially, the couple thought a patio home would be ideal for them but wasn’t sure how safe it would be. After a couple of years of searching for the perfect retirement facility, their daughter mentioned Concordia. Since then, they have been attending all the open houses. “We were amazed by the amenities & services they offered,” Marjorie stated.

Marjorie can’t say enough about the employees at Highpointe. “The employees are just wonderful, we are very pleased,” Marjorie added. “They make us feel like we are part of their family and it feels special.” The Sobers also highly recommend the food. She mentioned excitedly how her husband loves the food and that they have been going for dinner every day in the dining room. “We came in with an open mind,” Marjorie said. “And this is the best decision we’ve ever made.”