

PALM News pages 2-3 Mission News page 4 Campus Ministry pages 4-5 Congregation News pages 6-7 School News pages 7-9 Concordia News pages 1, 9-12

# Concordia to Host 2018 Free Fishing Derby for Kids at Saxony Farm

Concordia Lutheran Ministries will host a free fishing derby for kids 14 and under on Saturday, May 5 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Saxony Farm Estate in Saxonburg

Concordia will provide bait, a few fishing rods to borrow (attendees should bring their own if they have one), hot dogs and refreshments, prizes, and parking – all free of charge. An adult must accompany all children.

There will be volunteers on hand to help measure fish, detangle fishing lines, teach the basics and more. A tent will be set up with some tables and chairs for those in need of some shade. Guests should bring their own lawn chairs or blankets, if interested.

Last year's event drew close to 700 guests. Lake Saxony is fully stocked with hundreds of blue gills, bass, catfish and more Since the lake is private, kids have a good chance of catching something.

Registration is requested to help with planning, but walk-ins will be accepted. To RSVP, visit www.concordialm.org/events-news/fishingderby2018. You can also call Concordia Public Relations at 724-352-1571, ext. 8268 for more information.



# Mark your Calendar

# May

- 1 500 Years of Lutherans, Concordia, Brentwood, 1:00 p.m.
- 5 Concordia Fishing Derby, Saxony Farm Lake, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- 5 Cinco de Mayo, Highpointe at Rebecca, Allison Park, Noon to 3:00 p.m.
- 5 Cinco de Mayo Mexican Buffet, Ascension, McCandless, 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- 6 Youth Sunday, Mt. Calvary, West View
- 7 Nar Anon meeting, Bethel Lutheran, Glenshaw, each Monday, 7:00 p.m.
- **8** 500 Years of Lutherans, Concordia, Brentwood, 1:00 p.m.
- 10 Feast of the Ascension, Redeemer, Oakmont, 7:30 p.m.
- 10 Ascension Day Service, Bethel, Glenshaw, 7:00 p.m.
- 11 Mother's Day Event, Redeemer, Oakmont/Penn Hills
- 12 Concordia Fashion Show, Butler Country Club, Butler, 10:00a.m.
- 13 Bell Choir, Mt. Calvary, West View
- **15** 500 Years of Lutherans, Concordia, Brentwood, 1:00 p.m.
- 17 Dinner & Movie, Concordia, Brentwood, 6:00 p.m.
- 18 Wine Tasting, Redeemer, Oakmont/Penn Hills
- 19 Uptown Band, Concordia Haven Apartments, Cabot, 2:00 p.m.
- 20 Open House, Highpointe at Rebecca, Allison Park, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Open House Highpointe at Rebecca, Allison Park, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- **22** 500 Years of Lutherans, Concordia, Brentwood, 1:00 p.m.
- **24** Bowling Outing, Concordia, Brentwood, Princess Lanes
- 25 Track and Field Day, Redeemer, Oakmont/Penn Hills
- 26 Allegheny Drifters Bluegrass Band, Highpointe at Rebecca, Allison Park, 6:30 p.m.
- **28** 2nd Annual PALM Memorial Day Service, Minersville Cemetery, 10:00 a.m.
- **29** 500 Years of Lutherans, Concordia, Brentwood, 1:00 p.m.

### June

- 1 Strawberry Festival, Redeemer Lutheran, Oakmont
- 6 Last Day of School, Redeemer, Oakmont/Penn Hills
- **18-22** Vacation Bible School, Christ Lutheran, Forest Hills, 9:00 a.m. to Noon
- 23 Free Market/Flee Market, Mt. Calvary, West View
- 23 Birds Over Arkansas Concordia Concert, Highpointe at Rebecca, Allison Park, time TBA
- 24-29 Vacation Bible School, Zion Lutheran, Bridgeville

#### July

- 9 CLM Golf Classic, Treesdale Golf and Country Club,8:30 a.m. registration
- **16-19** Vacation Bible School, Ascension, McCandless, 5:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.
- 21 Three Guys Named Moe Concordia Concert, Highpointe at Rebecca, Allison Park, time TBA

#### August

**18** Pittsburgh Banjo Club Concert, Highpointe at Rebecca, Allison Park, time TBA

See individual articles for details.

# 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

# **PALM Mission Spotlight**

by Pr. Bob McCanless, PALM Mission Chairman

As April snow showers, turn into May flowers (hopefully!), a young Lutheran's fancy, turns to thoughts of... MISSION! What else?

Arriving in your mail in a matter of weeks, will be the 2018 - 2019 Mission request paperwork from PALM. These get mailed to EVERY congregation in the PALM "neighborhood," of western Pennsylvania and Maryland.

We've been able to assist in making some wonderful things HAPPEN among our congregations over the years, and after receiving RSO status from the LCMS last year, our future looks brighter than ever... which means YOUR future is brighter now too.

Part of our stewardship responsibility, since we're able to access more monies for mission, is making sure there is a good accounting of all that we give away. We're happy to help get your project off the ground, but please note, that PALM funding can be NO more than half of any project's funding. Moreover, PALM stands ready to assist you in the grant process, helping you locate those additional funds needed to make your mission complete.

(Continued on page 3)

#### Devotion

by Rev'd Brian Westgate

"O Lord, our Lord: how excellent is Thy Name in all the earth!" - Psalm 8:1

This May is a time of great celebration in the Church. Our Easter celebration continues through the month. It is highlighted by the celebration of Ascension on Thursday, May 10, by Pentecost on Sunday, May 20, and finally Trinity Sunday one week later, May 27.

These are all important days. Jesus ascended into heaven. He took our human nature to heaven. He must want to live with us forever. Ten days later He sent to His Church His Holy Spirit. He has called us to faith through His Gospel and through Holy Baptism. He is with us to comfort us with Jesus' Gospel in all sorrow, fear, and need. God is with us. God loves us. God won't leave us. He teaches us, through Sacred Scripture alone, what we are to believe and do as God's dear children.

Trinity Sunday is our big thanksgiving celebration for all this. It puts a big exclamation point on the first half of the Church Year. We give Father, Son, and Holy Ghost highest thanks for our salvation since we have heard once more the story of how Jesus accomplished it. We pray Him to keep us steadfast in the Faith we have heard and to defend us from all adversity which would try to take us away from Him.

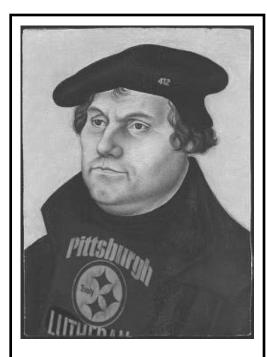
Do make every effort to be in church during these times. The Scriptures we hear and the Sacrament we receive will richly bless you.

(Continued from page 2)

Follow-up accounting (congregational/organizational reports on how your mission project is going, and the difference it is making in people's lives in your midst) is necessary so that we can demonstrate good stewardship to those from whom we receive mission funds. That, and we like to share your inspiring story with others in The Pittsburgh Lutheran so folks can see what the LCMS is doing throughout this area, and to others, to let them know that western PA and MD are GREAT places to invest in mission work.

When these forms arrive, do call us and talk to us about your mission project and how we can help make it a reality. EVERY circuit of EVERY District represented in PALM (Eastern, English, Slovak) has a lay or pastoral delegate to the PALM Board (do you know who your delegate is? If not, then why not? The whole reason for our existence, is to make your mission succeed) who can also answer your questions, assist you in the grant application, or help you plan your project to be a success. You can call me at (412) 881-3005 any time, and I'll be happy to go over any part of the grant application or your project with you - or find the appropriate help from our PALM team to assist you.

OUR mission, is YOUR mission. We look forward to helping make it happen, in 2018 - 19, and beyond.



Volume 88, No. 4 The Pittsburgh Lutheran

#### Published by

Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries (PALM)

#### **Editors**

Christine Chilcott, Nancy Koester, Mary Lou Rilee

#### **Business Manager**

Mike Fenger

The Pittsburgh Lutheran is published 10 times per year.

All inquiries, comments or suggestions should be addressed to the Editors at: pittsburgh.lutheran.editor@gmail.com .

#### Please mail PALM donations to:

The Lutheran Center Douglas Spittel, Treasurer 535 N. Neville Street Pittsburgh, PA 15213

#### **PALM Officers**

Rev'd Brian P. Westgate, President Rev'd. Dr. Douglas H. Spittel, Treasurer Mrs. Stephanie Stubenbort, Secretary

#### **PALM Website**

http://www.palmpa.org

# **Mileposters News**

The Mileposters planning meeting for the 2018 season set forth several goals. Among other things, a new youth captain (pictured with her brother and the original Mileposters tandem) is expected to qualify this year. A century ride (100 miles in a day) is planned, with the group leader and a trail mom as captains, for a total of four riders for the event, which will be one of the fundraisers for the year. The trail mom's husband is expected to finish electrician training by July 1, which will free him up to qualify as captain. Another trail mom is also expected to qualify and come on board.



The third Mileposters tandem, a Trek T-100, which had been in storage, was fitted with a Shimano Biopace crankset (pictured) and taken out for testing; the crankset worked well. Biopace chainings have a computergenerated oval shape which provides for optimum inter-

vals in up-and-down movements of the legs, resulting in less stress on the knees. A 24-inch single was also removed from storage and placed in the shop area for conversion to a commuter bike.



# **Teachable Moments**

by Augusta R Mennell, Campus Ministry Director

I could hardly believe my ears. After driving her to shop at Walmart and the thrift store many times, an international student, Jane, (not her real name) was more open to me than she ever had been before. In fact, she was pouring out her heart. Her story was poignant. It gave campus ministry the opportunity to have a loving, teachable moment. Teachable moments are times when campus ministry can share the Gospel in a favorable atmosphere.

Often both American and international students keep their real feelings to themselves. They put on smiling faces while keeping real thoughts hidden. As we returned from visiting a shut-in lady (who was delighted to meet Jane) and going shopping, Jane remarked that she has nothing to lose by trying to get her Masters degree at SRU. Whatever happens, she believes it is worth the cost and the risk. She left home in Africa with a dream and little else, especially money. Miraculously she had received a call from her government that she had been given a visa to come to America to study. As soon as she got this news she traveled to her parents' home to tell them. She had had a low-paying job and did not have enough money to pay for a plane ticket to America. She feels God provided help through a relative, who gave her the ticket money and told her to "Go for it!"

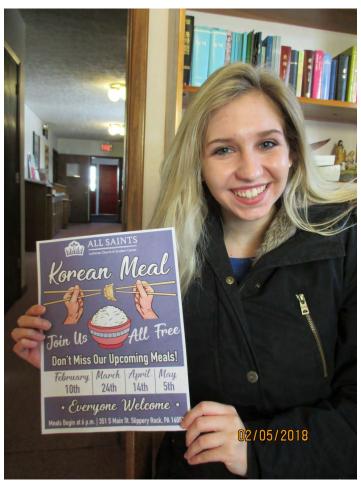
Although she's usually jovial, Jane confessed that she wakes up in the middle of the night because of anxiety; she doesn't know how she'll have enough money to pay her tuition. She understands the peril of her situation and is convinced that God will show her a way to stay, no matter what happens. Yet worry keeps her awake. Jane is a Christian, but like many Christians she believes she is too busy and too tired to come to Bible study and worship. Instead she listens to Sunday services on her I-pad. Talking about her problems and about how she worships online gave us a very teachable moment. We talked about putting on the full armor of God by hearing his Word in the company of fellow Christians, and by taking the Lord's Supper together. We referred to the Bible stories of Jesus' love for us, especially as we heard the Easter story. Jane really wants to help others, especially those who are disabled. Therefore, we did not give her an easy answer to wipe away her challenges. We got to have that teachable moment by telling her that God will never leave her. We ended our time together with prayer.

Teachable moments are priceless times we get to share the Gospel. The monthly Korean meals served to students at All Saints are filled with those moments. At our March meal American, international and community friends listened intently as we held up first the traditional red heart-shaped box of chocolates that husbands traditionally give their wives on Valentine's Day. Then we held up a crucifix. We related that, as symbolized by the heart-shaped candy box, human love is important, but that the love shown by God on the crucifix is much more important. We spoke of God's love being very powerful. His Son Jesus died on the cross for the entire world. No one stopped listening. This was a teachable moment.

While eating the delicious Korean food we had many chances to have more teachable moments. We did this by personally inviting many to come to the Lutheran Center to visit, to ask for help, and to come in to Pastor Loree for counseling if they want to. Students will remember these meals when they graduate because they experienced and heard God's love. Russian, Japanese, American students heard the Good News.

One student who has made these teachable moments possible is All Saints' Fellowship's president, Morgan Koziar, who graduates this May. She first came to All Saints when she called and asked if she could be our "church buddy". It's clear that this talented student will go far in her television career. She already has a job interview with a television station in Erie. Someday we will see her on television presenting the news. She has helped All Saints tell the story of our mission for college students on campus. We will miss her dynamic smiley self. She is passionate in all she does. She will create more moments to share the Gospel wherever she goes. She gave All Saints an Easter card saying, "thank you for teaching me about the true meaning of Easter and Jesus, and the love He has for me." All Saints is blessed because of our many teachable moments with Morgan.

Love for All Saints campus ministry means seeking every way possible to open doors to these moments when we can share the Gospel with students. Please pray for our work with students.



All Saints Ambassador.

### **ASCENSION LUTHERAN**

#### **McCandless**

A Cinco de Mayo Mexican Buffet will be held on Saturday, May 5, 2018, at Ascension Lutheran Church (8225 Peebles Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237) from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Come and fellowship with us over a Mexican buffet filled with tons of food. A freewill offering will be accepted. All are welcome.

You're invited to Vacation Bible School (VBS) at Ascension Lutheran Church. OPERATION ARCTIC (by Answers in Genesis) will be held July 16 to 19 from 5:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. The children (entering PreK through 6th Grade) will create crafts, play games, sing songs, complete a service project, and warm up to the Word as they explore the coolest Book on the planet, and discover how they can know for sure that the Bible is God's written word. Dinners will be provided for VBS families and volunteers. For more information, please call Barbara at Ascension's church office (412-364-4463).

# **BETHEL LUTHERAN**

#### Glenshaw

Once again Bethel took their Stations of the Resurrection to the residents at Concordia at Rebecca, and this year it was performed also at Highpoint. This is also the first year that this program involved three congregations: Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church in Glenshaw, St. John's Lutheran Church in Millvalle, and Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lawrenceville. Participants read scripture, instrumental pieces and sang hymns about the resurrection of our Savior in nine different 'stations'.



Elisabeth Kay, Donna Heintz and Heidi Swanson singing a hymn about doubting Thomas.

Bethel will be holding an 'Ascension Day' service on Thursday, May 10, at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome to celebrate with us our Savior's victory over the grave.

#### **CHRIST LUTHERAN**

Forest Hills

Christ Lutheran's annual Easter Event for children ages 1 to 11 took place the week before Easter. Kids had a Bible story, crafts, eggs dying and of course the Easter egg hunt.



We're all looking forward now to Vacation Bible School which is scheduled for June 18 to 22 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. All are welcome. Registration forms will be available soon.

#### **CONCORDIA LUTHERAN**

Brentwood

On Friday, May 17, we will hold our next "Dinner & Movie - and maybe a Bible Study while we're at it Nite". We will gather in the 6 o'clock hour, with the movie to begin at 6:30 p.m. May's movie will be, 2000's "Bonhoeffer: Agent of Grace," as we remember his martyrdom at the end of WWII.

On Friday, May 24, we will hold our annual Bowling Outing at Princess Lanes in Caste Village - Whitehall. Always a favorite of our youth every spring, we'd love to have some more folks join us. Contact Pr. McCanless at the church (412) 881-3005 for more details, and we'll enjoy some fellowship together.

#### MT. CALVARY LUTHERAN

West View

Something different is being planned for Mt. Calvary's Youth Sunday, scheduled for May 6. This annual event previously comprised a volunteer group of music director Sharon Pritchard's voice and piano students who perform several selections together during the worship service. However, this year, because of crazy schedules and a smaller number of participants, the students will sing solos. This is an excellent opportunity for them to realize that their voices are truly a gift from God and can be used to glorify Him.

In addition, the Bell Choir will be performing Sunday, May 13 – the perfect day to stop in if you are interested in visiting.

The Easter Service was a joyous celebration of the resurrection of our Lord. Mt. Calvary's favorite trumpeter, Anthony Thomas, joined the choir and the piano to worship the Lord with two anthems, "Easter Joy" and "Crown Him with Many Crown". We are looking forward to more collaborations in the future.

Daffodils, tulips, hyacinths, and lilies, donated by the members of the congregation, beautified the sanctuary on Easter morning. Members were reminded that any Easter plants with bulbs could be brought back to church in the coming weeks, to be replanted in our memorial garden in front of the church. Each year, more and more blossoms enhance the outside of the building.

We were saddened to learn that the Avella Church has closed its doors. For nearly two decades, Pastor Scott A. Kuntz has been serving both Mt. Calvary and Avella; but because of declining membership over the years, Avella closed its doors on Easter. We pray that the remaining members will follow God's leading to new places of worship, wherever they may be. We thank Pastor Kuntz for his leadership there, and the Lord for watching over him in his commute as he traveled between the two congregations.

The Outreach/Card-making Group has also been busy. Georgeanne Paprocki took cards to the North Hills Craft Show on April 14; and Georgeanne also hosted a mini craft/vendor show in the fellowship hall at the church on April 21. The church is planning a "Free" Market/Flea Market on Saturday, June 23, Take What You Need/Donate What You Want. All proceeds will be used for renovations and repairs to the kitchen/fellowship hall in the basement.

Looking ahead to the coming months, the summer picnic is scheduled for Sunday, August 12, at Wall Park, with Vacation Bible School beginning Monday, August 13. More details to come.

#### PEACE LUTHERAN

# *McMurray*

Confirmation - On March 25th, 2018, Peace Lutheran Church welcomed nine young men and women as confirmed members of our congregation. Our confirmands include: Amanda Black, Zach Antonich, Jonathan Hutchison, Nathaniel Hardy, Robbie Crain, Dominic Hutchison, Adam Sciorilli, Vienna Nolan and Lexie Coen. We are very proud of all of their hard work and we pray that, "He who has begun a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ".



L to R: Amanda Black, Zach Antonich, Jonathan Hutchison, Nathaniel Hardy, Robbie Crain, Dominic Hutchison, Adam Sciorilli, Vienna Nolan, Lexie Coen.

Easter Breakfast - Peace Lutheran Church and Thrivent hosted an Easter Breakfast prior to worship on Sunday, April 1. We had a wonderful turnout with plenty of good food, fellowship and excellent service from many talented volunteers. Through the generosity of all who attended we are able to assist two local individuals in need with more than \$460 in assistance. What a wonderful way to begin our celebration of our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Divine Call** - Peace Lutheran Church has extended a Divine Call to The Rev. Kent Schaaf of Grace Lutheran Church in Grass Valley, CA, to serve as Senior Pastor. We pray for God's wisdom and guidance as Pastor Schaaf considers this Call.

### REDEEMER LUTHERAN

#### **Oakmont**

The Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord is one of the great feast days in the Church's Year of Grace. We celebrate the God-Man's coronation as King of the universe. We give thanks that He went to heaven to prepare a place for us. We also give thanks that He is still very much with us by means of His Word and Sacraments. God's Service will be celebrated this day at Redeemer on Thursday, May 10, at 7:30 p.m.

We will once more observe summer hours this year. In the months of June, July, and August, everything will move up an hour. This means Sunday School will begin at 8:30 a.m. and Worship will begin at 9:45 a.m.

#### ZION LUTHERAN

# Bridgeville

#### Sunday School - May Unit - Who is my neighbor?

This is a question that one lawyer asked of Jesus. Jesus' response was to tell him a story, or parable, called "The Good Samaritan". God calls us to love each other as we love ourselves. Why? Because God first loved us by sending Jesus as an atoning sacrifice for our sins! Want to learn more about God's great love for you? Read 1 John 4: 7-21. "...love your neighbor as yourself." ~Luke 10:

Sunday school begins with devotions at 9:25 am in the church sanctuary.

For more information about Zion's Sunday school program and events, please contact sundayschool@zlcb.org.

## REDEEMER LUTHERAN SCHOOL

#### Penn Hills / Oakmont

Spring is here, even though the weather seems to disagree. While the plants and animals may be just awakening from their long winter's naps, there certainly has been no hibernating at Redeemer this past month.

Redeemer's annual sports banquet was held on Friday, March 16. Students, families, and coaches gathered to recognize the hard work of each player and give appreciation to the coaching staff. Of course, the evening was made extra special as we celebrated our middle school boys' basketball team becoming SWCAC champions. Thank you to everyone who made the athletic year possible, and to all the volunteers that organized the evening.



Finishing dinner before awards at Redeemer's annual athletic banquet.

Redeemer's annual Preschool Sunday event was held on Sunday, March 18. Our preschool students participated in worship with a special song and stayed for a fun picnic lunch after the service. Children also had the opportunity to meet their grownup "Lamb" pen pals from the congregation and have their pictures taken. Thank you to the preschool staff, school board, and Redeemer church family for making this annual event possible.

On Monday, March 19, families supported the Redeemer athletic program by visiting Max & Erma's in Monroeville. Good food, a chance to see friends from Redeemer, and an opportunity to support our athletics: what better way to spend your meal time? Thank you to all that participated, whether for lunch, dinner, or takeout.

On Thursday, March 22, our middle school boys' basketball team headed to Valparaiso, Indiana, to participate in the annual Lutheran Basketball National Tournament. Over 50 teams from around the country traveled to take part in this special event. Redeemer fans back at home were able to watch the games through online live streaming and cheer them on. While the team did not come away winners, it was a wonderful experience for them. We appreciate our athletic director Nathan Loewe and team parents for organizing this event for our boys.



Redeemer middle school boys' basketball team at the LBAA tournament

On Friday, March 23, Redeemer held the annual Education Fair. As always, the entire school was involved. Families and visitors toured the school, visiting a different country in each classroom, and sampled delicious global recipes in the international café (thanks to our wonderful volunteer parent cooks). The Education Fair is always a wonderful opportunity to visit other families and see the hard work by the students and faculty.

On Friday, April 6, Redeemer families took part in yet another fundraiser, this time for our high school mission trip. Students and parents visited the Chuck E. Cheese in Monroeville to support our high school students that will be heading to Texas this summer to assist with hurricane recovery efforts. It was a fun evening, as students of all ages enjoyed playing games together and spending time with friends. Thank you to all that came out for the event.



Mrs. Holzer joins the fun at the Chuck e Cheese fundraiser.

Redeemer congratulates two of our seniors for special achievements:

Sam Wilshire received the Good Citizen Award from the Daughters of the American Revolution. He will be recognized at a chapel service in April. Lizzy Schinkel won the local American Legion Post 980/District 33 essay contest, "What Does Being a Patriot Mean to Me?" Local representative Mr. Jeff Pope visited Redeemer earlier in March to present Lizzy with her award. Lizzy now moves on to compete at the interdistrict level.

We are proud of both of these young people for their hard work and character



Mr. Jeff Pope presents Lizzy Schinkel with her American Legion essay contest award.

As of this writing, we are in the last nine weeks of school for this year. The older students are busily preparing for the upcoming musical and year-end assessment exams, the younger grades are continuing to work on important skills. The administration is looking ahead and preparing for next year, and everyone is experiencing a bit of spring fever. Please uphold Redeemer in your prayers as we seek to complete the year well for God's glory. Looking ahead:

May 11 Mother's Day Event May 18 Wine Tasting May 25 Track and Field Day June 6 Last Day

## ZION LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

# Bridgeville

Every year we celebrate Lutheran Schools Week with our own Preschool Spirit Week. The week starts out with Spirit Night at Chick-Fil-A, visits from the National Aviary and a storyteller, Dads and Donuts and concludes with our Ice Cream Social and art show fundraiser



Miss Mary, our Storyteller, read the children an interactive story all about spring. Little Addison just loved Miss Mary.



Goldie the penguin put on an amazing show for the kids. "Anybody have any fish....I'm hungry!"



Pastor and Carolyn worked hard behind the scenes making fantastic ice cream sundaes.



Bake Sale was seeing lots of action with such yummy treats!

# **Concordia Haven Presents Butler's Best Band**

Concordia Haven Apartments will host The Uptown Band featuring Ken Robeson on Saturday, May 19 at 2:00 p.m. and invites the public to join them free of charge. The performance will be held in the Haven I Dining Room, Entrance 2A, 112 Marwood Road, Cabot. The band was recently cited as one of the best area bands for rock and roll oldies on the front page of the Butler Eagle. Robeson is also a member of the Concordia at Cabot staff.

Reservations are preferred, but not required. Contact Lynn Turner at 724-352-1571, ext. 8518.

For more information on retirement living at Concordia visit www.concordiahaven.org.

# **Highpointe at Rebecca Hosts Open House**

Public Open House events will be held on Sunday, May 20 from 1:00 to3:00 p.m. and Monday, May 21 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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. Join us to learn more about these limited-time offers.

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.

#### **Common Threads**

by Nicole Courson, Highpointe at Rebecca Events and Activities Coordinator

Ginny Haiges was doing missionary work in Kenya over five years ago, oceans away from the beautiful Pennsylvania countryside that would become Highpointe at Rebecca, when she found a beautiful piece of fabric that spoke to her. Fabrics were plentiful in the open-air markets there, as were fruits, vegetables, and any number of other necessary things, but it was the fabric she had to have. Ginny bought it and tucked it away with her other souvenirs and creative materials.

"I knew I'd use it someday," she told me, though she may not have guessed just how long it would take. The vibrant blue and orange flowered material remained packed for some time.

I came to discover the material last week, ironically enough not through Ginny but through Dot Bickmore, another one of our residents. Dot's home is among my favorite to visit at Highpointe, because she and I have many things in common, including collecting blue and white dishes. On that particular visit, I was stopped in my tracks by the placemats beneath her treasured plates because they appeared to be custom made.

"Actually," she said, smiling, "they were a gift."

That fabric, having been kept for years in Ginny's stash, was eventually shared with an entirely different yet a third or still another Highpointe resident, Barbara Treusch. Barb had used her own creative talents to give something back by make placemats for Ginny, and she gifted Dot with a set as well. It struck me, then, the common thread of these three women, not just the fabric or that they were all residents here at Highpointe, but that they all had the same giving attitude.

"I could tell it was a beautiful memory for Ginny," Barb said. "I wanted to do something for her that she could see all the time, and I can make placemats. I could give her that, and now she can see it every day."

That kind of grace isn't common, but somehow, at Highpointe, it is. I am amazed all the time at the way our residents look out for each other, take each other into consideration and care for one another. Maybe it's something in the air here... or maybe we're just blessed by the common threads that bind us together.

If you are interested in joining Ginny, Dot and Barb at Highpointe but would like to learn more, we invite you to schedule a no-pressure, no-obligation tour of the building and meeting with one of our admissions counselors. Please call Admissions Counselor and Resident Care Coordinator Julie Spirnock at 724-444-1521 or visit www.HighpointeRebecca.org to view floor plans, pricing options, coming events and lifestyle services. You can also visit us at an upcoming open house.

# Highpointe Residents Celebrate Cinco de Mayo

Highpointe residents invite the public to join them to celebrate The First Cinco de Highpointe on Saturday, May 5 from noon until 3:00 p.m.

Food and drinks, fiesta style will be served including a taco bar, salsa sampling with house-made tortilla chips, Margarita punch, Mariachi music, and even a life-size piñata.

Join them to find out why they believe their new home and service package is the best retirement living value in the Pittsburgh North region. Tours will be available 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 3% discount on your Entrance Fee, Monthly Fee and Second Person Fee.
- 2) A 3% veteran's discount on your Entrance Fee for veterans/spouses who meet eligibility requirements.
- 3) Current residents have received a coupon worth \$2500 to present to a friend who commits to make the move to Highpointe by the end of July.

For more information or to RSVP, call 724-444-1521 or visit us online at www.HighpointeRebecca.org.

# Highpointe at Rebecca Kicks Off Its First Summer Concert Series

Concordia Retirement Living residents invite the public to a free performance featuring the Allegheny Drifters Bluegrass Band at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 26 in the courtyard weather permitting. From the western foothills of the Allegheny Mountains, Pennsylvania's Allegheny Drifters are one of the strongest vocal bands on the bluegrass scene today. Their pure harmonies, accomplished instrumental work and deep knowledge of the roots and branches of the music gives them a unique spot in the current world of bluegrass. Seasoned entertainers, they breathe new life and excitement into the music on stages everywhere, according to their website.

Bob Artis and Bernie Cunningham's superb duet blend offers the sound and feeling of the golden age of bluegrass. When joined by the warm, high harmony of Karen Artis, this band has a thrilling vocal sound seldom heard in traditional groups today. Add to this Bob's soulful retro-Monroe mandolin and Keith Beaver's punchy banjo, and you have an unbeatable bluegrass sound straight from the heart of the old Keystone State.

This marks the first in a series of concerts held from May until August. Dates and entertainment for the rest of the season are:

June 23 – Birds Over Arkansas July 21 – Three Guys Named Moe August 18 – The Pittsburgh Banjo Club

All concerts begin at 6:30 p.m. preceded by tours and a Happy Hour. Registration is preferred, but not required. Contact Nicole Courson, Events and Activities Coordinator at 724-444-7774.

## **New Spring Discounts Announced**

As we welcome the first Spring at our new retirement community, we wanted to take this opportunity to report that approximately 75% of the apartments at Highpointe at Rebecca are filled since opening last September. Our residents tell us they love being here. It feels like home and the worry-free living lifestyle allows them to be more independent than ever before.

This time of year brings new beginnings, fresh starts, and beauty. In honor of Spring's return, Highpointe at Rebecca continues to offer a discount on the Entrance Fee, Monthly Fee and Second Person Fee at 4% until April 30 and 3% from May 1 on. In addition, we have provided our current residents with a coupon for \$2,500 to invite their family or friends to make the move to Highpointe. If their family member or friend accepts the coupon they receive \$2,500 off the entrance fee in addition to the current percentage discount. The Monthly Fee and Second Person Fee discount will apply for as long as you live at Highpointe.

This one-time offer is even more advantageous when combined with our other current discounts: which includes 3% off the Entrance Fee for eligible veterans/ spouses. There's no better time to take a look at what our residents call the greatest retirement value in town.

One of the best ways to learn more about the quality, security, and value that Highpointe at Rebecca offers is to visit Concordia Lutheran Ministries' newest retirement living community in person. Join us in the coming months at one of our free, public events. We invite you to schedule a no-pressure, no-obligation tour of the building and meeting with one of our admissions counselors. Please call Admissions Counselor and Resident Care Coordinator Julie Spirnock at 724-444-1521 or visit www.HighpointeRebecca.org to view floor plans, pricing options, coming events and lifestyle services.

# **Highpointe Welcomes New Paintings**

Highpointe at Rebecca residents were recently treated to a Meet and Greet with famed local artist Robert Griffing. Six of his paintings, which were anonymously donated to Highpointe, were displayed and dedicated at the event, and the residents got to chat with the artist about his work.

Griffing, originally from Linesville, PA, graduated from the Art Institute of Pittsburgh and worked in advertising for 30 years before returning to his early love of history. His work focuses on 18th century Native Americans of the Great Lakes and Eastern Woodlands and has been included in educational packages, TV historical documentaries, the covers of national magazines and Native American museums and cultural centers, including an exhibition at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History in Washington D.C. in 2007.

The residents enjoyed getting to know more about the beautiful art that is now hanging in their home. When you schedule a free tour of Highpointe, you can meet some of these residents and see the paintings in person.





We put our Rotch to Coring