



THE PITTSBURGH LUTHERAN

VOL 89, NO 7, SEPTEMBER 2019

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PALM DEVOTION

by Rev. Brian Westgate

“Make haste, O God, to deliver me: make haste to help me, O LORD.” – Psalm 70:1

These words open the Divine Service on the 12th Sunday after Trinity. These words are also prayed every day at Matins and Vespers. This little prayer of David is the very heartbeat of Christian faith. This is what a Christian desires. This is what a Christian believes. God delivers. God helps. God makes haste to do these things.

But it does not always seem that way. God seems to take His time. Sometimes we don't think He's heard our prayers. Sometimes we might even wonder if He's become our enemy. Then turn to see the Cross. There you see the one forsaken by God His Father. There you see Jesus Christ, the Son of God, suffering hell for you, in your place. What does this mean? It means God can never forget you or forsake you. He desires to help you.

For Jesus died for you. He died to rescue you from God's wrath. There is no more wrath left for you. God has love instead. Yes, it may seem like He's not hearing, but He simply wants you to keep trusting Him. He wants you to turn away from everything else and turn to Him alone. He wants you to rest in His saving arms and wait for His help. For He will help, in His time, and according to His good pleasure. His way is the best way, for He is our Maker and our Savior. Trust in Him. He helps, for Jesus' sake.



Mark your Calendar

September

8. Concordia Homecoming and Brunch,
Concordia, Brentwood, Sunday School Kick-off
8. Rally Day, Christ Lutheran, Forest Hills, Time
TBA
8. Concert PENN-TRAFFORD Community
Band, Haven 2 Patio, Cabot, 6:00 p.m.
15. "Financial Benefits of Retirement Living",
Concordia Haven Apartments Cabot, 1:00p.m
to 3:00 p.m.
15. Rev. Richard Wokoma, theological educator,
Zion Bridgeville, 8:00 - 10:30 a.m.
15. Annual PALM Delegate Meeting, First Trinity,
Oakland, 3:00 p.m.
16. Open house, Concordia Haven Apartments,
Cabot, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
21. Servant Day, St. Luke Lutheran Church and
School, Cabot, 8:00 am to early afternoon
22. Open House, Highpointe at Rebecca Allison
Park, 1:00p.m. to 3 p.m.
22. Open House, Concordia of the South Hills, Mt.
Lebanon, 1:00 to 3 p.m.
23. Open House, Highpointe at Rebecca, Allison
Park, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
23. Open House, Concordia of the South Hills, Mt.
Lebanon, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
24. Young at Heart, Ascension, McCandless,
11:30 a.m.
28. P.A.L.g.S. Golf Outing, Victory Hills, Eliza-
beth, 9:00 a.m.
29. - Nov. 3 Film and Faith Class, First Trinity,
Oakland, 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

October

5. Annual Pumpkin Fest & Flea Market, Ascension
Lutheran Church, Pittsburgh, 8:00 a.m. to
1:00 p.m.



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<http://www.palmpa.org>

Mark your Calendar

October

- 5. Annual Pumpkin Fest & Flea Market, Ascension Lutheran Church, Pittsburgh, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- 5. Open House during Octoberfest, Concordia Haven, Cabot, 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- 13. "Smart Questions to Ask" Concordia Haven Apartments, Cabot, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- 14. Open House, Concordia Haven Apartments, Cabot, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- 20. Open House, Concordia of the South Hills, Mt. Lebanon, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- 20. Open House, Highpointe at Rebecca, Allison Park, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- 20. 170th Anniversary, Prince of Peace, Freedom, 10:15 a.m.
- 21. Open House, Concordia of the South Hills, Mt. Lebanon 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- 21. Open House, Highpointe at Rebecca, Allison Park, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- 28. Christian Art Show at Calvary, Murrysville. Pre-registration deadline.

November

- 3. "Lifestyle" Concordia Haven Apartments, Cabot, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- 4. Open House, Concordia Haven Apartments, Cabot, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- 10. CLM Annual Meeting, Haven Dining room, Cabot, 3:00 p.m. Dinner at 5:00 p.m.
- 11. Veteran's Day Service, Minersville Cemetery, time TBD
- 17. Open House, Concordia of the South Hills, Mt. Lebanon, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- 17. Open House, Highpointe at Rebecca, Allison Park, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- 18. Open House Highpointe at Rebecca, Allison Park, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- 18. Open House, Concordia of the South Hills, Mt. Lebanon, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

PALM NEWS

by Rev. Brian Westgate

The PALM Constitution stipulates the third Sunday in September as the date for the annual PALM delegate meeting at First Trinity Church in Pittsburgh, beginning at 3:00 p.m.

Every congregation is entitled to 1 pastoral vote and 2 lay votes. We hope you will be able to attend. This is a great opportunity to hear about the growing mission work we are doing throughout the region, and to meet the new vicar for Hazelwood, Timothy Kern.

CAMPUS MINISTRY

Is being "spiritual" sufficient?

by Augusta R. Mennell, Campus Ministry Director

This July a wonderful letter arrived at All Saints Lutheran Church and Student Center. It was from a recently graduated student, Steve. The letter is a blessing because it lets All Saints campus ministry know that our outreach helped him grow even stronger in his faith. Steve wrote:

Augusta, I sent some items that show a little about Grace Lutheran Church. I am now an official member there and one of the elders! Hope all is well and God bless. Love, Steve

Steve had mentioned during a recent phone call that being an active part of campus ministry at All Saints has helped him to be ready to work in his new church. He had learned to be comfortable communicating with college-age youth because that is what he saw All Saints doing. During our last Bible class in December 2017, we talked about our time together.

CAMPUS MINISTRY

Is being “spiritual” sufficient? (continued)

by Augusta R. Mennell, Campus Ministry Director

He said that the first time he had gone to the mall with international students he felt awkward and overwhelmed. That changed. He became much more comfortable.

Steve felt a desire to be part of his new church’s work because that is what he did here. While Steve was a student at All Saints, he installed a movie projector in the undercroft. He arranged for hot chocolate to be served on Slippery Rock University’s campus to promote a speaker we were bringing in. And he spent time sharing ideas with campus pastor, Rev. Larry K Loree, Jr. Without even realizing what was happening, campus ministry helped Steve to want to become an active member at his new church. He so impressed his new church that he was asked to be an elder.

Steve’s growth in faith is not to be taken for granted. A little over a year since graduation, this Lutheran graduate has become not only a full-time park ranger in Georgia, but also has joined a Lutheran church. Steve’s story does not always happen, but it is well worth all the work in the world for campus ministry to strive for. To give credit where it is due, Steve’s parents are wonderful models of Christian faith. They are loving and active members in their church.

The Steve story helps us answer the question that never leaves us. The biggest challenge for campus ministry is to convince students that “being spiritual” is not enough. Students do come to talk. They are from Iran, Sri Lanka, Kenya, and the USA. They believe in being kind, tolerant of all other beliefs, and they believe they can be good without God. They certainly cannot see why gathering together in worship is such a blessing. They, as one international student just did, hang large tapestries of Buddha and other gods in their rooms because they feel it is very comfortable to accept all religions, not just Christianity.

Steve, on the other hand, is also kind, inclusive, eager to help those in need, but he is religious. He did come to worship. He did receive the sacraments. He did study the Bible weekly, using [The People’s Bible Commentary](#) to help learn more.

Campus ministry will continue to share the Gospel with students like Steve who believe it is important to be religious. We will continue to talk to those who are “spiritual” and therefore “not needing” Christianity, they think. The Holy Spirit can change hearts. That’s His work to do. All we can or need to do is pray without giving up and show love to students no matter what their beliefs. God is the one who will grow the seed, as he did in Steve.



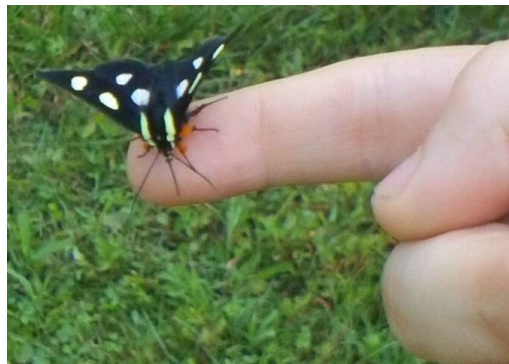
LOCAL MISSION

Mileposters News

Following an intensive series of trips, including 42 miles by the group leader on July 28, another 30 miles in 3 hours, all stops included (a 24-year record) on August 4, and 16 miles posted by the nineteenth new rider of the season on a ride between Dravo Landing and West Newton August 2, the Still Ravaged campaign to raise support for LCMS work in Puerto Rico stands at 811 miles. Although nearly two years have gone by since Hurricanes Irma and Maria devastated the already-poor island (nearly 45% of the population lives below the poverty level, compared to less than 15% on the mainland), the island still needs to have 75,000 houses constructed to replace those destroyed in 2017, and many of those still standing have the familiar blue emergency roofs.

The Mileposters got their name from the triangular concrete mileposts placed by the Pittsburgh & Lake Erie Railroad along the right-of-way between Pittsburgh and Connellsville. Milepost 29 (pictured) is near the popular Yough Twister ice cream stand at Douglas Run, across the Youghiogheny River from Sutersville. These markers, which indicate the distance to Station Square (the P&LE Station in Pittsburgh) are still around despite the installation of separate mileposts to show the distance to Cumberland, Maryland.

When riders go out on the trail, encounters with God's creatures are frequent. On one trip in July, a friendly butterfly (pictured) met a group at Dravo Landing, Milepost 25.



LOCAL MISSION

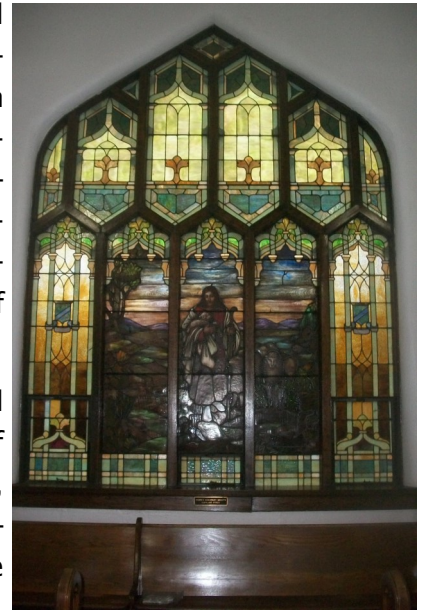
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN

Clarksburg

SERVICE OF RECOGNITION AT ST. JOHN'S CLARKSBURG

Sunday, October 6, at 4:00 p.m., is the day and time the service will be held at St. John's Clarksburg, WV to recognize it as a new congregation of the Missouri Synod and the English District. Pastor Ben Eder, English District Eastern Region Vice President, of Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Kenmore, NY (Buffalo), will preach. Pastor Westgate, Circuit Visitor, will lead the service. Pastor Oester will serve as the lector. Rev. Robert Zagore, executive director of the LCMS Office of National Mission, will also be present. The church is at the corner of Park & Meigs just east of downtown Clarksburg.

This is the first new LCMS church in the Pittsburgh area since All Saints Slippery Rock and Faith Butler opened about 40 years ago. If you would like to attend, please let Pastor Westgate know by Sunday, September 22. You can call him at 412-828-9323 or email at bwestgate@redeemer-oakmont.org. We hope to see pastors and people from all our Pittsburgh area congregations there.



In honor of this special occasion, we are asking congregations to take a special door offering after their services on Sunday, October 6 for the mission. This will support them as they work towards bringing a pastor to Clarksburg full-time next year. They may be brought to the church that afternoon or mailed to P.O. Box 709, Clarksburg, WV 26302.

Please do keep this little parish in your prayers, and consider adding them to the missions you support.

HOLY CROSS MISSION

Hazelwood

Holy Cross Mission of Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries held their third annual Community Day in the Hazelwood neighborhood of Pittsburgh on Saturday, August 10. In His great mercy, God saw fit to give us beautiful weather for the day. The day began and ended with prayer led by Vicar Timothy Kern. Various ministries of PALM, First Trinity Lutheran Church of Shadyside, and the Hazelwood Community were represented at the event.

Holy Cross Lutheran Mission handed out catechisms and portals of prayer. The members of Holy Cross Mission also gave away baked goods from La Gourmandine's bakery in Hazelwood. Lutherans for Life gave away information regarding pregnancy and pro-life organizations in the Pittsburgh area. First Trinity Homeless Ministry gave away tooth brushes, tooth paste, Bibles, and more. The Pittsburgh Lutheran Deaf Ministry made bead bracelets with the children and offered information regarding their ministry.

LOCAL MISSION

HOLY CROSS MISSION (continued)

Hazelwood

The Pittsburgh Lutheran Center for the Blind showed the children brail writing, and they were even able to write people's names in brail for them to take home. Jim and Pam Hawley also set up a tent and provided many fun games for the kids. The PALM tent served as the welcome table for the Community Day. They gave away small prizes, and collected names and contact information for various larger prizes which were given away through a drawing.



From the community, the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh (Hazelwood branch) was present giving away books and tote bags. Officer David Shifren of the Pittsburgh Police Department brought his police car and played chess with the children. He does this on a weekly basis at the Hazelwood library in order to teach children critical thinking skills and problem solving. Head Start also set up a table where they signed up children for preschool. They offer free preschool to under-privileged children.

Several local clergy of the Missouri Synod were present on site for the event including: Rev. Spittel (First Trinity Lutheran Shadyside), Rev. Hahn (St. John's Lutheran of Millvale), Rev. Greenway (Grace Lutheran of Penn Hills), Rev. Westgate (Redeemer Lutheran Oakmont), and Rev. Andrae (First Trinity Lutheran Shadyside).

Thank you to everyone who helped make this day possible!



INTERNATIONAL MISSION

LCMS LAUNCHES NEW MISSIONARY WEBSITE



The Rev. Steven Mahlburg (with hat), LCMS career missionary to Sri Lanka, and the Rev. P. Gnanakumar, walk to the Eila rubber plantation for worship in the Sabaragamuwa Province of Sri Lanka on Sunday, Jan. 21, 2018. (LCMS/Erik M. Lunsford)

A new website from the LCMS Office of International Mission (OIM) provides a reservoir of resources reflecting the work of the OIM. “This is where you go to find out what the LCMS is doing throughout the world,” said the Rev. Roy Askins, manager of Witness and Communications for the LCMS Asia Region.

The OIM divides its work into four regions: Africa, Asia, Eurasia and Latin America.

The new website, international.lcms.org, collects information in one place to highlight the latest from LCMS missionaries and those with whom they work.

Some examples of stories already available are:

- On Sunday, Dec. 16, 2018, four seminarians graduated from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ghana (**Africa**).
- The Rev. J.P. Cima and his wife, Aimee, are working in Cambodia (**Asia**) to provide theological education.
- A newly remodeled church building for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Augsburg Confession in Georgia was dedicated on Pentecost Sunday, May 20, 2018, in Kutaisi, Georgia (**Eurasia**).
- Obot Ite, a pastor of the Lutheran Church of Nigeria and funded by the LCMS, has a thriving ministry centered around Christ and His saving Word as Ite works to plant the island’s second Lutheran church in downtown Kingston (**Latin America**).

LCMS LAUNCHES NEW MISSIONARY WEBSITE (continued)

Written stories, pictures, podcasts and videos bring the international work of the Synod to people who cannot travel to see the work themselves. The generous members of LCMS congregations provide the majority of support for missionaries and projects overseas. This donor base is essential for the ongoing mission work of the Synod.

“As an international missionary who has visited LCMS congregations all over the USA, I marvel at how members of the LCMS delight to support the international witness of the Church,” said Askins. “The new website will provide us the opportunity to connect with these supporters through stories, photographs, videos and podcasts. We will share opportunities to support this work, and we will show how the Lord uses this support to sow the seed of His Word all over the world.”

Visit the new website at: <http://international.lcms.org/>

**Rev. Richard Wokoma, LCMS Missionary to Nigeria
Zion Lutheran Church, Bridgeville, Sunday, September 15th**

Rev. Richard Wokoma, who serves the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) as a theological educator in Africa, will be visiting Zion, Bridgeville Sunday, September 15. He will be the guest preacher at the 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Divine Services and will give a presentation with Q & A at 9:15 a.m. between both services. A light brunch will be served.

Rev. Richard Wokoma was born in Africa. He graduated from Schiller International University, London, in 1985 with a bachelor’s degree in international relations, and in 1986 with a master’s degree in international law. He then attended New York University and started on a doctoral degree. During this time, he decided to attend Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, where he received his Master of Divinity in 1997. During his seminary vicarage, he studied at Drew Theological School at Drew University, Madison, N.J., and received his Master of Sacred Theology degree focused on patristic and early Christian liturgies.

Once his seminary studies were completed, Rev. Wokoma returned to Africa to translate the Book of Concord into his native language, Kalabari. He also preached in local African congregations and conducted Bible studies and led devotions. In 2001, he received a call from the LCMS Texas District to serve in the Houston area. While in Texas, he served as director of the LINC Bible Institute and traveled to Africa several times to teach seminarians and pastors. In September 2013, he accepted a call to be a theological educator in Africa. Since this time, he has been teaching and preaching at different congregations each week.



UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Ascension Lutheran - *McCandless*

Ascension Lutheran Church's Annual Pumpkin Fest & Flea Market will be held on Saturday, October 5, 2019, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Ascension (8225 Peebles Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237). Come spend a crisp fall morning with us. For the sixth year, our "almost famous" HOMEMADE APPLE and PUMPKIN PIES will be on sale, as well as hot dogs, beverages, and various other goodies. Of course, there will be PUMPKINS for you to buy. The committee will also have some unique crafts for sale. Many other vendors with crafts or treasures participate in the FLEA MARKET both inside (even if it rains) and outside the church, weather permitting. To reserve a space for \$20, contact Vicki at vickig@zoominternet.net or 724-816-0413. For more information, please contact Trish at pyoung1234@comcast.net.

Calvary Lutheran - *Murrysville*

Christian artists of all ages and skills are invited to enter their original artwork in the 44th Annual Christian Art Show at Calvary, Murrysville. Pre-registration deadline is Monday, October 28. Entry forms will be available at the church office, Old Wm Penn Hwy & School Road or call (724) 327-2898, or on the web page: CalvaryLCMS.org. Forms will also be available as an email attachment at suznbobk@aol.com or call Sue at (724) 327-4230. We look forward to seeing your artwork.

Christ Lutheran - *Forest Hills*

The education committee at Christ Lutheran is gearing up for fall. Rally Day is planned for September 8. Bible classes are planned for the adults and Sunday school is planned for children to age 18.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 28, 2019, for the 74th P.A.L.g.S. golf outing held at Victory Hills Golf Course in Elizabeth, PA. The cost is \$80.00 per person. Please call to sign up 412-271-7173. See additional information in the article under Area Congregation.

First Trinity Lutheran - *Shadyside*

A class on the intersection of film and faith will be offered, free of charge, at First Trinity in Oakland on Sunday nights from September 29 through November 3, with each session running from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Popcorn and pizza to be provided, and childcare is available upon request.

Prince of Peace Lutheran - *Freedom*

On October 20, 2019, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Freedom, PA will celebrate the 170th anniversary of its founding. Our Eastern District President, Rev. Dr. Chris Wicher, will speak after dinner on the history of the LCMS in our region. A chicken dinner will be served immediately following the 10:15 a.m. Sunday service.

If you would like to celebrate this special event with us please contact the church office at 724-728-3881 or popluthsecy@comcast.net. RSVP by October 1, 2019. Space is limited.

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Service of Recognition at St. John's Clarksburg

Sunday, October 6, at 4:00 p.m., is the day and time the service will be held at St. John's Clarksburg, WV to recognize it as a new congregation of the Missouri Synod and the English District. The church is at the corner of Park & Meigs just east of downtown Clarksburg. See additional information in the article under Local Mission.

St. Luke - Cabot

On Saturday, September 21 from 8:00 a.m. to early afternoon, a community mission trip will take place at St. Luke Lutheran Church and School in Cabot. St. Luke will partner with Concordia Community Support Services, and Center for Community Resources in Butler to frame one house and two "tiny" houses in the school parking lot. Please see the St. Luke, Cabot article for further details.

Zion Lutheran - Bridgeville

Rev. Richard Wokoma, who serves the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) as a theological educator in Africa, will be visiting Zion, Bridgeville Sunday, September 15. He will be the guest preacher at the 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Divine Services and will give a presentation with Q & A at 9:15 a.m. between both services. A light brunch will be served.

Concordia Lutheran Ministries

The Concordia Lutheran Ministries Annual Meeting will be held on **Sunday, Nov. 10** at 3:00 p.m. in the Haven I Dining Room at the Cabot campus. Registration will begin at 2:30 p.m. and dinner will be served following the meeting at 5:00 p.m. For more information, please contact Director of Public Relations Shirley Freyer at 724.352.1571, ext. 8266.

There are several open houses, and special seminars scheduled for the next three months. These events are listed in the "Mark Your Calendar" section of this issue along with dates times and places. For more information or to register online, visit the Events & News pages at www.ConcordiaLM.org. Private tours are also available at your convenience.

On Sunday Sept. 8, 6:00 p.m., Haven 2 Patio, Concordia will present the Penn-Trafford Community Band in concert. The band has over 60 participants ranging in age from 13 to 83. One of the newest community bands in western PA, it plays a variety of music including stirring marches, patriotic songs, popular TV and movie themes, and inspirational tunes. The Music Director and Conductor is Doug Skoretz, a band director in the Allegheny Valley School District.

NEWS FROM AREA CONGREGATIONS

ASCENSION LUTHERAN

McCandless

From July 15 to 18, 2019 Ascension Lutheran Church raced around the world at The Incredible Race VBS! With the help of 30 volunteers, we were able to share the Word of God with 60 kids!!! We learned about the greatest race, the human race. We learned how the human race was created and divided up at the Tower of Babel. We also studied the beauty of diversity in our world, and how it was God-ordained. Finally, we learned the Gospel - how Jesus came to save the human race. We made and decorated cookies for a bake sale benefiting Water for Tanzania (Kids Empowering Kids). From the bake sale and plinko coin drop, we collected \$250. This money will help bring clean water to children in Tanzania by building wells. On the last night of VBS, the children, families, volunteers, and church members enjoyed an ice cream sundae bar. It was a beautiful evening of fellowship with our VBS families! The picture shows snack time at The Incredible Race VBS.



CHRIST LUTHERAN

Forest Hills

So, the **74th** P.A.L.g.S. (Pittsburgh Area Lutheran golf Scramble) golf outing is on. Many of you have participated in the past with proceeds going toward Tuition for students attending Redeemer Lutheran School who have a connection with Christ Lutheran. We have appreciated your support and look forward to seeing you again. We are also excited about seeing any new golfers that wish to join us.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 28, 2019. It will be held at Victory Hills Golf Course in Elizabeth, PA with a 9:00 a.m. SHOT GUN start, a hot dog at the turn, and a buffet dinner afterwards with prizes.

The cost is \$80.00 per person. Please call to sign up 412-271-7173. We would like to have as many golfers as possible and have fun and fellowship all at the same time. If you are not a golfer or cannot attend the outing but would like to show your support by sponsoring a hole you may send a donation in any amount to **Christ Lutheran Church, 400 Barclay Ave., Pittsburgh, PA. 15221 Memo: Golf Outing.**

Thank you! Hope to see you there.

Free Library Project

Tyler, a graduate of Christ Lutheran built a free library for his senior project at school and installed it in the side yard of Christ Lutheran. You can learn more about these libraries which are springing up all over the country at: Littlefreelibrary.org. You're most welcome to come and borrow a book or leave one!



CONCORDIA LUTHERAN

Brentwood

On Sunday, August 4, a great crowd of Concordia members and friends enjoyed the fellowship at our 2019 John Toperzer, Sr. Memorial Pirates game, in SPITE of the final outcome! We'll look forward to doing it again next year, and hopefully the Pirates will "get 'em then!"



Our Homecoming/Rally Sunday is set for Sunday, September 8, with a potluck brunch which will be served afterwards. We would love to see any Concordia members "of old" in the area, who haven't been back in a while, to come visit this 95th Anniversary year. The cooking has only gotten better over time and we look forward to sharing some anniversary remembrances with you that day.

FIRST TRINITY LUTHERAN

Shadyside

FILM AND FAITH CLASS TO BE OFFERED AT FIRST TRINITY

A class on the intersection of film and faith will be offered, free of charge, at First Trinity in Oakland on Sunday nights from September 29 through November 3, with each session running from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Popcorn and pizza to be provided, and childcare is available upon request.

FIRST TRINITY LUTHERAN (continued)

Shadyside

The class will be led by Russell Lucas, a member at Ascension-McCandless and a film enthusiast. The class will feature a mixture of English language and international films directed to the theme of understanding Jesus' words: "Who are my mother and brothers?" The film schedule is as follows:

Sept. 29 -- INSIDE OUT (Docter and Del Carmen, 2015)

October 6 -- LEAVE NO TRACE (Granik, 2018)

October 13 -- MAKE WAY FOR TOMORROW (McCarey, 1937)

October 20 -- THE KID WITH THE BIKE (Dardenne and Dardenne, 2011)

October 27 -- MUNYURANGABO (Chung, 2007)

November 3 -- SILENCE (Scorsese, 2016)

If interested, please register with Pastor Eric Andrae at ericandrae@gmail.com

MT. CALVARY LUTHERAN

West View

On one of the hottest days of the summer, nearly 20 members and friends of Mt. Calvary in West View got together on a Saturday in July for a Work Day. The main purpose was to install French drains, but the crew also renewed pointing in various areas, some cement work, and general clean-up of the outside landscaping. Those who weren't doing the outside chores served lunch - and lots of water - to the workers.

NEWS FROM AREA CONGREGATIONS

MT. CALVARY LUTHERAN (continued)

West View



On August 11, Mt. Calvary celebrated its annual summer picnic at Wall Park. Following a church service at the park, members and friends enjoyed a covered-dish luncheon, games, and fellowship, and a Chinese auction of donated items.

PEACE LUTHERAN

McMurray

On Saturday, August 3, Peace Lutheran Church in McMurray, PA sponsored a Church Yard and Bake Sale to raise money in support of the upcoming 2020 LWML English District convention. The convention will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn, Southpointe, on April 24 - 26, 2020.



A lot of hard work and fun went into the day and we were able to raise just over \$2,500 to contribute to the convention efforts. Many thanks to the entire Peace team who helped to make this day such a big success.



PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN

Freedom

On October 20, 2019, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Freedom, PA will celebrate the 170th anniversary of its founding. All this was begun in the second half of the nineteenth century at St. Peter Lutheran Church and Trinity Lutheran Church. The buildings are now gone. The congregational structures and organizations have been dissolved, and something new and alive has taken their place, **Prince of Peace Lutheran Church**.

Our Eastern District President, Rev. Dr. Chris Wicher, will speak after dinner on the history of the LCMS in our region. A chicken dinner will be served immediately following the 10:15 a.m. Sunday service.

If you would like to celebrate this special event with us please contact the church office at 724-728-3881 or popluthsecy@comcast.net. RSVP by October 1, 2019. Space is limited.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN

Oakmont

In September Redeemer Lutheran Church returns to its usual service times of 10:45 a.m. worship, with Sunday School and Bible Class at 9:30 a.m.

ST LUKE LUTHERAN

Cabot and Butler

National Youth Gathering

On July 11, a group 24 strong (comprised of 17 youth and 7 chaperones) traveled from St. Luke to Minneapolis, MN for the National Youth Gathering. Excitement and anticipation had been building over the past year as the group engaged in team building activities, Bible studies and servant events. Their enthusiasm was met and reciprocated by the congregation as encouragement and support were generously given. People recognized the incredible opportunity before us to invest in these young peoples' lives and eagerly gave of their resources to make it a priority. While participants personally contributed, the trip was entirely funded through sacrificial giving and not a single fundraiser was required. The trip started early Thursday morning in a rainy St. Luke parking lot, but nothing could dampen the Spirits as the moment had finally arrived. The day of travel often included a "hurry up and wait" reality, but all persevered and arrived in Minneapolis late that evening ready to immerse and engage.



Each evening, "Mass Events" (where all 21,000 participants gathered at once) were held at the U.S. Bank Stadium, for times of worship and praise. These would also include various speakers, skits, scripture readings, dramas, and musicians with popular Christian artists such as Toby Mac and I Am They. An evening focus was that God is truly present in our lives and what that means for

ST LUKE LUTHERAN (continued)

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us - that Christ conquered sin and death on the cross and what the everyday impact of that is. This was especially helpful as stated by many of the youth who attended.

Daytime events were held at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Morning Bible studies focused on Psalm 46 "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Sessions following were on various faith topics and speakers the kids could choose from. From the start, the chaperones challenged the youth to think of ways to share God's love in Minneapolis not merely in words, but also by their actions. People working security or concessions noted the exceptionally positive attitudes and often stated that they weren't dreading coming to work the rest of the week. There was a youth group handing out bottled water and snacks to city workers. Some were given to area police officers, one of whom commented that he had never been given anything but grief before by any previous groups or venues and was very thankful.

There were offsite and onsite servant events offered throughout the weekend. Our group teamed up with others to help clean a local public elementary school. Some participated in a 5K run which supported "Feed My Starving Children" ministry and others participated in in-house events held in the convention center each day. *(see graphic)*

The week culminated in worship with one giant divine service focusing on the gifts of Word and Sacrament. Everyone back home was able to participate by logging on to the gathering's live stream at <https://www.lcmsgathering.com/livestream/>. Our travelers arrived back at St. Luke exhausted yet exhilarated, the same people who left, but very changed by all that they had experienced together and individually at the National Youth Gathering. Following the congregation's example of generosity and stewardship, the youth donated their remaining food money towards a local mission in Butler which feeds the homeless as well as paying it forward by covering the cost of the registration fee for the first participant in the 2022 Youth Gathering. Glory be to God for this enriching opportunity.



SERVANT DAY / HOUSE BUILD 2019

On Saturday, September 21st from 8:00 am to early afternoon, a community mission trip will be taking place at St. Luke Lutheran Church and School in Cabot. St. Luke will partner with Concordia Community Support Services, and Center for Community Resources in Butler to frame one house and two "tiny" houses in the school parking lot.

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SERVANT DAY / HOUSE BUILD 2019



There will be many other activities taking place inside the building on that day also:

- Fleece stocking hats will be made and given to winter shelters in Allegheny and Butler counties for this coming winter.
- Newborn kits are being prepared and packed for mothers and newborns through area pregnancy centers.
- The St. Luke Dress-A-Girl Around the World mission outreach is creating colorful dresses for girls in impoverished areas.
- Christmas, birthday, anniversary cards and more will be put together with messages written in them for military personnel and their families.
- Fleece blanket volunteers are tying blankets to be given to families and children during their stay at Ronald McDonald House.
- Bible verses that point to the message of salvation are highlighted and distributed.
- Dry ingredients will be prepared and packed into bags to be give to St. Luke Food Pantry, Katie's Kitchen, and other local food distribution centers.
- Infant blankets are being knitted or crocheted for newborns to be given to area hospitals.

- Kid's Depot participants are making gifts for children in area shelters and issued to food pantries.

This is a massive event with many spinning concentric events taking place at once. Servant Day / House Build becomes a huge blessing to all of those who volunteer their time and talents as well as the recipients.



ST LUKE LUTHERAN (continued)

Cabot and Butler

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

St. Luke was bursting with 134 children from 4 years old to grade 6 for our weeklong *Miraculous Mission* VBS in July. We had a staff of approximately 65 people who volunteered their time to help make it a success.



Starry Night Storyteller leaders led the Daily Bible Challenge and guided children from station to station; Helpers assisted the teachers throughout the morning; Crafters prepared, set up and helped the students with crafts during the week; Registration Volunteers got all the children registered and directed to their groups; Child Care Volunteers tended the small children of the VBS staff; Observation Station Bible Challengers put their acting skills to use and helped the students learn more of the lesson through dramatic reenactments; Kitchen and Snack Helpers prepared fun treats for everyone to enjoy; and Music Volunteers helped teach the children praise and worship songs which could be heard in every corner of the church throughout the week.

We focused on two mission projects: St. Luke Food Pantry; and a Sock collection for the Center for Community Resources and the Lighthouse Foundation. 753 pairs of socks and 652 food items were collected.

VBS was an opportunity to reach out to the local community. St. Luke sponsors this event as a mission outreach.

All parents and children were invited to come to worship the next Sunday when the children sang songs they had learned during their *Miraculous Mission*.



Vacation Bible School requires a tremendous amount of thought and planning, but the music, crafts, storytelling and more will impact the lives of the children for decades. You can see a brief compilation of the week's events by clicking on the link below:

<http://filebox.stlukecabot.org/Vacation%20Bible%20School%202019/Vacation%20Bible%20School%202019.mp4>

REDEEMER LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Oakmont / Penn Hills

Redeemer Lutheran School spent August busily preparing for the first day of classes that started on Wednesday, August 21st. Please continue to uphold all faculty, staff, and school families in prayer. We look forward to sharing our news and updates with you in the next edition!

Impactful Charitable Giving at Concordia

As Concordia Lutheran Ministries continues to grow, we are continually reminded of the importance of philanthropy. Philanthropy is the process for making a difference - and charitable giving is the action that enables philanthropy to occur. Philanthropy and charitable giving can come in all shapes and sizes - there really is no "one size fits all" type of solution. Concordia's very existence is the result of a charitable gift of land made more than 138 years ago.

Concordia is both honored and humbled by the continued generosity and faith of its many supporters through their gifts of time, treasure or talent. It is in partnership with its supporters that we will continue to be able to provide unmatched, quality Christian care.

There are many funds and specific ways gifts can be directed to further our important mission. Here are a few within the Concordia system that we would like to share with you:

Annual Fund

Although often overlooked, our Annual Fund is one of our most important funds. If someone does not designate a gift to a specific need, it goes into our annual, or unrestricted, fund. These gifts are important as they are the foundation of our entire organization. This fund includes items that keep Concordia's inner cogs working like maintaining a safe, attractive facility, purchasing additional medical equipment, supplies and more.

Staff Appreciation Fund

This fund is a way for residents and families to show their gratitude for the staff who work diligently to make life at Concordia a caring and loving place. Concordia has a staff appreciation fund in place for each of its facilities and it is used to supplement the variety of ways we thank our employees for a continuous job well done.

Charitable Care Fund

Gifts donated to this fund are exclusively used to help offset the financial shortfalls between residents' resources and the cost of care. The Good Samaritan Endowment Fund is one of our charitable care programs. Over the next year, Concordia is expected to support benevolent care to the tune of \$12 million across all of our facilities. This number continues to grow as life expectancies increase and quality of care continues to help people live stronger, healthier lives.

Angel Tear Ministries

Established in 2007, Angel Tear Ministries is a fund dedicated to supporting the underprivileged around the globe. Donations to this fund ultimately help spread the love of God through humanitarian efforts around the world and in communities near Concordia facilities.

If you are interested in talking more about the different funds at Concordia Lutheran Ministries and how you can help, please call the CLM Foundation office at (724) 352-1571 ext. 8363.

Oktoberfest 2019

Saturday, October 5, 4 - 8 p.m.

Haven I



For your Enjoyment: German Band, Hayrides

For your Appetite: German-Themed Menu

For your Kids: Face Painting, Bouncy Castle, Balloon Artist, Games, Pumpkin Painting, Free Food and much more

For your Curiosity: Haven I Open House

Fireworks at 7:45 p.m.

Rummage & Baked Goods Sales (4-7 p.m.), Flu Shots and more.

For more information call 724-352-1571, ext. 8266

www.ConcordiaLM.org • Haven I - 112 Marwood Rd., Cabot, PA 16023

FILM & FAITH

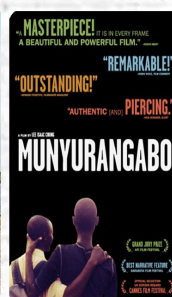
Just who are my mothers and brothers, anyway?

Sunday nights from September 29-November 3

5:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Popcorn and pizza to be provided

Free childcare



Sept. 29 - **INSIDE OUT** (Docter and Del Carmen, 2015)

October 6 - **LEAVE NO TRACE** (Granik, 2018)

October 13 - **MAKE WAY FOR TOMORROW** (McCarey, 1937)

October 20 - **THE KID WITH THE BIKE** (Dardenne and Dardenne, 2011)

October 27 - **MUNYURANGABO** (Chung, 2007)

November 3 - **SILENCE** (Scorsese, 2016)

Free! All Welcome!



THE AUGSBURG
ACADEMY OF
PITTSBURGH

First Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

531 N. Neville St. in Oakland

Register by Sept. 22 by emailing

EricAndrae@gmail.com