



THE PITTSBURGH LUTHERAN

VOL 89, NO 1 | February 2019

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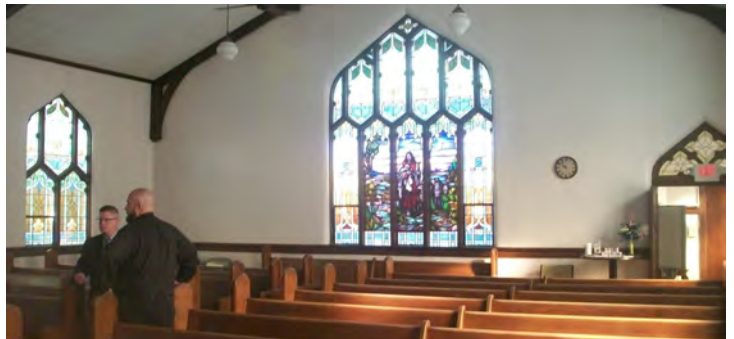
PALM NEWS – GROWING INTO WEST VIRGINIA

The Pittsburgh region is officially growing into West Virginia. On Sunday, November 18, the saints at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Clarksburg, WV, (2 hours south of Pittsburgh on I-79 and the Monongahela) voted to approve a constitution and become a congregation of the English District of the LCMS. They have been served for about a decade by the pastors of St. John's (Cove) Accident, MD.

We look forward to coming alongside them to spread God's Word and Luther's doctrine pure in a vast swath of West Virginia, where our church hasn't had a foothold before. They currently worship at 6:00 p.m. on Sundays (Bible Class at 5:00 p.m.), at 123 Meigs Avenue, in the old Lutheran church building in the Quality Hill Historic District of Clarksburg, just east of downtown and just south of US 50. Pay them a visit, and let people know that they are there.

Pictured are the church building on the outside, the chancel, the beautiful Good Shepherd window at the back of the church, and those in attendance at the chartering service. We hope to have a church worker there this year to allow services to be held on Sunday mornings and to get out the word throughout the community and region about this congregation. You may donate through PALM to support this very important mission work. Many thanks to "The Cove Church" for their work over this past decade, and continuing, to spread "God's Word and Luther's doctrine pure" in West Virginia.

St. John's Clarksburg is faithfully served every Sunday by Pastor Jim Oester from St. John's Cove and Zion Accident, MD.



DEVOTIONS

by Rev. Brian Westgate

“O LORD our Lord, how excellent is Thy Name in all the earth” – Psalm 8:1

Happy New Year! 2018 flew by. Lots happened last year. I bought a house and had a new baby in about the space of a month, and then found myself buying a second vehicle at Thanksgiving. Psalm 8 reminds us this new year, and every year, that the most important thing is our Lord God. He’s our Creator. Without Him time would dissolve into eternal chaos. With Him we are truly blessed. Everything we receive this year, everything we already have, is from Him. Whatever bad may come our way, we can be sure God can use it for our good, to lead us to trust in Him ever more.

What’s the most important thing you can do this year? It’s being with Jesus, our Immanuel (God with us). Spend time in His Word every day. Be in church to hear His Law and Gospel preached and to receive the Sacrament. Learn from Him. After all, Christmas is just the first act in the story of our Lord’s life. Let’s spend time to make sure we learn more about Him this year. Dr. Luther says in His Large Catechism that we as Christians should always desire to learn from God about our salvation, about His love for us, about what He teaches in His Word. God grant it.

“How amiable are Thy tabernacles, O LORD of hosts: my soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD!” – Psalm 84:1-2

We are now in the dead of winter. Cold and snow and wind is probably in today’s weather forecast. The only way you can escape it is a trip to somewhere like Florida or Arizona. The world seems cold and dead, but there is a place full of warmth and life: the courts of the LORD. Here, “All the winter of our sins, long and dark, is flying.” (TLH 204:2). Our sins fly off our backs to Christ. He proclaims to us that our sins are forgiven because He died for us.

That forgiveness brings eternal warmth, not the heat of hellfire, but the loving warmth of the Son of God. Perhaps we can compare it to the fire you love so much in your fireplace, a fire and warmth you want to be near, that you don’t want to go out.

So how do you stay close to it? Hear and read His Word. Receive His Sacrament. Hear and believe His Absolution. That’s how He forgives you. That’s how He gives you eternal life. That’s how He embraces you with His warm, inviting love, that rescues you from the eternal winter of hell, sin, and death. That’s how He delivers you from evil, and from the devil’s chains. Summer and winter, spring and fall, there’s no better place to be than in “the courts of the LORD!”

Mark your Calendar

February

2. First & third Saturday Men’s Bible Study, Calvary, Murrysville, 8:00 a.m.
3. Sunday Bible Study, Calvary, Murrysville, 9:45 a.m.
4. Tuesday Women Bible Study, Calvary, Murrysville, 10:00 a.m.
6. Wednesday Bible Study, Lutheranism 101, Bethel, Glenshaw, 10:00 a.m.
7. Thursday Bible Study, Calvary, Murrysville, 6:30 p.m.
10. Community Spaghetti Dinner, Ascension Lutheran, McCandless, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
16. First & third Saturday Men’s Bible Study, Calvary, Murrysville, 8:00 a.m.
17. Concordia Open House, Mt. Lebanon, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
17. Concordia education session followed by tours of the Haven I, Cabot until 3:00 p.m.
18. Concordia Open House, Mt Lebanon 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
18. Open House, Haven I, Cabot, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
22. Movie Nite, Concordia, Brentwood
24. Open House, Highpointe at Rebecca, Allison Park, and educational session followed by tours until 3:00 .
25. Open House Highpointe at Rebecca, Allison Park, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

March

2. Memorial Service for Chaplain Eugene Reddel, St Luke, Cabot 11:00 a.m.
13. Lenten Service, Singing Saints Performance, Redeemer, Oakmont

Mileposters News

The Mileposters end-of-season celebration (pictured) was held in November; participants enjoyed a rare Southern soft drink and blue moon ice cream. Each rider received a Gatorade pen, and the lead trail mom got a Gatorade desk organizer. The game for the event was Apples to Apples. Total mileage for fundraising campaigns in 2018 was 1,014, including 409 for Campus Ministry at First Trinity Lutheran. 169 appeal letters were mailed out.

Later in November, the traditional early community Thanksgiving dinner was held on Troy Hill. Kids enjoyed creative adaptations of Jenga this time around, including a string of falling "dominoes" (pictured), as well as regular chess and checkers.

Mexican chess games go very fast since there are only nine squares on the board, and only three pieces on each side: the king, one pawn, and one other piece as determined by mutual agreement of participants. The fastest version is when the third piece on each side is a queen. If the starting player makes the right move, the result is immediate checkmate for the opponent--done in five seconds! Dozens of matches have been played in vest-pocket games events. Mexican checkers is similar, although the board is a bit larger at sixteen squares. Each side starts out with only two checkers; despite that, the game lasts considerably longer than Mexican chess.

Roller skating practice sessions continued. An interesting development that has come along in the last few years is the skate mate, which consists of open-frame panels at right angles to each other, with three wheels beneath for support; it enables beginning skaters to learn much faster, as well as speeding up retraining.



Volume 89, No. 1
The Pittsburgh Lutheran

Published by
Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries
(PALM)

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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.

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Siberian Lutheran Mission Society

Zion Lutheran Church, Bridgeville, and Bethel, Glenshaw, hosted Pastor Aleksey Streltsov on Saturday, January 5, for a presentation, and Epiphany worship service. Approximately 70 Lutherans from local congregations came out to meet Pastor Streltsov and hear his inspirational story of how God is working in Siberia.



In the 1930's Josef Stalin exiled, sent to labor camps, or killed ALL the Lutheran pastors in Russia. There was no Lutheran Church in Russia for over 50 years. In 1996 God worked through the LCMS, Concordia Theological Seminary-Fort Wayne (CTSFW), and the Schwan Foundation to establish a mission known as the Russian Project. It started with Russian students traveling to CTSFW for theological training. Since then, almost 40 people have studied in Fort Wayne.

One such Pastor was Streltsov, who went on to assist in the founding of the Novosibirsk Seminary in Siberia and eventually become its president. Today the Novosibirsk Seminary is managed and run entirely by indigenous Russian Lutheran professors without the need for visiting professors from the US. By God's grace, today the seminary is graduating well-trained confessional men into the Siberian Lutheran Church, which is in full altar and pulpit fellowship with the LCMS.



While at Zion, Pastor Streltsov told of his childhood being raised by atheist parents during the final years of the Soviet Union. He was preparing for a career in geology to follow in the footsteps of his father, when he encountered Christ through the witness of Christian students at the University of Novosibirsk in central Siberia. The Lord continued to pursue Streltsov and he would go on to earn two Master of Theology degrees from CTSFW. While engaged in his studies he also worked with the Russian Project to establish the new Lutheran Seminary in Novosibirsk!

The Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church (SELC) covers the world's largest territory of any Lutheran Church in the world. Most of its 25 congregations are mission congregations which meet in rented apartments. Many of the parishioners eke out an existence and are unable to give much financial support to the Church. The handful of pastors who have thus far been trained must travel around, serving about 3000 baptized members, preaching to the congregations scattered over thousands of miles. Some of these pastors also hold down other jobs to support themselves.

As Pastor Streltsov explained, the need is great in Russia for real theology and faith. After 70 years of devastating atheism followed by the infiltration of many sects and cults into the country, people long for the truth that is found in scripture and conveyed through the sacraments, which alone can offer lasting hope in a world of despair and death. This requires well trained, faithful pastors; thus, it is imperative that the Siberian Seminary continue to operate on a path of sustainability and growth.

The LCMS has asked the Siberian Lutheran Mission Society to support the seminary by building an endowment to ensure its financial sustainability. The goal is to raise \$7 million between 2019-2023. Attendees of Zion's fellowship event donated a total of \$2800 to this worthy cause. Be assured, every gift is valuable, no matter how great or small!

You may donate online at www.siberianlutheranmissions.org or by mail to The Siberian Lutheran Mission Society, Ascension Lutheran Church (Attn. Bob Kiefer), 8811 St. Joe Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46835 (include "Save a Seminary" in the memo line of your check).

For more information, contact Dr. Timothy Quill (Endowment Committee Chairman), 260-580-0812, timo-thycjquill@gmail.com.



A Pilgrim's Progress

This morning a phone call came from Mala, a Christian friend of ours living in India. I was stunned to learn what God is doing there. She told me that on Christmas morning a Christian pastor preached to a large gathering in her small town. He explained the Gospel and the people listened with interest. This is what campus ministry at All Saints Lutheran Church and Student Center had prayed for Mala for a long time.

Mala and her husband sent their three children to Slippery Rock University. Mala stayed in Slippery Rock for several weeks to help her daughter adjust to America. I don't remember how it started, but she began to come to All Saints to talk. That led to our studying the Bible together, and that progressed into a regular Bible study. A lasting friendship formed. Mala loved Bible study. She was born into a devout Christian family, but had married a Hindu. She thought he would soon convert to Christianity, but he and their children did not.

Through the years Mala and her husband came to Slippery Rock to visit their children at SRU and to renew our friendship. Her children came to All Saints for friendship, student meals, and for time to talk about their struggles and successes. They felt comfortable here, but did not desire to come to worship or Bible class. In spite of this, friendship grew and continues to be strong to this day.

In fact, after the children graduated and married, they continue to include us in their lives. They invited us to their weddings and made long drives to see us here at All Saints and at our home. Recently, something important happened. Mala's son came to say goodbye because he was moving from Pittsburgh to find another job in the East. While here he asked how to believe in Jesus. He happily accepted a copy of the Gospel of John. His father, Joy, was with him and listened intently to what we told his son. He knew we would not hurt his son and was interested in what we had to say.

Life has changed for Mala and her husband. He retired as manager of a huge farm in Africa that grew flowers for the European market. After thirty years Africa had become home, but they were not allowed to stay and had to return to India. Life changed dramatically for Mala, too. She had founded a Christian school for African children whose fathers worked at the flower farm. She taught the children for many years. She provided books and clothing for the children. Now she was back in a small town in India, where there is no Christian church or Christian school. What would she do now?

Mala and Joy were devastated at first. It was hard to adjust to small town life in India. They felt like strangers in their own country.

Did the prayers offered for them by campus ministry matter? Yes, they did! Mala and Joy's families made them feel welcome. Purpose came back into their lives as they decided to befriend an orphanage in their town. Mala will look after children again. She will teach them to read and tell them about Jesus. She is using three little children's Bibles that All Saints gave her. She and her husband will do this together.

Not only did a Christian pastor preach in Mala's town, but things are changing for her children in America. Mala's older daughter found a Christian church and school around the corner from her home in Boston. That daughter called us recently and told us that she and her husband are considering sending their two children to this Christian school. Thank God that He does hear the prayers campus ministry offers in Jesus' name. Please join us in praying for Mala's family. Your prayers do matter.

Augusta R. Mennell

Campus Ministry Director

All Saints Lutheran Church and Student Center

Slippery Rock PA 16057



NEWS FROM AREA CONGREGATIONS

ASCENSION LUTHERAN

McCandless

Pastor Martin Lee was called to Ascension Lutheran Church in Pittsburgh's North Hills area to serve as the Intentional Interim Pastor for the next 12 months. Pastor Lee comes to our circuit from Lansing, Michigan. He attained his Master of Divinity from Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, and is currently a doctoral student at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

While a student at Concordia Theological Seminary, he studied at the US Navy Chaplain's Candidate School and graduated from the officer's school in Newport, RI. Over his 26-year career, Pastor Lee has served in ten different churches as a settled or intentional interim pastor. The Reverend Eric Ash officiated the installation service at Ascension on the afternoon of December 9 followed by a dinner. Numerous area pastors and congregation members were in attendance. Welcome, Pastor Lee.



Community Spaghetti Dinner

Ascension Lutheran Church is having a community spaghetti dinner on Sunday, February 10, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Tickets are \$6.00 dollars in advance for adults, (\$7.00 at the door), and \$3.00 for children under five. Homemade cherry pies will also be sold by pre-order only for \$10.00 each.

Please contact Trish via email pyoung1234@comcast.net.

Our Address is:

8225 Peebles Rd.,

Pittsburgh PA 15237

412-364-4463

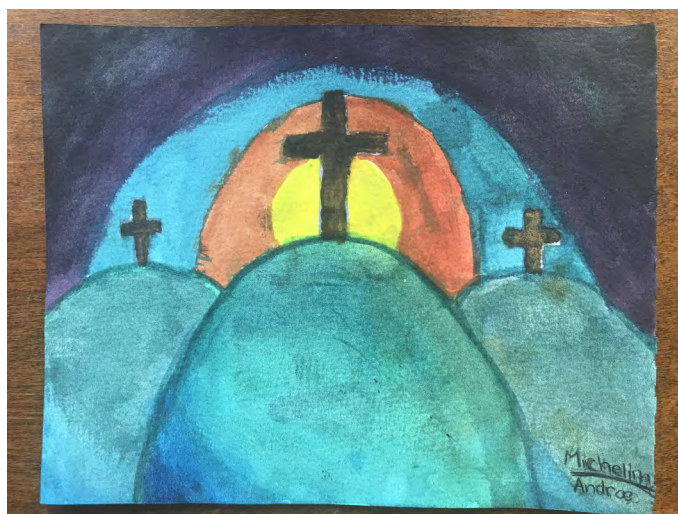
BETHEL LUTHERAN

Glenshaw

Bethel had a very busy Epiphany day celebration this year. It began with a light breakfast then a presentation from a "wise man from the east". Rev. Alexey Streltsov, a Lutheran pastor and seminary president from Siberia, held everyone's attention. He started off by showing a compelling 21-minute video, professionally produced by a friend of the Siberian Lutheran Mission Society.

Following this presentation by Rev. Streltsov, there was a luncheon to get refreshed and ready for two "Festival of Carols and Lessons" to be given at Rebecca Residents then to Highpointe at Concordia. There were about 15 participants from Bethel, Zion, Lawrenceville, and St. Luke's church. The program was directed by Ruth Miller. We look forward to bringing a program of "The Stations of the Resurrection" this Spring to the residents.

Bethel will be starting a new Bible Study on "Lutheranism 101" on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. This is a great opportunity to refresh and remember why we call ourselves Lutheran.



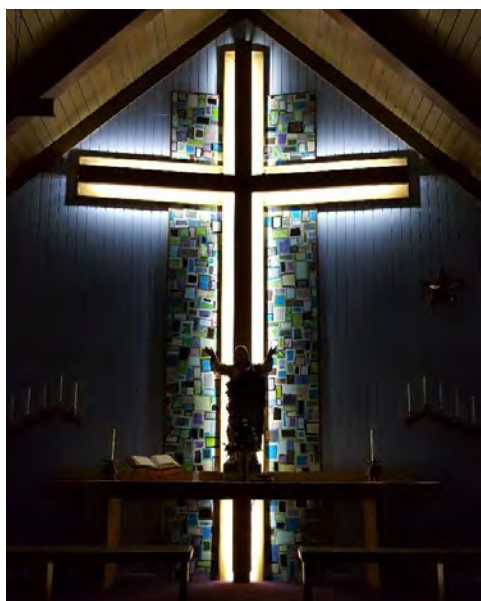
CALVARY LUTHERAN

Murrysville

Calvary 2019 will have a "new face" hopefully as you are reading this. An updated outside building cross with new siding will give us an entirely new look.

We closed on the old PNC property across the street that will give us additional parking and a building possibly for Youth Ministry work. We are excited and blessed to continue our work in our community and beyond to connect people to the love of Jesus.

Epiphany for Calvary has taken on new meaning. We continue to follow our Lord to the cross of Calvary, the empty, tomb, and beyond. We worship at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, and 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Sunday. We study our Bibles on Tuesday 10:00 a.m. (Women); Saturday first and third 8:00 a.m. (Men); Thursday 6:30 p.m.; and Sunday 9:45 a.m.



Inside the remodeled Calvary church.

CHRIST LUTHERAN

Forest Hills

It's so good to see young people giving of their time and talents. Western PA School for the Deaf students met and were taught by a Corps de Ballet dancer of the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre. He is one of our members at Christ Lutheran in Forest Hills, Jonathan Breight. He taught the students various ballet positions, movements and the appropriate ways in which to bow and curtsy. Jonathan joined the Pittsburgh Ballet Theater this year from the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School Graduate Program. He has performed in 'Swan Lake', 'The Nutcracker', 'Alice in Wonderland', 'Beauty and the Beast' and many more.

We also had a return engagement from our Russian cellist player, Michael Yakoblev, formerly of the Moscow Symphony, who played during our Wednesday Advent dinners. He and our organist, Doug Skalka, played duets before both Christmas Eve services and during recent church services.



CONCORDIA LUTHERAN

Brentwood

Concordia, Brentwood, stayed busy during the Christmas season. In addition to the Advent and Christmas services, members went Christmas Caroling to shut-ins on December 8 concluding with a stop at Concordia of the South Hills to carol to residents, including one of our own members, in the Assisted Living wing.



On Friday, December 14, we renewed our portrayal of the Live Nativity. Concordia was one of the first churches in the area to do a Live Nativity, and many neighbors commented on how much they'd missed it since we hadn't done it the past few years. Hot coca and cookies were served in the Narthex, and the church was decorated for Christmas, with tours given to visitors. Many thanks to John Toperzer, Jr., who organized this year's event.

Our first ever "Usher Training Class" for new, prospective, and returning ushers, was held Saturday January 12 at Concordia. Congregation President George Schuster wrote a training manual for the occasion. We have many new ushers in our ranks and the training will insure that all proceed in good order during the Divine Service.

Movie Nite returns during Epiphany. Members watched "Rudy" on January 25. Our February Movie Nite will be Friday, February 22. Call the church for more details if you'd like to come.

CONCORDIA LUTHERAN (continued)

Brentwood



MT. CALVARY LUTHERAN

West View

Mt. Calvary in West View participated in the usual Christmas and holiday events, but one blessing stood out above all others: the birth of Oscar Albert to Pastor Scott Kuntz and his wife, Nikkie. Born October 31, at 8 lbs., 21 inches, Oscar joined older siblings Liam and Julia in the family.

The church Christmas party was held Sunday, December 2, in the church hall, following the service. The afternoon included a catered luncheon for more than 50 people, and a grab-bag gift exchange among the participants.

Additionally, in December, Mt. Calvary continued its annual Christmas Blessings program, this time to Genesis, a local nonprofit organization. Genesis assists unwed mothers by providing items to help them with their babies, and particularly focuses on grandparents who are raising their grandchildren, often because of opioid addiction by the parents. The church packed up six large boxes of items donated by members and friends of the congregation, along with 60 New Testaments, and delivered them to Genesis. Mt. Calvary's Outreach Group made bookmarks printed with John 3:16 to go with the Testaments.

MT. CALVARY LUTHERAN (continued)

West View

The Kuntz family at the baptism of Oscar Albert.



Pastor Scott Kuntz and family all decked out for Mt. Calvary's Christmas party.

PEACE LUTHERAN

McMurray

December was a very busy month here at Peace Lutheran Church. We got the month started by coming together for our annual "Birthday Party for Jesus" on Saturday, December 1. Fun was had by those of all ages as we helped decorate the church for the upcoming Christmas season, and then made 60 tied lap robes and Christmas cards for the residents at Concordia, South Hills. We enjoyed a delicious lunch prepared by the Fellowship Committee and ended the celebration with a "Happy birthday, Jesus" birthday cake.



Our annual Advent Event celebration took place on Sunday, December 9, in the church fellowship hall. A delicious catered meal was enjoyed by all, followed by fun and fellowship.

PEACE LUTHERAN (continued)

McMurray

Our Sunday School children did a wonderful job of sharing the good news of our Savior's birth during the Sunday School Christmas program on Sunday, December 16. "Unto Us A Child is Born" was directed by Marion Schmidt and included not only the account of Jesus' birth from the book of Luke, but also many beautiful songs and hymns.



The program also featured the debut of our new youth and adult handbell and hand chime choirs. Their music was beautiful, and we can't wait to have them perform again.



REDEEMER LUTHERAN

Oakmont

Redeemer Lutheran Church's Lenten services on Wednesday, March 13, will feature the "Singing Saints." The SINGING SAINTS is a 60-voice concert choir of Saint Paul Lutheran High School, Concordia, Missouri, under the direction of Dr. Jerrode Baker Marsh. The choir is comprised of students in grades 9-12, and includes members from South Africa, Ghana, Mexico, Botswana, Taiwan, China, Germany, and Slovakia. The award-winning choir has toured annually since 1973 with over 1000 appearances in 29 states and Canada.

The choir has performed in the Kauffmann Center for the Performing Arts in Kansas City, and in Carnegie

REDEEMER LUTHERAN (continued)

Oakmont

Hall, NYC. The choir recently made its first international concert tour in the summer of 2018, where it performed a 19-day tour, singing in Germany, Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia and Hungary. The choir has members who consistently receive top ratings in the state of Missouri in both vocal and instrumental solo entries, as well as in small ensembles.

The choir has a singular focus--that of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ through music. It does this by singing a vast range of musical styles, including sacred Renaissance, German Chorales, American Spirituals, 19th-century motets, and popular world music favorites. While the choir primarily focuses on a cappella repertoire, they are incorporating the growing orchestra program into their programs as well. They sing an average of 30+ performances a season, including performances on their annual domestic tour, in nursing homes, in worship services and for numerous community events. Students who graduate from the choir are selected regularly for top choirs in universities around the United States.

Dr. Jerrode Baker Marsh came to Saint Paul Lutheran High School in the fall of 2015 from Frankfurt, Germany, where she worked for 17 years as a professional musician, performing as a pianist, conductor and collaborative artist throughout Europe. Since coming to the school, she has developed an orchestra program and instigated the elite award-winning 16-voiced Saint Paul Chamber Choir. She also teaches upper-level Conversational German and College-level Music Appreciation. Saint Paul Lutheran High School is an international four-year residential preparatory high school, located in Concordia, Missouri, in the heart of the Midwest of the United States.

ST LUKE LUTHERAN

Cabot

In Memoriam

Chaplain Eugene L. Reddel, age 79, of Hampton Township, PA passed from this life on November 15, 2018 and was welcomed into heaven by our Lord Jesus Christ. Eugene was born in Gurley, NE on November 22, 1938. Since his early childhood, Eugene wanted to become a Pastor. He left home at the age of 16 to attend St. Paul's Academy to start preparations. When he finished attending Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO, his first call was to start a church in North Chicago, IL.



ST LUKE LUTHERAN (continued)

Cabot

Before leaving to take his first call, he married Miriam R. Dorn. While living in Chicago, Miriam and Eugene had two sons, John and Paul, who brought them great joy. Eugene's next step in Ministry was CPE training at Lutheran Hospital in Park Ridge, IL. Once the training ended, Eugene accepted a call to St. Jacobus Parish in Queens, NY. Three years later, he became a chaplain for the Veteran's Hospital in St. Louis, MO. He continued his CPE training and became a Supervisor. Eugene then accepted the position of Chief of Chaplains for the Veterans Administration in Pittsburgh, PA. He retired in 2008 but continued to work three days a week at the Veterans Hospital until 2016. Since then he did some vacancy preaching at Faith Butler, Zion Lawrenceville and St. Luke Cabot where he was a member.

A Memorial Service will be held on March 2 at 11 a.m. at St. Luke Lutheran Church, 330 Hannahstown Road, Cabot, PA 16023. The family suggests Memorial donations may be sent to St. Luke Lutheran Church and School.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Oakmont/Penn Hills

Happy 2019! Redeemer Lutheran School returned for the New Year on January 3rd. As of this writing, we have just gotten the first week of school under our belts for this calendar year, but there are many items to share with you from the end of 2018.

Several RLHS students attended the 10th annual WPI-AL Sportsmanship Summit at the John Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh on November 15th. Athletic director Nathan Loewe along with 6 of our high school athletes attended seminars regarding the importance of player leadership and character.

That same evening, Redeemer hosted its 1st annual College Fair along with the fall high school preview night. Middle and high school families braved the snow to listen to high school faculty and meet with area Christian college representatives to discover more about their educational options. We appreciate all of the faculty, representatives, and school families that attended the evening's events!

REDEEMER LUTHERAN SCHOOL (continued)

Oakmont/Penn Hills

Redeemer's middle school boys' basketball team participated in the tip-off tournament at Thomas Aquinas Academy on November 16th & 17th to start the season. They played very well and placed 2th in the tournament, with 8th grader George Tamo Noche being selected to the all-tournament team. Congratulations to our boys and to Coach Loewe! The weekend's events didn't end with the tournament! Redeemer once again participated in the festivities of Oakmont's Hometown Christmas on November 17th. Students and families walked with the Nativity float in the parade, and pre-school-6th grade students shared songs of the season with the crowd after the conclusion of the parade. We are honored to have the opportunity to share the joy of Christ's birth with the community at this event each year. RLHS hosted the 1st annual Alumni Breakfast on November 21st. All Redeemer high school graduates were invited to visit with high school students & faculty for the morning. Redeemer first grade students assembled "goody bags" for the graduates, with lots of fun items to take back to their dorm rooms & apartments! Thank you to Dean of Students Mr. Driscoll and the rest of the high school faculty for beginning this tradition with our grads.

Redeemer's middle school robotics team competed in the local VEX competition on December 7th. They progressed to the final round and won Top Design award for best engineering notebook! Way to go Robotic Rams, and congratulations and thanks to robotics coach Mrs. Schumacher!

Redeemer students once again had the opportunity to visit the PPG Wintergarden on Tuesday, December 11th during the lunch hour. Elementary students shared the spirit of Christmas through song and enjoyed the beautiful displays. The celebration of the season continued with our annual Christmas program! Pre-school through 8th grade students performed for family and friends at the Penn Hills Senior High School Auditorium on Friday, December 14th.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN SCHOOL (continued)
Oakmont/Penn Hills

Looking ahead:

February: Open House sessions will be held every Thursday in February for interested families! Morning and evening sessions available. Contact Alison Jackson at 412-793-5884 for more information.



8 th grader George Tamo Noche selected to All-Conference



Redeemer Robotic Rams middle school team earns VEX IQ Challenge Design



RLHS students attend the 2018 WPIAL Sportmanship Summit

Preschool- 5th grade students perform for Christmas program at PHHS Auditorium



ZION LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL
Bridgeville

Happy New Year from the Preschool. 2018 has been a wonderful year for the school, and we look forward to an even better 2019. We currently have 162 children enrolled....the highest ever.

Registration for the 2019/2020 school year (I can't believe I just typed 2020) will start at the end January. Please continue to keep our school in your prayers, that God would continue to send families to Zion to hear the good news of Jesus Christ.

December was filled with lots of activity....chapel, parties, gift exchanges, crafting, games, practicing our songs for the Christmas programs and lots of learning....it was hard to fit it all in, but we did. We finished the year with our Christmas Programs. We did 3 nights of beautiful Christmas music sung by the children, followed by a slide show and then down to the fellowship hall for cookies and punch. Each night the church was filled with 250 + parents, grandparents, siblings and friends. The children performed beautifully to the delight of their families.....what an awesome start to the Christmas season.

Stay tuned for upcoming 2019 school events:

January — Current school family registration

February — New school family registration

March — Zion Spirit Week including Dads, dudes and donuts, a visit from the Aviary, stories from our favorite storyteller, and Chick-fil-A night

April — Moms and Muffins, Spring field trips

May — Closing programs, camps start

ST. LUKE LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Cabot

Servanthood in Action - We are given many examples in the Bible of how to be a servant. 1 Corinthians 9:19 says *“I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them.”* That is a difficult concept for us to grasp in our present day “me-driven” society. St. Luke’s School Mission Statement is “Providing a truly higher education in Christ for Heart, Mind, Body, and Spirit”. We believe that the students can help to develop their spiritual maturity through Christian service. St. Luke students have been learning the meaning of servanthood. There are a multitude of service opportunities for our members as well as our students here at St. Luke.

Many students participated in the Servant Day/House Build project in September. St. Luke and Concordia teamed with 285 people to frame 185 walls in 3 hours for a dormitory in Oklahoma, made 31 blankets for the Ronald McDonald House, marked 150 Bibles for the Light of Life Ministries, started 12 infant blankets for area hospitals, made 625 greeting cards for the military, packed 573 dry soup mixes for area food banks, and sewed 18 sundresses for girls throughout the world.

Eleven eighth grade students and their chaperones went to Ambrose farm to pick a variety of produce on a warm fall day in September. The vegetables were donated to the Salvation Army and Katie’s Kitchen in Butler.

Several sixth to eighth grade students volunteered to serve the Lighthouse Foundation once a week for five weeks by packing and unpacking boxes, sorting, painting, cleaning, and more. The Lighthouse Foundation serves the community in many ways. There are programs for Interim and Transitional Housing, Food Pantries, Wellness Education, Jobs for Life, and Faith and Finances. A St. Luke student named Matthew was quoted as saying that “Volunteering at Lighthouse was a fun afterschool activity to do with my friends. It felt good knowing I was helping people.”

ST. LUKE LUTHERAN SCHOOL (continued)

Cabot

The whole school partnered with the congregation to collect 2 boxes of new and gently used winter coats, hats, scarves, and gloves to help Project Bundle Up Butler keep our neighbors warm this winter.



The students went on a campaign to collect school supplies, toys, soaps, and more to donate to Operation Christmas Child. The donated supplies were packed into shoe boxes in November.

They will be shipped internationally to children in impoverished areas.

Students helped to honor 27 Veterans at a Thanksgiving-style meal where many volunteers helped to set up, cook, serve, clean up, make cards for the military, and visit with their honored guests. A student volunteer named Cerenity said, “It made me happy to serve dinner to our veterans who served our country.”



It is our prayer to help enrich our students as well as ourselves through experiences like these and to remember Mark 10:45 *“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

By the power of Christ, we carry the power of hope to the poor, the broken, and the outcast.

A Story of an Exceptional Resident

Life can change in an instant, often when we least expect it. That was undoubtedly the experience for one of Concordia of Monroeville's current residents. Jason Ross, 44, worked as a youth counsellor at a group home for troubled youth. He spent most of his days helping the kids process and adjust to their environment, while encouraging them to maintain steady progress toward rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

Life as he knew it would change drastically, however. On May 19, 2018, he was admitted to the hospital with stomach pain, and was rushed into emergency gallbladder surgery.

Unfortunately, he experienced complications during surgery. Soon his family would learn that Jason was in septic shock and put on life-support. The complications continued to add up. While on life-support, Jason was put on a medication to draw blood to the organs in his core, leaving his extremities with little blood supply.

After being in a coma for eight days, Jason would wake to find his limbs turning black and doctors discussing what they were going to do to stop the necrosis from spreading. Soon, it was decided he would require amputation on each of his legs. After several stages of surgeries and repeat amputations, Jason would be left with one below-the-knee amputation and one above-the-knee amputation. The doctors also noticed necrosis had begun in the five fingers of his left hand.

Jason was discharged from the hospital and admitted to Concordia of Monroeville on August 17, after spending three months in the hospital. Weak and debilitated, he began the process of working with physical and occupational therapy to strengthen his muscles and prepare for prosthetic limbs.

His progress was cut short, however, when nursing staff noticed a worsening in his necrotic tissue and sent him back to the hospital. After another five days spent in the hospital, Jason returned to Concordia of Monroeville, this time after having all five fingers of his left hand amputated.

While some people in his circumstance might find justification in wanting to give up, Jason has showed nothing but persistence and perseverance since returning to Concordia. After having to wait to receive his prostheses, and gradually gain back the strength he had lost, Jason defied all odds.

On October 22, surrounded by his family and Concordia staff cheering him on, he took his first steps since going to the hospital in May. Jason walked 18 feet with an Eva-walker on his first try and has been steadily progressing ever since.

"Amanda and Patti [from Concordia of Monroeville Rehab] have made too many sacrifices to count in order for me to make the progress that I have made, and for that my family and I are forever grateful," Jason said.

Jason has been an inspiration to many staff and residents throughout his stay. Through every challenge thrown his way, he has remained positive and is never without a smile. Jason remains committed to his goal: walking out of the facility one day and returning home with his wife and three children.

Concordia of Monroeville is honoured to have served Jason and his family over the last several months as he works toward his goals and overcomes the challenges he has encountered. We hope his story can serve as an inspiration to others who are facing trials in their life about the power of perseverance and determination.

To learn more about our short-term rehab, long-term nursing care services or any of our senior living communities in western PA, eastern OH and Tampa, FL, visit the Care Levels & Services or Home & Community Services pages of our website. For general information, call our administrative headquarters at 1-888-352-1571 or message us through our Contact Form.



Concordia Lutheran Ministries Board of Directors Elects Leadership

Stephen W. Johnson was elected chairman of the Board of Directors and Don Olmstead as vice-chairman for 2019 according to officials at Concordia Lutheran Ministries.

Stephen W. Johnson, who has served as chairman of the Concordia Board of Directors for four terms of three years each, is Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer of CNX Resources. He was a former partner at Reed Smith LLP and Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney. Johnson has been a CLM board member for 15 years. He earned a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Virginia and a juris doctorate degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. He and his wife Tracey have two sons, Sam and Adam, and live in Oakland.

Don Olmstead is co-founder of Venture Engineering & Construction, Inc. He has experience in equipment manufacturing, environmental consultation and design engineering, construction and commissioning. He graduated from the University of Guelph in Canada with a B.S. in engineering and earned his M.S. in engineering at the University of Pittsburgh. Olmstead is also a board member on the Engineering Society of Western Pennsylvania. He and his wife Diane have three grown children and live in Cabot.

Eighteen board members comprise the governing body and represent 31 Lutheran Churches Missouri Synod in the western Pennsylvania area. This parent board has oversight for 12 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, Concordia of Florida, Inc and Concordia Physician Practice.

Concordia was the 7th accredited CARF-CCAC Aging Services Network in the world serving more than 40,000 in the past 12 months.

According to the 2018 Leading Age Ziegler 150, Concordia is in the top 25 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.

Keith E. Frndak, President and CEO is both impressed and delighted with the caliber of his board leadership and looks forward to robust expansion and strong support of our mission of faithful caring.

Concordia Provides a 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 experts 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.

Topics include but are not limited to Fall Prevention, Chronic Disease Management, Senior Nutrition, Planning for Long-Term Care, Senior Care Lingo, Advance Directives, End of Life Decision Making, Health and Wellness, Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease Education, Nutrition for a Healthy Lifestyle and much more.

Please have available information regarding your meeting, including time, date, location, size of group, and any other pertinent information about your organization.

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.





Johnnie McCants and the kids at Unity celebrate Christmas with Concordia on Saturday, Dec. 15.

Worry Free Living Open House at Concordia of the South Hills

Celebrate February with a visit to the active lifestyle offered at Concordia of the South Hills. Learn more about why Concordia is the best retirement value in the area at our Open House on Sunday, Feb.17 and Monday, Feb. 18 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. on our campus located at 1300 Bower Hill Road in Mt. Lebanon near St. Clair Hospital.

Take advantage of our special discounts during this limited time. The public 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, visit the Coming Events section of the website at www.ConcordiaLM.org. To register or to schedule a private tour, you are invited to call Director of Marketing Christie Wahlen at 412-278-1300.

JOB OPENING

Zion, Bridgeville is looking for a Daytime Custodian to provide cleaning and routine maintenance services. This is a part-time position, approximately 20-25 hours per week from September to June, and 10 hours per week during the middle of the summer. Please contact Congregational Chairman Paul Klemash or Board of Trustees Chairman Paul Hayes if you are interested in learning more about the position. Zion's phone number is 412-221-4776.

