



THE PITTSBURGH LUTHERAN

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PALM DEVOTION

by The Reverend Dr. Douglas H. Spittel, President, Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries

Philippians 2:5-11: Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

“What’s in a Name?”

Did you ever wonder how your parish church got its name? The name of First Trinity Evangelical-Lutheran Church often elicits questions like “Do you believe in more than one Trinity?” The answer, of course, is “No,” but the reason for the name is a bit more complicated. In the early history of our churches in Pittsburgh, the congregations were numbered sequentially, while their church buildings were given and dedicated to a Christian name. The First German Evangelical-Lutheran Congregation held services in churches dedicated to the Holy Trinity in Downtown and in Shadyside. The Second German Evangelical-Lutheran Congregation held services in St. Paul’s Church in Uptown. The Third German Evangelical-Lutheran Congregation held services in Zion Church in Lawrenceville. By the 1930s, German was no longer the official language of these congregations, so the word “German” was dropped from their names. In two cases, the name of the congregation and the name of the church were conflated. In the last case, the congregation simply adopted the name of their building. “First German” became “First Trinity,” “Second German” became “Second St. Paul’s” (closed in 1981), and “Third German” became “Zion.”

Traditionally, church buildings were dedicated to our Lord or to His saints. The earliest churches were named for the martyr that was buried in or under the altar. As the church spread across the world, churches and cathedrals were often named for popular saints or in honor of our Lord.

PALM DEVOTION

PALM DEVOTION (continued)

by The Reverend Dr. Douglas H. Spittel, President, Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries

Many churches are devoted to the Holy Trinity or to Christ our Savior. Worldwide, one of the most common names for a parish church is “Saint Nicholas,” the famous bishop and confessor.

Our LCMS parish churches in the Pittsburgh area are named for a variety of Biblical places, saints, and our Lord. How each name was decided upon is a matter of parish history. Since none of the saints are buried in any of our churches, it is more likely that the congregation was established, or the building dedicated on or near the feast day for which it was named. For example, Holy Cross Lutheran Mission (now Chapel) held their first worship service on Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2018. Since neither “Saint Valentine Lutheran Mission” nor “Ash Wednesday Lutheran Mission” seemed fitting, the Lenten devotion toward the Holy Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ was chosen for the name of the mission moving forward. This name also hearkened to a former parish in Pittsburgh, Holy Cross Evangelical-Lutheran Church in the Brushton neighborhood, that closed in the early 1980s.

The names of our churches should not only be identifiers. The name of your parish church and congregation presents a life-long opportunity for the members to become “experts” in devotion to the namesake of the parish. Members of St. John’s Church, for example, may have a special devotion and study of the Gospel, Epistles, and Revelation of St. John. Members of John Huss Church may take opportunity to become familiar with the Bohemian reformer and the Biblical truths that he proclaimed leading to his martyrdom. Members of Mount Olive Church may have a special devotion for the events recorded on the Mount of Olives in the Old and New Testaments, especially Jesus’s lament over Jerusalem and the events of His passion on the night when he prayed and was betrayed in the garden. Taken together, the congregations of the Pittsburgh region would cover a significant amount of Scripture in their devotion to the source of their names. Of course, all of our namesake devotion should and will lead us to a deeper devotion toward our Lord Jesus Christ who has manifested Himself in the flesh for our salvation.

Mark your Calendar

February

- 2. Choral Vespers, Holy Cross, Hazelwood, 4:00 p.m.
- 10. Free Seminar followed by tours, Concordia of the South Hills, Mt. Lebanon, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- 16. Free Seminar followed by tours, Concordia Haven Apartments, Cabot, 16, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- 17. Open House, Concordia Haven Apartments, Cabot, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- 21. Game Night, Concordia, Brentwood
- 22. Active Shooter Training, Redeemer, Oakmont, 8:00 a.m. - Noon



**PITTSBURGH
AREA
LUTHERAN
SCHOOLS**

Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Schools, PALS, has an immediate opening for a part-time Development Director. A Development Director for PALS must have a love for Christian education and display Christian attitude and principles in the community. The Director must understand and be able to communicate the philosophy and goals of Lutheran education. The Director is charged with the responsibility of managing activities related to the planning, execution, and evaluation of fundraising and public relations programs. If you have these skills, a passion for Lutheran education, and would like to help our Lutheran schools grow to have a prominent place in the Pittsburgh area, we'd like to hear from you. Please call 412.828-9323 if you are interested in interviewing for this position.
**PITTSBURGH AREA LUTHERAN SCHOOLS
GROWING IN MIND AND SPIRIT**



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PALM NEWS

PALM NEWS

*The Reverend Dr. Douglas H. Spittel, President, Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries
Pastor, First Trinity Evangelical-Lutheran Church
and Holy Cross Evangelical-Lutheran Chapel*

PALM Acquires Church Building for Holy Cross Mission - On November 26, 2019, Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries purchased the former St. Paul's Lutheran Church building on Second Avenue in the Hazelwood neighborhood of the City of Pittsburgh. This acquisition happened as the result of two coincidental sets of circumstances.

Since the arrival of Vicar Timothy Kern in July 2019, missionary work in the neighborhood increased significantly. It was determined in late summer that a physical location was needed to serve the people who had begun gathering around God's Word. A common question that we heard on the street as we talked and prayed with people was "Where is your church?" Vicar Kern was tasked with seeking possible locations for the mission work. From his search, we talked with Hazelwood Initiative and the Urban Redevelopment Authority about the old YMCA building and an abandoned storefront on Second Avenue. We spoke with the Roman Catholic diocese about a seemingly abandoned church as well as the Episcopal diocese about a church that was preparing to close. These properties were either unsuitable or unaffordable for Holy Cross.

Meanwhile, the congregation at Saint Paul's Evangelical-Lutheran Church on Second Avenue had been struggling for many years even though they had a thriving food and clothing outreach that is vital to the neighborhood.

As their finances dwindled, the ELCA advised them to close and abandon the building and outreach. The leadership of St. Paul's had been attending the Holy Cross noon prayer, catechesis, and Bible study for nearly two years. Seeing that we had committed significant personnel and resources to the mission, they approached us and asked if we would be interested in adding their outreach and building to our mission endeavors. This was a God-sent opportunity which the PALM Board of Directors joyfully accepted.

In early November, at separate meetings, the congregation at St. Paul's and the PALM Board of Directors unanimously passed resolutions to enter into an Agreement of Sale for the Second Avenue church property for the price of \$1 with covenants that the Food and Clothing outreach would continue and that the building would continue to be used for Lutheran worship services. The Agreement of Sale was signed on November 15 and the sale was settled on November 26 with the singing of the Doxology by all in attendance. Mrs. Ginger Brooks, representing St. Paul's, and Pastor Douglas Spittel, president of the PALM Board of Directors, signed all of the legal documents, and Mr. Justin Spittel, PALM Treasurer, completed the financial transaction. Many thanks are due to Michael Fiffik, Esq. who guided both parties through the process. The congregation council of St. Paul's - Walter Brooks, Elaine Johnson, and Marilyn Allingham, English District Bishop Jamison Hardy and Circuit Visitor Brian Westgate, along with Holy Cross Mission Vicar Timothy Kern, PALM Mission Chairman David McElroy, and Mrs. Leigh Spittel were on hand to witness this event.

PALM NEWS

Holy Cross Mission went right to work in their new chapel. The first Sunday worship service was held on December 1, the first Sunday in Advent, by Vicar Kern. The building was blessed and dedicated to the Lord's Service on the Feast of St. Nicholas, December 6, and a PALM work crew helped clean the building on December 7. Since then, daily



The Holy Cross Food and Clothing Distribution continues the work previously done by St. Paul's unabated. More than two hundred children received toys for Christmas at the annual toy give-away on December 20. The neighborhood continues to be served with abundant clothing and food every other Saturday and as family emergencies arise.

morning prayer, Wednesday Advent Vespers, weekly devotions, Sunday School, and Bible classes have been held. The first Divine Service was celebrated on Christmas Day and the first official member of Holy Cross, four-month-old Matthew Osborne, was baptized at the Service. Average Sunday attendance has been twenty-one people with thirty-eight in attendance on Christmas Day and twenty-six in attendance on January 1 for the Feast of the Circumcision of our Lord.

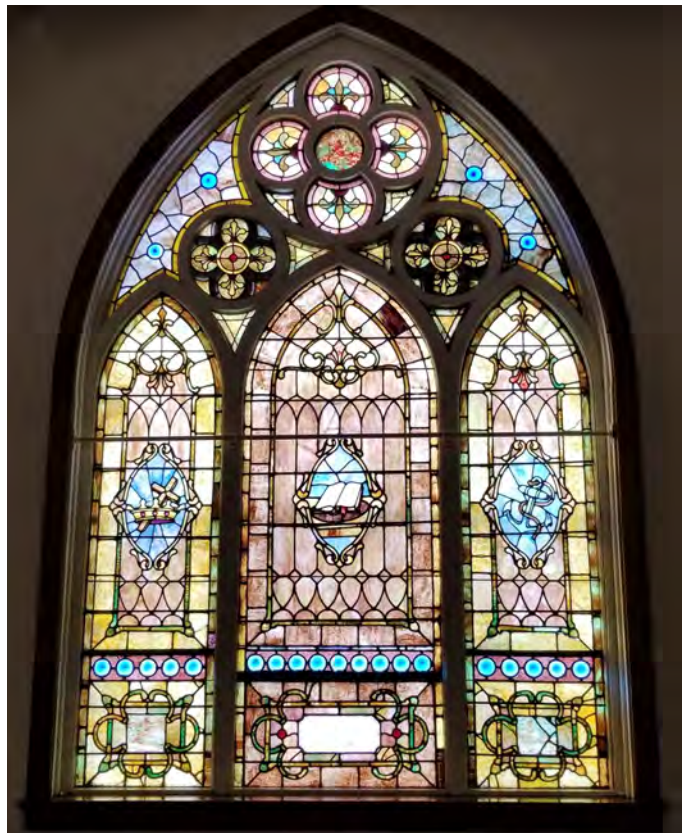


PALM NEWS

The final dissolution of St. Paul's congregation took place on December 31. Holy Cross held a reception of new members at the Epiphany Divine Service on January 5 at which fourteen members were received. With a few others who are in catechesis, children, and homebound people, we expect to have twenty-six baptized members before Ash Wednesday.



In thanksgiving to our Lord for such a fruitful Christmas season, Holy Cross will be celebrating a Solemn Choral Vespers on Sunday, February 2 at 4:00 p.m. in observance of the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord. The service will include special instrumental and choral music. The Reverend Berton Greenway, Pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Penn Hills and missionary assistant at Holy Cross for the past two years will preach the sermon. Refreshments and tours will be available after the service. This Vespers will culminate the forty days of Christmastide before we enter the mission season of the "Gesima" Sundays and then the forty days of Holy Lent. All are invited to join us for this joyous celebration.



First Trinity Campus Ministry

by Pastor Eric Andræ

Dear friend in Christ,

THANK YOU. Thank you for supporting God's mission to save and transform lives at the colleges and campuses of Pittsburgh through your campus mission here. Your prayers, your words of encouragement, your time, your talents, and your financial contributions are indispensable. Without God's grace through your partnership, the great impact of your campus ministry would be in grave peril. Here's just a small sample of very recent activity:

LSF is the only religious group represented annually at the Pitt Health Fair in late September. This year I met Shmuel, a Jewish freshman. He was drawn to our sign about Science and the Bible.

Is Science Compatible with the Bible?!

all are welcome
to join the discussion at lutheran.student.fellowship
www.LSFPgh.com



We had a fascinating, open conversation. He also happens to be taking a class on "The Bible as Literature," taught by a professor with whom I am good friends and with whom I collaborate in the PGH Christian Studies Program. Since initially meeting, Shmuel and I have gotten together for lunch or coffee three times. When we last met a couple weeks ago, he brought along his friend Jenny, who has fallen away from the Church, but is looking for a community of faith. In other words, we now have Jewish students doing outreach for us!

The Pitt Pre-Med Hospice Program continues to meet at First Trinity, as I serve as chaplain for the program and facilitate discussion on the spiritual dimensions of death and dying. As such, this year ten students from various religious backgrounds (or none) are being exposed to the Christian resurrection gospel!

Our reach is expanding. One Saturday evening I lead a Bible Study for the Christian Fellowship Club at the Pitt-Greensburg campus an hour from here. A Prayer Team of and for our students has been formed. Strong alumni contact continues. For example: we have two students attending seminary right now; three recent alumni married pastors and are having large, growing families; international student alumni have returned to their native lands and have been connected by us with missionaries there - the ripple effect is immeasurable. We love our alumni and love to hear from them! (hint, hint - if you're an alumnus, drop me a note anytime or, better yet, come visit if you haven't in a while!)

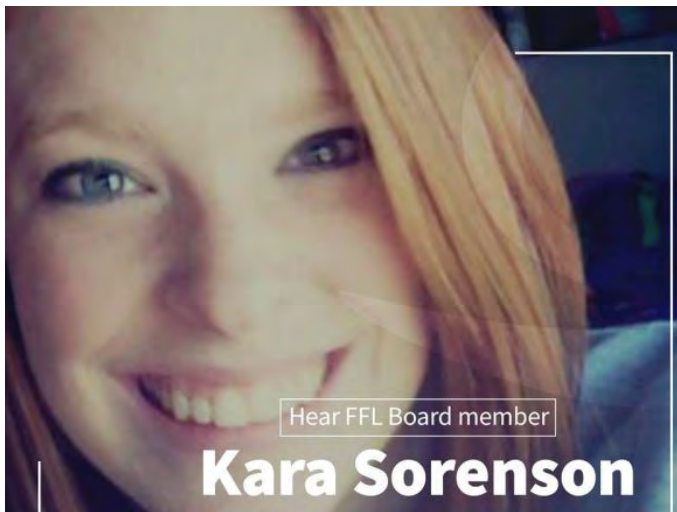
Plans for next semester have just been confirmed for on-campus speakers addressing "Feminism, Abortion, and Life" (Kara Sorenson - see attached photo) as well as "Christian Mission & Apologetics on Campus in an Age of Pluralism" (Chad Kendall).

You can support the Pittsburgh Campus Mission in a big way by becoming one of our monthly donors! As you know, universities are becoming more and more hostile to the Christian worldview.

First Trinity Campus Ministry (continued)

by Pastor Eric Andræ

Your financial support enables us to equip college students with the resources they so desperately need, for their lives' sakes and for the life of the world on campus. Please join us in supporting students whom God created and for whom Christ died and rose!



Please make checks out to First Trinity with "Campus Ministry" in the memo line, and mail to: Campus Mission, 535 N. Neville St., Pittsburgh, PA 15213. You can also donate online: scroll about halfway down at www.LSFPgh.com/donate. If you are a Thrivent member, please contribute through Thrivent Choice to "Lutheran Student Fellowship of Pittsburgh, PA". If you are interested in recurring giving options, please contact me directly. THANK YOU.

What you do

by Augusta R. Mennell, Campus Ministry Director

Usually my articles talk about what I do. This time it is about what you do. I normally describe Korean meals, Bible studies, the time spent giving students the most comforting, Christ-centered advice possible. This time I will focus on an example of what you do for the college students you send to All Saints Lutheran Church and student center. The truth is that what you do lasts a lifetime. Your work is done so quietly that it often goes unnoticed.

The following letter is used by permission and is one many of you could have written. It is your story of how you have prepared your college-age children to remain believers. It is a tribute to you. It is a main reason that campus ministry thrives.

And, if it is not what you did when your children were growing up, it is what you can do today for your student, so that faith may revive and grow while in college.

Dear Mrs. Mennell,

You asked me to write how we shared our faith with our children. I can't really think of anything we did out of the ordinary. We always attended church, Sunday school, and Bible classes each week. When Steve was about four years old, my husband began teaching Sunday school (and still does). He felt that commitment would make sure he was there every week. The thought never entered either of our minds not to go to church. Both boys were extremely active in sports growing up, but it was always known they couldn't participate in a sport that interfered on Sunday morning.

We love our church family! Both my husband and my parents raised us in the LCMS, but our current congregation for the last 24 years

What you do (continued)

by Augusta R. Mennell, Campus Ministry Director is the friendliest I have ever encountered. When our sons were young, we had a very young pastor, which I feel made it easy for them to relate to. Our deacon led all the children's' programs. He too was young at that time. The boys always looked forward to all church activities.

Many times I have felt we should have done more. Other than prayers at meal times, I am ashamed to say we never held any form of family devotions. Of course, there was always some teachable moments where we could point out to the boys how God was obviously present in our lives, or the lives of others near to us. How fortunate we were to have both our sons find such great church WHILE they were away at college!

I sometimes wonder how I was chosen to be born, baptized, confirmed, married and raised in the LCMS, which I feel has the purest interpretation of the Holy Bible, and then meet my husband who had the same church upbringing as I did. I guess we just shared that with our sons.

Then again, we really can't take any credit at all, since the Holy Spirit was the One at work the whole time. The Lord sure does bless us, doesn't he?

I apologize for the lengthy letter. If you, Mister Mennell, or Pastor Loree are ever in the Cleveland area, please do look us up, or visit our church, Calvary Lutheran Church in Parma, Ohio.

Jeff and Chris Steingass

I really see the value of what the Steingass family did as I have learned what happened to a recent American graduate who married an international student from a Hindu background. I had hoped she would share her Christian faith with her husband. But when they visited during the Christmas holidays, they said they had paid their respects at the Hindu temple. I asked if she enjoyed the visit. I asked if she saw any difference in the Christian and Hindu faiths, she said she really liked her husband's faith, especially all the many gods and goddesses. She likes the many gods saying that Christianity and Islam have only one God.

She does not know Christ. This young graduate is a hard-working, unselfish person who said she had attended a church until fourth grade, when her family stopped going. She stopped growing and learning about Christianity. Like many she has given up her faith. This makes what the Steingass family did such a blessing. Their sons' faith has a solid foundation.

All Saints campus ministry is for all of the students; those who have firm faith and those who are needing tender loving care to grow. Thank you for sending your student to college and to All Saints. Thank you for your loving work to guide your children to Jesus. Campus ministry could not survive without your seed-planting.

from the left: Jeff Steingass, Chris Steingass, Steve Steingass, Pastor Larry Loree, Mrs. Augusta Mennell, Akelah Hughes, All Saints student director



LOCAL MISSION

Mileposters News

A 14-speed carbon fiber single bike was acquired in December, for conditioning purposes. Even the smallest tandem can be on the unwieldy side, but a single bicycle with a carbon fiber frame, weighing about 20 pounds, or the same as the kick bikes, loads and unloads very easily. It made the first ride of 2020, on January 1.

The families of three prospective riders attended the community Thanksgiving celebration on Troy Hill, outnumbering everyone else present, and were delighted to be there. Four of the guests are pictured along with a current rider. Also planned for prospective riders is a movie event.



Appeal letters for the Puerto Rico campaign, with a total of 1,040 miles, were mailed out. The conclusion of the campaign for First Trinity Campus Ministry is still in planning. The original total was 880 miles, but may be extended into March.

A windproof candle lantern (pictured) was acquired. Only five inches long and an inch and a half in diameter, with a glass-enclosed flame, it can pack very compactly for camping trips, critical on any kind of bicycle. It will burn for over three hours, and in chilly weather can provide heat as well as light.



UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

CONCORDIA LUTHERAN - *Brentwood*

We will hold ANOTHER Games Night on Friday, February 21. All are invited to join us - bring your favorite board game and/or a snack to share as well!

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN - *Hazelwood*

In thanksgiving to our Lord for such a fruitful Christmas season, Holy Cross will be celebrating a Solemn Choral Vespers on Sunday, February 2 at 4:00 p.m. in observance of the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord. The service will include special instrumental and choral music.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN - *Oakmont*

On Saturday, February 22, from 8:00 a.m. to Noon, Redeemer Lutheran Church in Oakmont will host an active shooter training session. It will be led by Mr. John Sakoian of Command Excellence. All our fellow Lutherans in the Pittsburgh region are invited to attend. Refreshments will be provided. A free will donation to offset the cost is greatly appreciated.

CONCORDIA LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

On Sunday, Feb. 16, 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m., there will be a Free Seminar followed by tours at Concordia Haven Apartments, Entrance 2, 112 Marwood Road, Cabot. On Monday, Feb. 17, 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., there will be an Open House. For more information or to register online, visit the events and news page of our website at www.ConcordiaLM.org or call Peggy Trettel at 724-352-5378.

At Concordia of the South Hills, 1300 Bower Hill Road, Mt. Lebanon, there will be a Free Seminar followed by tours on Monday, Feb. 10, 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. For more information or to register online, visit the events and news page of our website at www.ConcordiaLM.org or call Christie Wahlen at 412-294-1351.

NEWS FROM AREA CONGREGATIONS

ASCENSION LUTHERAN

McCandless

Farewell to Pastor Martin Lee

On December 22, 2019, a farewell luncheon was held for Pastor Martin Lee, Ascension Lutheran Church's Intentional Interim Pastor in 2019. The Fellowship Hall was overflowing with people to thank Pastor Lee for his leadership of and service to our congregation the last 12 months. We were blessed to have his family with us and thanked them also for the sacrifice of having him travel to be with us from their distant home in Michigan. We wish them all the best as Pastor Lee continues to follow the call to intentional interim ministry.



CALVARY LUTHERAN

Murrysville

February is generally known for Valentine's Day. At Calvary it is known as College and Military Care Packages month. Each year we gathers addresses for college students and those in the military that are known either to our congregation, extended family or friends. Calvary uses our Care Package program as an outreach to bless those people away from home that could use blessings and love from the Lord through our Calvary family.

Early each February our congregation makes homemade goodies for the boxes. Our Sunday school students and the students from Calvary Early Learning Center hand make cards for the recipients so that they know that they are being prayed for and loved. The second week of February members of different bible study groups, the Evangelism committee and any congregation members that want to help gather to pack the boxes. Our Care Packages contain cookies, candy, other homemade treats and are packed with popped popcorn, which we are told is also eaten. We try to insure that the recipients receive the boxes around Valentine's Day.



Last year we sent out 58 boxes to locations all over the United States and military posts both home and abroad. This year we hope to exceed that number. We realize that February can be a lonely month after the rush of the holidays in December and January. Sending these boxes may provide a ray of light from our Lord through Calvary to those who need to know they are loved and blessed. We send H.U.G.S.(Helping Us Grow Spiritually) with each box.

CHRIST LUTHERAN

Forest Hills

Christ Lutheran had a dedication after the worship service on January 5 of the updated kitchen. Good food, of course, was included.



CONCORDIA LUTHERAN

Brentwood

Concordia stayed busy throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons. On Friday, December 13, we put on our live Nativity on the Church lawn. Thanks to John Toperzer's direction, and the heavy moist fog lifting at the last moment, we had a nice turnout of folk who came to see the Nativity, as well as our church, freshly decorated for Christmas.



Christ Lutheran Kitchen dedication



CONCORDIA LUTHERAN (continued)

Brentwood

The next day, Concordia's Carolers visited shut-in members, including two of our own at our last stop - Concordia of the South Hills. Residents in Assisted Living were glad to see us, and several joined in and sang along with us.



Games Night returned to Concordia for the first time in many years, on Friday, January 24th. Board games and at least one game of Texas Hold 'Em (CHIPS ONLY!!!) were enjoyed by members, as a way to break up the monotony of winter.

We will hold ANOTHER Games Night on Friday, February 21. as well. All are invited to join us - bring your favorite board game and/or a snack to share as well!

MT. CALVARY

Westview

A variety of activities in December kept Mt. Calvary busy throughout the month. Starting Dec. 1, members and friends of the congregation enjoyed a Christmas dinner and party comprising a meal of roast beef, ham, stuffed chicken breasts, pasta, and all the trimmings, catered by The Cooked Goose; and a grab bag among the attendees.

Throughout the month, as part of its Christmas Blessings project, the church collected donations for the Repurposed store on McKnight Road. Working in conjunction with Living in Liberty, Repurposed has a street ministry that reaches out to girls who are victims of human trafficking.

The boxes of donations collect for Mt. Calvary's Christmas Blessings Project



Mt. Calvary's Outreach Group prepared packaged candy gifts for members of the congregation for Christmas Eve.

MT. CALVARY (continued)

Westview

Mt. Calvary collected enough items, such as shampoo, hand sanitizers, socks, gloves, underwear, hand warmers, combs, granola bars and snacks, soap, hand lotion, and other personal articles, to fill several large, deep boxes. Dawna Heinrichs and Wynn Yocum, two of the ladies in the Outreach Group, delivered the boxes to the Repurposed store.

In addition, the group separately wrapped an assortment of Hershey nuggets, packaged them on little trays made from recycled Christmas cards, and placed them in individuals' mailboxes at church, to be waiting for them when they arrived on Christmas Eve.

Pastor Scott Kuntz, along with Liam Kuntz, Leilani Rose Pape, and Nicole Cupps, who all appeared in Mt. Calvary's Family Christmas Program.



Leilani Rose Pape, Nicole Cupps, Josephine Skinner, and Liam Kuntz appeared in Mt. Calvary's Family Christmas Program



Mt. Calvary also held its annual Family Christmas Program - The Glory of Christmas, Celebrating Christ's Birth - on Dec. 22. The production included music by the voice and bell choirs; special narrations and enactments; trumpet music by Anthony Thomas; a vocal solo by Harmony Karwoski; and a performance of the "Little Drummer Boy" by the voice choir, accompanied by Logan Karwoski on drums and Mechele Hoover on the bell.

Mt. Calvary is looking forward to another active year in 2020.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN

Oakmont/Penn Hills

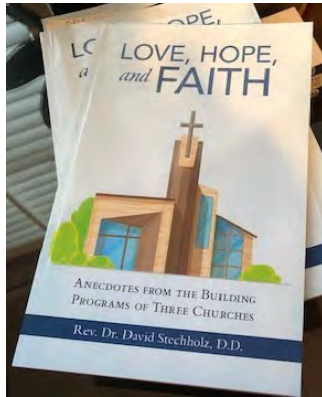
This year marks the 120th Anniversary of The English Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer of Oakmont and Verona as well as the 40th Anniversary of the current building of the present Redeemer Lutheran Church.

The celebration has begun with the publishing of a new book by Rev'd. Dr. David P. Stechholz, who was part of the Building Program "team" and very supportive lay leaders of who built the current Redeemer Church and later served as Bishop/District President of the English District. Both humorous and practical, Pastor Stechholtz shares the highs and lows of his involvement in three major building programs as well as others in his book Love, Hope and Faith. Size matters as congregations and their budgets shrink and swell over time. He provides the proper focus for any congregation planning a new building or renovation of an older one.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN (continued)

Oakmont/Penn Hills

A great deal can be learned from his years of experience from coast to coast. Certainly this needs to be required reading for all newly ordained ministers. Books may be purchased for \$15.00 through Terry Taylor (terryntaylor@verizen.net or call the Redeemer church office at 412-828-9323). A deadline of February 14 is set.



On Saturday, February 22, from 8:00 a.m. to Noon, Redeemer Lutheran Church in Oakmont will host an **active shooter training session**. It will be led by Mr. John Sakoian of Command Excellence. All our fellow Lutherans in the Pittsburgh region are invited to attend. Refreshments will be provided. A free will donation to offset the cost is greatly appreciated.



ST LUKE, CABOT FAITH

Butler

St Luke Youth Go to Camp Pioneer

Fourteen St. Luke youth from grades 6 to 11, led by Vicar Bocian, two chaperones and two parent drivers went to Camp Pioneer in November. Camp Pioneer is located on the shore of Lake Erie in Angola, New York, which is just under 4 hours from St. Luke. There are 75 acres of lakefront property with a private beach on the shore of the lake. Pioneer is a Christian owned and operated organization that has been in existence since 1945. They put an emphasis on adventure, but also stress the need for serving others with a focus on spiritual and leadership development. Some of our youth had relatives from New York who attended the weekend also. It was fun to reconnect with friends in a relaxed and informal setting.



ST LUKE, CABOT FAITH (continued)

Butler

The students participated in daily worship, a group service project and several large group games as well as free time that included sand volleyball, mud football, dodge ball, gaga ball and more. Their schedule was jam-packed from the 8:30 wake-up call until midnight.



People from St. Luke have been attending Camp Pioneer events such as, youth fall/spring retreats, summer camps, pastors attending regional conferences, and families utilizing the camp for getaways for many years. Vicar Bocian said that, "There are not many places in this world, where you can take a breath, relax, not be judged for being a Christian, and just draw strength from others as you worship God and are facilitated in inclusive, positive activities. Camp Pioneer is one of those places. They are a valued partner in ministry that way."

St. Luke looks forward to taking another group of enthusiastic and intrepid leaders to Camp Pioneer in 2020.

Click on the link to see some of the adventures from the Fall Retreat.

<http://filebox.stlukecabot.org/Videos/Camp%20Pioneer%202019.mp4>



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Bridgeville

Video of Services Now Available! You can now watch a video of the service if you missed church, or would like to see one of the services again. It's easy! ... go to zlcb.org/video to view the video.

Sunday School Mission Project: Bible Storybooks for Ethiopia - For children, the Bible's hundreds of pages can seem overwhelming. They need books, written on their level, to introduce them to Jesus. In today's Ethiopia (in northeast Africa), millions of Lutheran children don't have a single Bible storybook.

There are more than 9 million Lutherans in Ethiopia. One Lutheran church body, called Mekane Yesus, is nearly four times the size of the LCMS. And there are hundreds of Lutheran schools and Sunday schools packed with eager young students, but teachers face a dilemma: they have no Bible storybooks from which to teach.

The Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF) is an LCMS recognized service organization with the mission of translating and publishing our good Lutheran books for people around the world. For every \$5 raised, LHF prints a Bible storybook in the languages of Ethiopia, such as Amharic and Oromo. Ethiopia children receive books free of charge and they get to keep the book, bring it home and share Jesus with their families.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Oakmont/Penn Hills

RLS had a wonderful evening of fellowship on Friday, November 15. The fun began with a pizza potluck, ice cream social, and art show. The evening continued with a concert by Christian recording artist Jennie Williamson from Ar-iSon Records. Many RLS students are familiar with Jennie's music through enjoying it during the school day; it was an enjoyable night of singing along! Offerings and donations from the evening were collected to help in the efforts to repair the damage suffered by Dallas Lutheran School during a tornado earlier this fall.

Redeemer's middle school basketball teams began their seasons on December 10 against Rhe-ma Christian School, with the Lady Rams winning their first game. We are excited to see what the rest of the season will bring! Go RAMS!

Redeemer braved the cold rain to take part once again in the festivities of Oakmont's Hometown Christmas on November 23. Students and families walked with the Nativity float in the parade, and preschool-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; thank you to all who made the event possible.

RLHS hosted the 2nd annual Alumni Breakfast on November 21. All Redeemer high school graduates were invited to visit with high school students and faculty for the morning.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN SCHOOL (continued)

Oakmont/Penn Hills

Thank you to Dean of Students Mr. Driscoll and the rest of the high school faculty for continuing this tradition with our grads.

Redeemer student council hosted the annual Parents' Day out event on Saturday, December 7. Student council arranged a fun morning of devotions, games, crafts, and activities for children while parents took the opportunity to prepare for the upcoming holiday. Thank you to the student council members for an excellent job of representing RLS, and to Mrs. Govan and Mr. Driscoll for overseeing the morning's events.

The day's events didn't stop there! RLHS students visited a local pharmacy to participate in Christmas caroling on the evening of December 7. Students shared the joy of Christ's birth at Lost and Found Pharmacy in Penn Hills; they were treated to ice cream and games to end the evening. Thank you to Lost and Found for allowing our students to visit, and to Anna Loshonkohl and Mrs. Holzer for providing the treats and entertainment!

On December 13, the middle school robotics team along with twenty other teams competed in the VEX IQ competition. Redeemer's team was awarded the Design Award and the Robot Skills Champion Award and placed 1st overall! The team now advances to the regional competition at North Allegheny High School on February 21. Congratulations, Redeemer Robotic Rams!!

The celebration of the season culminated with our annual Christmas program! Preschool through 8th grade students performed for family and friends at the Penn Hills Senior High School Auditorium on Friday, December 20.

The evening was a wonderful time of sharing the joyous news of Christ's birth. The annual cookie walk was held following the program to raise funds for Redeemer's music program. Thank you to Ms. Bartoli for arranging a beautiful program!

Athletics notes: Redeemer's middle school basketball teams are enjoying excellent seasons, with each team looking to playoff competition. Redeemer's high school bowling team came away with their first win on January 15. We are proud of these teams for their hard work and their demonstration of Christian character while competing.

Looking ahead:

Thursday, February 27: Middle and High School Preview Night, 6:30 p.m. All interested students and families are welcome to attend! Contact Alison Jackson at 412-793-5884 or admissions@redeemer-oakmont.org for more information.

ZION LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

Bridgeville

Happy New Year from the Preschool. 2019 has been a wonderful year for the school, and we look forward to an even better 2020.

We currently have 183 children enrolled....the highest ever. Registration for the 2020/2021 school year will start at the end of 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, and that we would be able to accommodate our continued growth.

December was filled with lots of activity....chapel, parties, gift exchanges, crafting, games, practicing our songs for the Christmas programs, a visit from Santa, 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 three nights of the programs to accommodate all of our students and their families, starting with a video of the Nativity Story, followed by songs sung by the children and ending with 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 preformed beautifully to the delight of their families.....what an awesome start to the Christmas season.

Stay tuned for these upcoming 2020 school events:

January - Current school family registration

February - New school family registration

March - Zion Spirit Week including Dads, dudes and donuts, the Ice Cream Social, a visit from the Aviary and much more

April - Spring field trips

May - Moms and Muffins, Closing programs, Camps

CONCORDIA NEWS

Dina Dosch, D.O. Earns Fellow Status

Dr. Dina Dosch, DO, Associate Medical Director, Good Samaritan Hospice (GSH), a mission of Concordia Lutheran Ministries, recently earned the designation, "Fellow of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine". The Academy is the professional organization for physicians who treat patients with serious illness. Dr. Dosch is also Associate Medical Director for Concordia Visiting Nurses and Interdisciplinary Medical Director for GSH. In 2000, she received the Putting People First Award for her excellence in Patient Care, Professionalism, Responsibility and Compassion given by the Catholic Health Network of Western PA



Concordia Lutheran Ministries Names a Director of Church Relations

Keith E. Frndak, president and CEO Concordia Lutheran Ministries (CLM) recently named Shirley M. Freyer Director of Church Relations. After serving 15 years as Director of Public Relations for CLM, Freyer retired effective Dec. 31, 2019. She transitioned into this new part time role in early January and will work to strengthen relationships with Concordia's 29 member churches. Freyer is a lifelong member of Zion in Lawrenceville and has worked full-time in public relations for nearly 50 years. Frank Skrip has accepted the position of Director of Public Relations for CLM. A member of St. Luke in Cabot, he marked 20 years this past August with CLM beginning as a high school student in food service.

CLM "Season of Hope" campaign another success

Donors and friends of Concordia Lutheran Ministries helped propel our annual Season of Hope campaign to another bright result. Because of donor generosity, Concordia received over \$225,000 during November and December of 2019 for system-wide support, including its Good Samaritan Endowment Fund, which provides charitable care to residents and patients in financial difficulty, inspired by Christ's legacy of love and service to the poor. We want to convey our heartfelt thanks to our Concordia Family's amazing outpouring of support for Concordia's Season of Hope. Your love shown to those we serve is greatly appreciated. To support Concordia with a charitable gift, please visit give.concordialm.org.

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 Cheryl Aughton at 724-352-1571 ext. 8560 or e-mail caughton@concordialm.org at least four weeks in advance to 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.

Concordia Sponsors Christmas Party at Unity

For years, it has been a tradition at Concordia for staff to visit Unity Lutheran Community Missions Children’s Outreach Ministry, spend the afternoon with the kids and distribute gifts from Concordia. This year’s trip took place on Saturday, Dec. 14. Thanks to all who donated their time and goods to help this mission! Pictured is Legal Counsel for Concordia, Cristen Fiffik, a member of Ascension.



Concordia Physician Practice Adds Two Nurse Practitioners (continued)

“Both Stephanie and Daniel have strong credentials and experience in all levels as health care providers,” she added. The practice is now accepting new patients. For an appointment, please call 724-352-4448.



Concordia Physician Practice Adds Two Nurse Practitioners

The Concordia Physician Practice (CPP) recently announced the addition of Stephanie Snow, CRNP and Daniel McKnight, CRNP. Both are accepting new adult patients (age 18 and older) at the practice located at 112 Marwood Road, Suite 5000 in Cabot on the Concordia campus.

Beth Bollman, Practice Manager believes the addition of two qualified professionals will be an invaluable asset to the practice and provide capacity for growth.





*You are invited to pray with us in
thanksgiving for our Lord's many
blessings upon our mission
church at the conclusion of the
Holy Christmas and Epiphany
Seasons.*

Choral Vespers

The Feast of the Presentation of our Lord
2 February 2020 • 4:00 PM

Special Instrumental and Choral Music

The Reverend Berton Greenway, Preaching

Holy Cross Evangelical-
Lutheran Chapel
5319 Second Avenue
(Hazelwood Neighborhood)
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15207



Ample Street Parking is available on Mansion and Gertrude Streets.

Tours of the Mission and Light Refreshments
follow Vespers.



Concordia
at Villa St. Joseph

Young at Heart *Gala 2020*

Join us for an evening to remember benefitting
Concordia at Villa St. Joseph's Benevolent Care Fund
and Music Programs and Activities

Friday, February 21, 2020

6 p.m.

\$60 per ticket

Medaille Hall & Dining Room
Sisters of St. Joseph
1020 State Street, Baden, PA 15005

For tickets, please see the front desk at Villa St. Joseph
or call 724-352-1571 ext. 8355

To purchase tickets online, please visit www.YoungAtHeartGala.org