



THE PITTSBURGH LUTHERAN

VOL 90, NO 2, March 2020

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PALM DEVOTION

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

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. – St. John 6:35

"Holy Spring"

It is March and Ash Wednesday having been observed on February 26, we find ourselves in Holy Lent. What is Lent all about, though? Ask different people and you will get different answers. Unfortunately, some will have no idea what Lent is since they have no knowledge of or connection to Jesus Christ and His Church. Some Christians will focus on the penitential aspects of the season and say that it is a time to "give up" something like chocolate or social media. Others will focus rightly on our Lord but mistake the entire season for a six-week long funeral for Jesus.

This season has three basic names throughout the Christian world. The first describes the forty days or *Quadragesima* in Latin from which romance languages such as Spanish derive *cuaresma* (*forty days*). The second describes the dominant Christian activity, fasting, and gives us names like the German *Fastenzeit* (*the fast*). The English word, Lent, derives from the Old English *lencten* or "lengthening" of the days that happens in Spring. Therefore, Lent is just an Old English word meaning "Spring."

What the Church does during these forty penitential days leading into Spring are key to our understanding of the season. Lent is not primarily about fasting, or expectation (like Advent), or even the death and resurrection of Jesus (any more than any other season of the Church year). Lent has a profound use among us that does, however, lead us to all of these things.

The Lenten season has its ecclesiastical and historical roots in the preparation of new Christians for Holy Baptism at Easter in the early centuries of the Church. Adults joining the Church (catechumens) would undergo a long period of learning (catechesis) leading to Holy Baptism, Holy Confirmation, and first Holy Communion all at the Great Vigil of Easter that begins at sunset on Saturday. As the catechumens came within about forty days of the great Feast of the Resurrection

PALM DEVOTION

PALM DEVOTION (continued)

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of our Lord, their catechesis became extremely intense. So much so, that they would have to quit their jobs and rely on the generosity of their Christian sponsors to live. This intense catechesis also called for an austere lifestyle both spiritually and practically, so fasting and abstinence was required. Catechumens would devote themselves to meeting daily with the bishop for Biblical instruction and prayer.

As the Church matured and most people were baptized in the Faith as infants, the adult catechuminate became subordinate to the instruction of the faithful in church and school. But the vestiges of Lent persisted as a special season of more intense prayer and instruction for the Church. This is seen to this day in our churches where Wednesday Lenten vespers are prayed, sermons at these vespers are preached usually around a unifying doctrinal theme, and special devotional materials are made available for personal or family prayer.

Even the ancient lectionary (series of Scripture readings) rings with the old themes of catechesis. The first three Sundays in Lent lead us from the temptation of our Lord by Satan in the wilderness (Lent 1 - *Invocavit*) to the lesson of the crumbs that fall from the Master's table being sufficient for the humble dogs (Lent 2 - *Reminiscere*), to Jesus casting out demons by the power of His Word (Lent 3 - *Oculi*). The fourth Sunday in Lent (*Laetare*) brings the joy and relief of Jesus, the Bread of Life, feeding the five thousand. Here the Church takes a breath. The fast is lightened, flowers appear on the altar (as the altar is left devoid of floral decoration during penitential seasons), and the Church rejoices in her Savior before diving into the darkest part of Lent.

The fifth Sunday in Lent (*Judica*) begins a season in its own right, Passiontide. Now is when the Church veils all the crosses and images in a fast for the eyes, the organ and instruments accompany the congregation's singing sparingly or not at all, and the church bells fall silent. Passiontide focuses on the suffering and death of our Lord, increasing in intensity day by day until the most solemn and austere liturgies on Good Friday. Having been catechized in the mercy of Jesus during the first four weeks of Lent, we are ready to lament our sin at the foot of the cross for the last two.

Lent is a complex season that draws together many themes. It is an opportunity for the faithful to commit ourselves to a deeper contemplation of Scripture and a renewal of our devotion toward our Lord and His gifts of mercy in the Holy Sacraments. Such contemplation and devotion take time, so other things in life must be set aside, in a fast, for about forty days, to allow us to re-center our lives on the one thing needful, Jesus. Lent is an excellent time for families to worship together on six Wednesdays instead of whatever else we might busy ourselves with at that time. It is a time to go to Church often. We come to the Bread of Life and find our life in Him, rather than lost in some vain pursuit or distraction. We weep with Mary and John, not for Jesus, but for ourselves and our

PALM DEVOTION

PALM DEVOTION (continued)

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sin that brings such grief and shame. We sit at Jesus' feet as He suffers for us on the cross, seeing Him look upon us who are precious in His sight. We see Jesus suffering and expect to behold Him risen from the dead. We hear the voice of our Shepherd and find comfort in His forgiveness.

Every parish church has a schedule of Lenten services and I highly encourage you to attend many or all those services as you are able. A full schedule of Lenten services at First Trinity Church and Holy Cross Chapel is included in this issue of *The Pittsburgh Lutheran* as an invitation for you to attend any services that your parish church is not able to observe. May you all be refreshed and renewed with a blessed, holy, and contemplative Spring in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Mark your Calendar

March

LENTEN SERVICES – MARCH 4, 11, 18, 25 APRIL 1

- Ascension Lutheran, McCandless, 7:00 p.m.
- St. Luke Butler, TBA
- Tri Parish
 - ⇒ Zion, Lawrenceville, dinner 6:00 p.m., service 7:00 p.m. (March 4th)
 - ⇒ Bethel, Glenshaw, dinner 6:00 p.m., service 7:00 p.m. (March 11th)
 - ⇒ Saint John's, Clarksburg, dinner 6:00 p.m., service 7:00 p.m. (March 18th)
 - ⇒ Zion, Lawrenceville, dinner 6:00 p.m., service 7:00 p.m. (March 25th)
 - ⇒ Bethel, Glenshaw, dinner 6:00 p.m., service 7:00 p.m. (April 1st)
- Zion Lutheran, Bridgeville, Pot Luck Dinner, 6:00 p.m. Lenten Service 7:00 p.m.



well hello,
march

Mark your Calendar (continued)

March (continued)

15. Open House Concordia of the South Hills, 1:00 p.m. open house followed by tours until 3:00 p.m.

16. Open House Concordia of the South Hills, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

22. Good Samaritan Hospice Memorial Services, St Luke, Cabot, 3:00 p.m.

22. Open House, Concordia Haven, Cabot, 1:00 p.m. seminar followed by tours until 3:00 p.m.

23. Open house, Concordia Haven Apartments, Cabot, Monday, March 23, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

29. Good Samaritan Hospice Memorial Services, Prince of Peace Lutheran, Freedom, 3:00 p.m.

30. Open House Concordia of the South Hills, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

April

PALM SUNDAY – APRIL 5

- Concordia Lutheran, Brentwood, 10:30 a.m.
- St. Luke Cabot, time TBA.

MAUNDAY THURSDAY – APRIL 9

- Concordia Lutheran, Brentwood, 7:30 p.m.
- St. Luke Cabot, time TBA.

GOOD FRIDAY – APRIL 10

- Concordia Lutheran, Brentwood, 7:30 p.m.
- St. Luke Cabot, time TBA

HOLY SATURDAY – APRIL 11

- St. Luke Cabot, time TBA

EASTER SUNDAY – APRIL 12

- Concordia Lutheran, Brentwood, 10:30 a.m.
- St. Luke Cabot, time TBA



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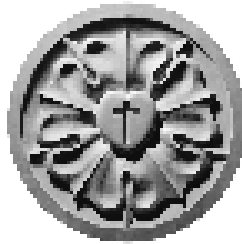
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Lent and Holy Week Services at First Trinity Church and Holy Cross Chapel
 (TC) = Trinity Church, (CR) = Chapel of the Resurrection at First Trinity in Shadyside;
 (HC) = Holy Cross Chapel in Hazelwood

Day		Matins	Divine Service	Vespers
Ash Wednesday (2/26)		9:30 AM (CR / HC)	11:00 AM (HC) 7:00 PM (TC)	
		<i>Imposition of Ashes available at all services.</i>		
Sundays in Lent		8:30 AM (CR / HC)	9:30 (HC) 11:00 AM (TC)	
Wednesdays of Lent				7:00 PM (CR / HC)
Fridays of Lent			Way of the Cross Devotional 12:00 PM (HC)	
Palm Sunday (4/5)		8:30 AM (CR / HC)	9:30 AM (HC) 11:00 AM (TC)	12:30 PM (CR / HC)
Holy Monday (4/6)		9:30 AM (CR)	7:00 PM (CR)	7:45 PM (CR)
Holy Tuesday (4/7)		9:30 AM (CR)	7:00 PM (CR)	7:45 PM (CR)
Holy Wednesday (4/8)		9:30 AM (CR)	7:00 PM (CR)	7:45 PM (CR)
Maundy Thursday (4/9)		9:30 AM (CR)	11:00 AM (HC) 7:00 PM (TC)	8:30 PM (CR)
Good Friday (4/10)	<i>Tri-One</i>	12:00 PM (TC)	1:00 PM (TC)	2:00 PM (TC)
	Devotional			7:00 PM (HC) 7:00 PM (TC) "Way of the Cross"
Holy Saturday (4/11)		8:30 AM (CR)		12:00 PM (CR)
Resurrection of our Lord	Saturday (4/11)			8:00 PM (TC) The Great Vigil
	Sunday (4/12)	8:30 AM (CR / HC)	9:30 AM (HC) 11:00 AM (TC)	

Mark your Calendar (continued)

April (continued)

- 19. Open House Concordia Haven Apartments, Cabot 1:00 p.m. seminar followed by tours until 3:00 p.m.
- 19. Open House Concordia of the South Hills, 1:00 p.m. open house followed by tours until 3:00 p.m.
- 20. Open house, Concordia Haven Apartments, Cabot, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- 20. Open House Concordia of the South Hills, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- 24. Movie Nite, Concordia Lutheran, Brentwood, 6:30 p.m.

May

- 2. Concordia Spring Fashion Luncheon, Butler Country Club, 10:00 a.m.
- 9. Concordia Annual Kids Fishing Derby, Saxony Farm Estate, 8:00 a.m.
- 12. Open House Concordia of the South Hills, 1:00 p.m. open house followed by tours until 3:00 p.m.
- 17. Open house, Concordia Haven Apartments, Cabot, 1:00 p.m. seminar followed by tours until 3:00 p.m.
- 17. Open house, Highpointe at Rebecca, Allison Park, 1:00 p.m. seminar followed by tours until 3:00 p.m.
- 18. Open house, Highpointe at Rebecca, Allison Park, 11 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- 18. Open house, Concordia Haven Apartments, Cabot, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- 18. Open House Concordia of the South Hills, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

June

- 12-14. Camp Erin Pittsburgh (Bereavement Camp for kids 6-17), YMCA Camp Kon-O-Kwee Spencer www.camperinpittsburgh.org

July

- 13. Concordia 17th Annual Golf Classic, Treesdale Golf and Country Club, 8:00 a.m.
- 26. Concordia 139th Annual Summer Festival, Cabot Campus, 12:30 p.m.

October

- 3. Concordia Oktoberfest, Cabot Campus, 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- TBA. Camp Erin Purse Gala, fall 2020



JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
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		31	
MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
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26 27 28 29 30 31	23 24 25 26 27 28 29	28 29 30 31	25 26 27 28 29 30 31
	30		
SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
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8 9 10 11 12 13 14	6 7 8 9 10 11 12	3 4 5 6 7 8 9	8 9 10 11 12 13 14
15 16 17 18 19 20 21	13 14 15 16 17 18 19	10 11 12 13 14 15 16	15 16 17 18 19 20 21
22 23 24 25 26 27 28	20 21 22 23 24 25 26	17 18 19 20 21 22 23	22 23 24 25 26 27 28
29 30	27 28 29 30 31	24 25 26 27 28 29 30	29 30 31

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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 and Your Congregation

Congregations that are members of Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries have access to several services that can be of benefit. These services are provided by our volunteer Board of Directors and are free of charge to PALM member congregations. Since PALM is an independent Recognized Service Organization of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, our services are purely advisory in nature. PALM is here for you. We encourage you to make use of these services.

Parish Consultation – a team of clergy and lay members of the Board of Directors can provide objective, third-party consultation on congregational matters related to strategic planning, financial accountability, and facilities usage.

Missions Consultation – a team of clergy and lay members of the Board of Directors can provide a one-day “flash” consultation to assess mission opportunities and potential in a geographic or specialty area that is identified by a congregation or circuit. This was recently done for the St. John Mission in Clarksburg, West Virginia and resulted in their being chartered as an LCMS congregation.

Missions Coordination – the PALM Board of Directors helps our congregations and missions across a large geographic area come together for worship, workshops, and cooperative events. Recent events and media include the annual Reformation Service, the annual Community Day in Hazelwood, *The Pittsburgh Lutheran*, and our website at www.palmpa.org.

PALM Endowment – in addition to being an excellent vehicle for building up a perpetual treasury for mission work, the PALM Endowment Fund is able to serve as a trust for assets from your congregation for future mission work. This managed fund is designed to protect principal investments while providing a revenue stream for missions grants from its earnings. If your congregation is contemplating a missions shift, downsizing, or closure, PALM encourages you to contact us first for a Parish Consultation. If the decision is finally made by your congregation to liquidate some or all of your assets, those funds may be placed in the PALM Endowment with a covenant that those funds, held in principal, be used for a future mission plant in your community or another Gospel outreach in the Pittsburgh region designated by your congregation. Meanwhile, the principal funds wait securely for that mission plant to start and help grow the earnings for ongoing LCMS missions in the Pittsburgh Area.

If you have any questions about how PALM can assist your congregation in its mission to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to your community or if you would like to schedule a consultation, please contact President Douglas Spittel at (412) 407-3306 or email to pittarealuthmin@gmail.com.

How Campus Ministry Reaches Students

by Augusta R Mennell, Campus Ministry Director

Professor Chris made me laugh. I had called him at his office at Slippery Rock University to be certain he had received the invitation to All Saints Fellowship's Korean meal this month. He said he had. Then he asked if it would be okay to surprise his sweetheart with a Happy Birthday song, since that day would be her fiftieth birthday. I smiled with delight thinking how much fun it would be to surprise her with the song and with a gift of a heart-shaped box of chocolates.

As you can imagine, she was pleased. So were a number of students and community and church members who had birthdays in February. One Asian international was openly moved by being given such an unexpected birthday wish and a beautiful box of chocolates.

Student Korean meals All Saints serves to college students are really lots of fun. Students get to eat spicy homemade dishes by Jo Dublin, a Korean-American who works on campus. She is a Christian who loves to share her cooking with students. The time students spend at the meal is relaxing. Students don't need to rush. They talk with each other about their classes and their plans for after graduation. They even have time to play ping-pong and foosball (tabletop soccer).

This mealtime is special for All Saints, too, because campus ministry gets to know the students. We invite them to come in and visit. We tell them we'd like to hear about their families and their plans for the future. It is especially satisfying to connect with students who say they used to go to church but no longer do. We invite them to come in and tell us why they no longer attend. They may have left God, but He has not left them. Campus pastor Rev. Larry K. Loree encourages students to let him know how he can help them. He lunches weekly with students on the Grove City College campus and is working to arrange such lunches with Slippery Rock University students.

The truth is that the meals are a great way to spend a Saturday evening, but the real meaning behind them is the hope of introducing students to people who want to share the Christian faith with them. Campus ministry is aware that this is an opportunity to help students deal with the danger of losing their faith. Meals at All Saints open doors to faith. We know this is true because it has happened.

Years ago, at a meal, Kenzaburo from Japan came up to me and asked if he could come to my office for time to study the Bible! It led to his baptism in church. Sorrowfully, he died after he returned home. His parents still write. The faith All Saints shared with their son has never been forgotten.

There are other ways for campus ministry to reach college student with the Gospel. We met Daphne at an SRU orientation. We invited her to come in to study the Bible once a week. She told us she had not learned much about the Bible because she had not been active in church.

CAMPUS MINISTRY

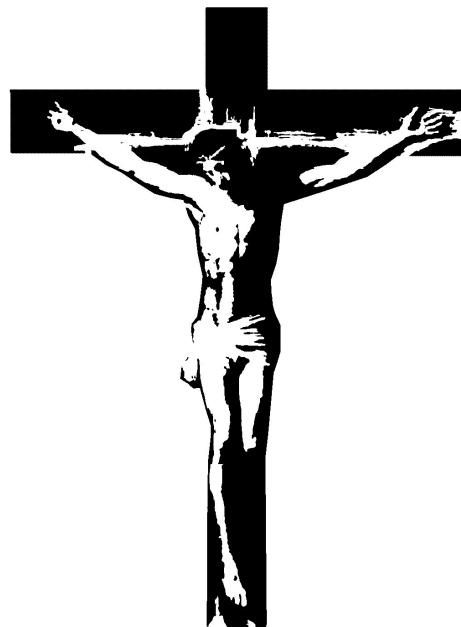
How Campus Ministry Reaches Students (continued)

by Augusta R Mennell, Campus Ministry Director

Imagine the joy we feel now that Daphne does want to study the Bible here. An even greater joy were her words telling that she has begun to read the Bible on her own beginning with Genesis.

Chris and Samantha are another example of what has been done because of SRU orientations where we met. This couple makes us smile from ear to ear. Their enthusiasm is so great that they come to study at 8:00 a.m. if the 3:30 timeslot is not available! They are having fun studying the Bible and they are growing in their faith through studying Genesis. They know why they are Christians. They are able to defend their faith. They are just another example of how valuable it is to attend the orientations to welcome students.

Campus ministry wants to help college students know what they believe. Campus ministry wants this so that students will be able to make wise choices. It's apparent from what some students say at our student meals that many did not go to church when younger or stopped going at an early age. It is becoming increasingly apparent that such students are not aware of what they believe. As a result, they are choosing people to marry with very different faiths, faiths which conflict with Christianity. Campus ministry wants to help college students to know what they believe so that even in marriage choices they can choose wisely. Please pray that we will be able to share the Gospel clearly through the student meals, student orientations, and Bible studies.



Mileposters News

Amazing temperatures reaching to 71 degrees on January 11 (breaking a 130-year record, set in 1890, of 68 degrees) allowed for a comfortable, longer training ride for the group leader on the carbon fiber single (pictured at Cumberland milepost 138.3) and an outdoor games event. Pictured are two current riders and an interested prospect. The milepost is the result of a strange sequence of events. Some time ago, the trail managers acquired some stone salvaged from the Longfellow Bridge in Boston, using it to make a series of engraved mileposts, set in concrete, between Cumberland and the Point in Pittsburgh. At the same time, they renumbered many of the original mileposts (which had showed the distance from the P&LE Station in Pittsburgh to Connellsville), to show the distance to Cumberland, even though they were each about a quarter of a mile from the new mileposts, thus saying that the distance was the same at two different places. Later on they painted a special "P&LE RR" mark on two sides of the originals, and the correct mileage to the P&LE Station on the third side, facing AWAY from the trail. Then in 2019 they decided that the new mileposts were in the wrong places, so they dug up dozens of them and repositioned them. Unaccountably, the post in this picture, 137, was not moved, but instead a plastic collar was placed around it, with "8.3" on it to cover the "7," which is still engraved into the stone. 138 was likewise changed to 139.3. At any rate, the mileage total for January was 49, breaking the previous record of 37, set in January 2017. Soli Deo Gloria.



UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Concordia Lutheran Ministries

Concordia's Good Samaritan Hospice (GSH) will hold two memorial services in memory of those who spent their final days under our care. The first service will be held at St. Luke Lutheran Church, 330 Hannahstown Road in Cabot, on Sunday, March 22, at 3 p.m. The second service will be at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 60 Rochester Road in Freedom, on Sunday, March 29, at 3 p.m. These memorial services are open to all who are dealing with grief, even if they did not have a loved one in GSH care. A reception will follow both memorial tributes. Registration is recommended. To register or receive more information, call 724-720-2557. Learn more at www.good-samaritanhospice.org.

Good Samaritan Hospice, a mission of Concordia Lutheran Ministries, will hold the first six-week group at the Chapel at the Good Samaritan Hospice Unit at Heritage Valley Beaver Hospital, 1000 Dutch Ridge Road, Beaver, PA on Wednesday, March 4, through Wednesday, April 8, from 1-3:30 p.m. The second support group will be held at Haven II, 148 Marwood Road, Cabot, PA on Thursday, April 23, through Thursday, May 28, from 10-11:30 a.m. The programs are open to the public and free to all attendees. Registration is required. Please contact Bereavement Coordinator Nikki Rosswog, MSN at 1-800-720-2557, ext. 4423 for more information.

Concordia Hospice of Washington will conduct a bereavement support group in six-week sessions on Wednesdays at the Waynesburg First Church of the Nazarene, 115 Deerfield Lane in Waynesburg at 6 p.m. The first session begins Wednesday, April 22. For more information, please call 724-250-4500, ext. 2109.

Concordia Senior Living will hold open house events at the following locations:

Concordia Haven Apartments 112 Marwood Road, Cabot Pa 16023. 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.

Highpointe at Rebecca 1871 Highpointe Lane, Allison Park, PA 15101

For more information or to register online, visit the Events and News page of our website at www.ConcordiaLM.org or call Julie Spirnock at 724-444-1521.

Concordia of the South Hills, 1300 Bower Hill Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15243

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 412-278-1351.

For dates and times, please check the "Mark your Calendar section of this issue.

NEWS FROM AREA CONGREGATIONS

Upcoming Events (continued)

Concordia Lutheran Ministries

Bethel, Glenshaw is holding a Seder Dinner on Sunday, March 29 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Reservations are necessary. Please call the church office at 412-486-5777.

To celebrate the refurbishment of its sanctuary, Zion in Lawrenceville has scheduled a Worship Service of Dedication at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 22 followed by a hors d'oeuvres reception. Call 412-621-2720 for more information.

ASCENSION LUTHERAN

McCandless

On Ash Wednesday (February 26, 2020), Ascension Lutheran Church (8225 Peebles Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237) had an Ash Wednesday service with Holy Communion. During Lent, weekly Lenten services will be held on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. with Soup and Salad Suppers before the services.

This Lent, we will be using the Eyes on Jesus Lenten Series from Concordia Publishing House which uses the metaphor of eyesight to examine how the various people in Mark's Gospel viewed Jesus during His Passion. In most cases, they misunderstood who He was and what He was doing; then again, sometimes by faith people did recognize Him correctly.

We have the forty days of Lent in which we may look within ourselves as people of faith in our day. How are we like or unlike the people who saw Jesus in the flesh?

ASCENSION LUTHERAN (continued)

McCandless

Most important, as we gather for worship, we will see what Jesus has done to save us from our sins by His holy, precious blood and innocent sufferings and death.

All are invited to join us during this Lenten journey. You may call Ascension's church office for more details (412-364-4463).

CHRIST LUTHERAN

Forest Hills

Winter Blues Luncheon

Sixteen ladies enjoyed the Winter Blues Luncheon sponsored by the Women's Service Guild of Christ Lutheran. Several new faces were welcomed at the event.



CONCORDIA LUTHERAN

Brentwood

Concordia's Lenten Wednesday theme this year is, "Peace in our time: The Peace of Christ." Beginning with our Ash Wednesday Divine Service, we will gather each Wednesday in March at 7:30 p.m., to explore this oft-neglected topic, of how the peace of Christ **IS** with us **NOW**, even as we prepare to inherit His eternal peace, in the life of the world to come. All are invited to attend - especially our fellow LCMS Lutherans who do NOT have Wednesday evening services at their congregation this Lenten season.

A great time was enjoyed at Games Night on Friday, February 21. We'll take a break from such pursuits during the Lenten season, but our Movie Nite will return on Friday, April 24, with a viewing of "The Reliant" - the recently released film about faith and survival in difficult times, starring Kevin Sorbo, Mollee Gray and Brian Bosworth. Plan to join us at 6:30 that evening!

Lenten/Easter Schedule @ Concordia-Brentwood:

3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25, 4/1 - Lenten Wednesday Services - 7:30 p.m.

4/5 - Palm Sunday Divine Service - Lord's Supper - 10:30 a.m.

4/9 - Maundy Thursday Divine Service - Lord's Supper - 7:30 p.m.

4/10 - Good Friday Tenebrae Service - 7:30 p.m.

4/12 - Easter Divine Service - Lord's Supper - 10:30 a.m.

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN

Hazelwood

Holy Cross Lutheran Chapel Update

Holy Cross Lutheran Chapel in the Hazelwood neighborhood of Pittsburgh is a preaching station of First Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. Lutherans from all over the Pittsburgh area joined Holy Cross for Choral Vespers at 4 PM on February 2. The prayer service was led by the Reverend. Douglas Spittel who is the pastor at First Trinity and Holy Cross Chapel, the Reverend. Berton Greenway preached the homily, and music was provided by Kantor Jonathan Hoyt and the choir and brass from First Trinity Lutheran Church. Prayer was offered in thanksgiving for the many blessings which our Lord has bestowed upon this mission. The feast of the Presentation of our Lord, the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and Candlemas were all observed at this Choral Vespers service.

After Vespers, Reverend. Spittel and Vicar Timothy Kern offered tours of the Holy Cross Lutheran Chapel facilities and answered questions about the history of the mission and of the building. Light refreshments were provided in the undercroft. This provided an opportunity for the members of Holy Cross to welcome and get to know their fellow Pittsburgh area Lutherans.



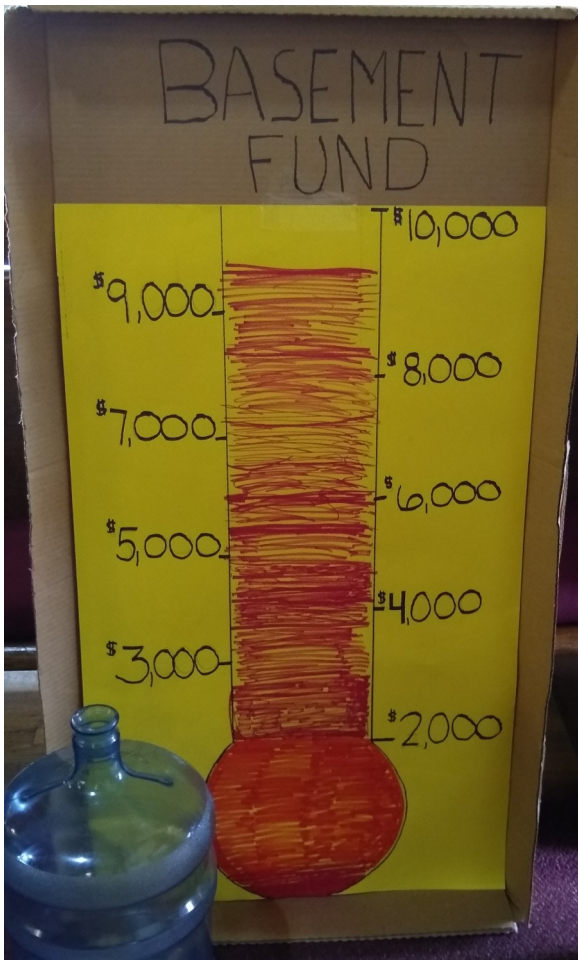
NEWS FROM AREA CONGREGATIONS

MT. CALVARY

Westview

Mt. Calvary in West View is pleased to have almost reached its goal of \$10,000 for the basement renovation fund; the collection began in summer 2018. The current total includes an anonymous \$1,000 donation by a member who commented how much the church means to him or her. The refurbishment already began last year with repairing and painting and general clean-up, but was halted on occasion by various church activities such as VBS, Oktoberfest, and the Christmas party. The work began again after the holidays, and new tables are in the process of being purchased. When the project is finished, dividers to set off areas for different classes will be bought, along with updated kitchen appliances.

While that has been underway, the Outreach Group continues to meet on Tuesday evenings. The current project is recycling Easter cards – cutting out the fronts and pasting an appropriate verse on the back, and delivering them to the folks receiving Meals on Wheels. One recipient sent a note saying how much she appreciated the thoughtfulness of the homemade Christmas gift box filled with mints.



REDEEMER LUTHERAN

Oakmont/Penn Hills

Pictured are five living pastors who have served The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer and School, Oakmont/Penn Hills, over the expanse of 42 years, 1978 to present.

Left to right: Rev. Brian Westgate (current), Rev Drs. Edward and Jonathan Naumann (missionaries with their families, respectively in Sri Lanka and The Dominican Republic and Latin America), Rev. Mark Schaefer (Seminary Student Aid Director, 1988-2002 at Redeemer), and Rev. Dr. David Stechholz (English District Bishop/President Emeritus, served Redeemer 1978-1988).

Most of them are still rostered in the English District-LCMS. The pictures are in the Concordia Theological Seminary Chapel, Fort Wayne, from which all five graduated, though the old guy started when the Seminary was in Springfield. This year marks the 40th Anniversary of the Dedication of Redeemer's House of Worship. Pastor Brian Westgate coordinated having this group picture while all of the men were present for the Lutheran Confessions Symposia.



ST LUKE, CABOT FAITH

Butler

St. Luke Lutheran Church & School has been making its presence felt in a more tangible way through the efforts of our Missionaries in Butler ministry. Missionaries in Butler or MiB as it is known, began in May of 2019 with the vision of church leaders and others who have a passion for serving the people in Butler. The team meets at St. Luke Butler twice a month to brainstorm ways to invest in the community and serve those in need.

MiB is made up of members of St. Luke Lutheran Church. People from outside the church are very welcome to get involved with this ministry. You can contact MiB by emailing lsalsgiver@gmail.com. Some of the ways MiB is getting involved is by holding a Trunk or Treat for the children in the area and hosting the second annual "Thanks for the Brave" free thanksgiving dinner at St. Luke Butler in November. The "Thanks for the Brave" event is a good opportunity to thank those veterans who have served, some of whom may have never been thanked and may feel forgotten.

MiB recently participated in a "sock drive" for seniors. They collected 160 pairs of socks in one week, in support of the efforts of Butler radio and Meals on Wheels.

There will be a first ever Easter Egg Hunt on April 4th. Lori is anticipating hiding about 1000 eggs and distributing "goodie bags" filled with treats and Christian coloring books to the children. MiB is partnering with CCR and the South Side Playground Group to host this event. Donated filled eggs or candy will be happily accepted at St. Luke Cabot or Butler.

ST LUKE, CABOT FAITH (continued)

Butler

MiB has taken a special interest in Father Marinaro Park. There are many parks in the Butler area, but this particular park seemed to have been forgotten.

One of the ways our missionaries have tried to reach the community is through free year-round lunches on the fourth Saturday of every month in Father Marinaro Park, according to a member of the MiB team, Lori Salsgiver. There are community meals throughout the week, but MiB felt there was a void on the weekends and is trying to help fill the need. People do not have to be directly from the Butler area to come to the lunches. Lori said that talking with the guests and building relationships is one of the ways they serve the area. Any leftover food from the lunches is donated to Robin's House, a home for homeless female veterans.

MiB is working with community leaders of Butler and the South Side Playground Group to plan activities in the park and serve the people in the area as well as exploring fundraising ideas to update the park. They want to put in cameras to help re-energize the park and make it a place where people will gather for fellowship and children will want to come and play. Lori's hope is that the people in the community will realize that MiB is truly invested in the community.

There are lots of plans for the community. The leaders hope to host summer movies in the park and sports camps this year. Go to the MiB facebook page for more information and dates as summer draws nearer.

<https://www.facebook.com/stlukecabot/photos/p.684886741936910/684886741936910/?type=1&theater>

CONCORDIA NEWS

Concordia Offers a Free Speakers Bureau

Experts from the Concordia Lutheran Ministries staff provide an extensive speakers Bureau free of charge to our churches. Topics include Planning for Long-Term Care, Understanding the Difference Between Hospice and Palliative Care, Health and Wellness, Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease Education, Medicare Managed Care and many more. If you are interested in scheduling a speaker for your group, call the Speakers Bureau Coordinator Cheryl Aughton at 724-487-4656 or email caughton@concordialm.org at least four weeks in advance. Please include time, date, location, size of group and any other important information.

Volunteering and Its Surprising Benefits

Volunteering can help you make friends, learn new skills and even help you stay healthy. Concordia Lutheran Ministries provides various opportunities to volunteer at a location near you. One on one interaction can benefit you and our seniors. Perhaps you would be willing to help transport residents to worship service or read to them, spend an hour just visiting with them. Concordia also has two programs that may be the right fit for you - Angels on Call and TeleCaregivers. Contact Shirley Freyer at 412-480-9933 or sfreyer@concordialm.org to learn more about these programs or connect you to the activities directors at our communities.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Oakmont/Penn Hills

The basketball season is well under way here at Redeemer; our teams for upper elementary and middle school have been playing very well. The middle school girls team travelled to Cleveland in January to take part in a weekend tournament, placing 3rd out of 15 teams! It was an excellent experience for them. The middle school girls also had the opportunity to serve on the North side of Pittsburgh with members of the Rhema Christian basketball team. They helped pass out food, hygiene products, clothes and bedding to the homeless. Thank you to Mr. John Driscoll and Athletic Director Nathan Loewe for coaching and organizing these teams and their opportunities. We are looking forward to the middle school playoffs!

Redeemer's first official boys bowling team completed their season in early February. They are looking forward to celebrating their first season and first win with a family bowling match in the weeks to come. Thanks to coach Barbara McGearry and athletic director Nathan Loewe for working with the team and arranging the opportunities for the season! We look forward to the program growing in the years to come.

National Lutheran Schools Week was celebrated January 26-January 31. Students at Redeemer sported their favorite athletic team gear, wore crazy shoes and socks, dressed as their favorite heroes and tacky tourists, put on their school colors for school spirit day, and competed in the annual Penny Wars, with winning class receiving a pizza party, and all of the proceeds going to the Lutheran Hour Ministries Mongolia Project. The week culminated with a luau family dance on Friday evening, with all admission proceeds also going to support the Mongolia project. It was a wonderful week of celebrating Redeemer Lutheran School and Lutheran education around the world!

On February 1st, the middle school Robotic Rams competed in the VEX IQ competition in Wexford.

The team took second in team competition, received the top excellence award and finished first in driving skills and programming. They continue on in regional competition on February 21. Congratulations to the team and to robotics coach Mrs. Schumacher; we look forward to news of the next competition!

On February 10, our 8th graders became thespians for a day, as they participated in the 2020 Shakespeare Scene and Monologue Contest at the O'Reilly Theater in Pittsburgh. Students performed a Shakespearean scene from memory onstage before their classmates, family members, and a panel of judges. As one might guess, it is a challenging experience, and our students performed very well! Thank you, as always, to Mr. Driscoll for arranging this annual experience, and to those at the O'Reilly Theater for organizing this event.

For Valentine's Day, RLHS National Honor Society members once again provided the opportunity for the Redeemer school family to purchase flower and candy grams! Students, parents and school staff sent encouraging notes with flowers and candy to friends, classmates and colleagues. A portion of the proceeds from the grams will be shared with Pastor Jonathan and Deaconess Cheryl Naumann for their mission work in the Dominican Republic.

Looking ahead:

Enrollment is now open for all grades. Contact Alison Jackson at 412-793-5884 or admissions@redeemer-oakmont.org for more information on Redeemer's programs for preschool through 12th grade.

School-wide Education Fair & Open House, Saturday, March 21, 9:00-11:30 a.m. This event is open to the community; all are invited to visit! Redeemer presents the musical *Annie*, Friday & Saturday, April 23rd & 24th. Tickets available to the public soon; contact the school office at 412-793-5884 for more details!



**CONCORDIA LUTHERAN MINISTRIES
2020 FASHION LUNCHEON**

Pearls and Lace

Saturday, May 2, 2020

Butler Country Club

310 Country Club Lane, Butler, PA 16002

10 a.m.

\$40

**10 a.m. - Registration, Basket Auction, Mystery Bags and Shopping
(clothes and accessories)**

11:45 a.m. - Lunch

Chicken Romano, Twice Baked Potatoes, Glazed Baby Carrots and Triple Layer Lemon Shortcake

1 p.m. - Basket Auction announcements

\$40 per ticket

Tables of 10: \$400

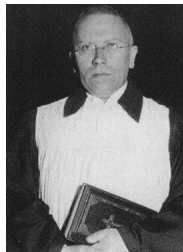
Valet Parking

Please call 724-352-1571, ext. 8355 to make your reservation or go online at give.concordialm.org, click GIVE NOW and select "Events." Seating is limited and available by RSVP and advance payment only. No tickets will be sold at the door. Please make checks payable to: CLM Foundation and send to: 134 Marwood Road, Cabot, PA 16023

All proceeds benefit the Concordia Lutheran Ministries Good Samaritan Endowment Fund, providing charitable care to residents and patients in need.

2020 St. Mark's Conference

"The Life and Works of Hermann Sasse"



The Saint Mark's Conference concerns the confessional, sacramental, and liturgical life of the Church of the Augsburg Confession.

Student, pastor, scholar, teacher, and confessor, Hermann Sasse (1895-1976) is recognized as one of the leading voices of confessional Lutheranism in the 20th century...For him, to be a loyal Lutheran was to be a catholic Christian, heir to all the treasures of the church. His historical perspective blended with his confessional integrity won him the respect of Lutheran, Catholic, and Reformed alike. – Norman E. Nagel (1925-2019)

Speakers for the conference:

The Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison
President of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
The Rev. Dr. John T. Pless
Assistant Professor of Pastoral Ministry and Missions
Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana

The conference will begin with Divine Service at 11:00 A.M. on Monday, April 20 and end with Prayer for Travelers the afternoon of Tuesday, April 21

The St. Mark's Conference is hosted by Our Saviour Lutheran Church and her pastor, the Rev. Charles McClean.

For more information and registration, please go to oursaviourbaltimore.org/conference.