



THE PITTSBURGH LUTHERAN

VOL 98, NO 3, April 2021

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PALM DEVOTION

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

“We Believe in the Resurrection of the Body and the Life Everlasting”

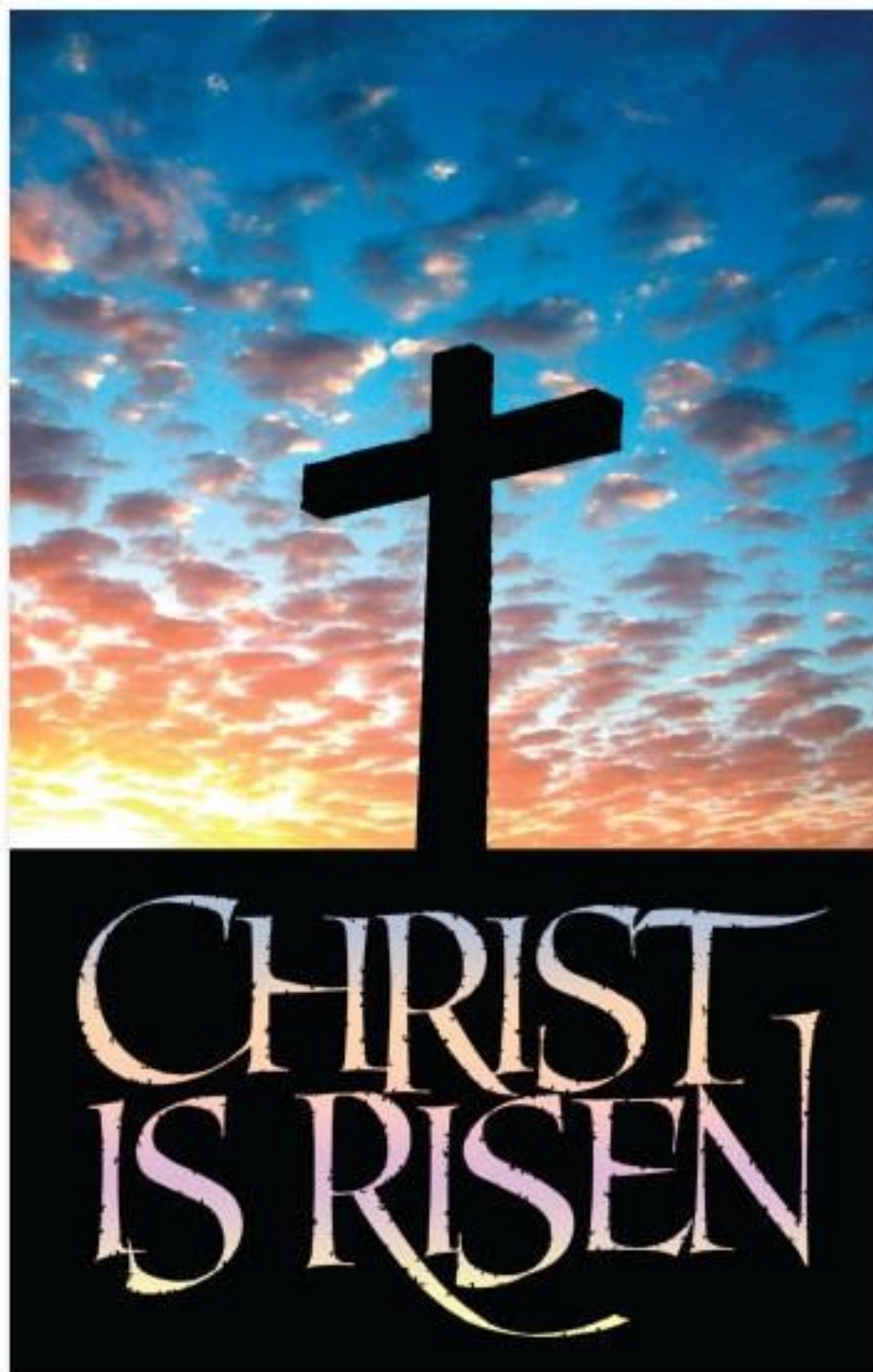
But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. (Philippians 3:7-11)



The Easter greeting, “Christ is Risen!” and its response, “He is risen, indeed!” (or, “Truly, He is Risen!”) is our joyous confession of faith in the season when we celebrate Jesus’ victory over death and the grave. Lest we confine this confession to the status of “once upon a time,” let us remember that this is our victory also. Jesus did not rise from the dead simply to prove that He could. Nor did He do so as some cosmic theological exercise to beat the Devil. Jesus rose bodily from the dead for us! As much as He gave His life as a sacrifice for our sin, He also rose from the dead in the flesh as the assurance of our hope in His promise of life everlasting.

While the world without Christ hopes, at best, for some spiritual afterlife as an angel or disembodied spirit in an ethereal “heaven,” Christians have the full and hearty hope that Jesus’s life, death, and resurrection restore and reconcile all of creation to the Father. *For it pleased the Father that in Jesus all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. (Colossians 1:19-20)* As human beings, God created us with a reasonable soul and human flesh subsisting and so Jesus also took upon Himself the fullness of our humanity to redeem each of us entirely, in body and soul. Jesus rose to be the “*firstborn from the dead*” (*Colossians 1:18, Revelation 1:5*) to assure us that we, too, shall rise from the dead with our bodies, cleansed from every taint of sin and made perfect forever.

When we exclaim “Christ is risen!” and respond, “He is risen, indeed!” we are rejoicing and saying that Christ is risen and we shall rise, indeed! *“For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.” (1 Thessalonians 4:14)* Jesus’ resurrection reduces death to little more than a sleep for us. We fear it no more than we do going to bed at night. Each night, we expect to rise from sleep in the morning. In Christ, we expect to rise from death on the last day. How can we be so bold and face death with such bravado? We do so in the sure and certain hope of human life, body and soul, in Christ Jesus, who died for us, forgives us all our sin, and is truly risen from the dead!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

APRIL

1. Maundy Thursday, Ascension Lutheran, McCandless, 7:00 p.m.

1. Maundy Thursday, Concordia Lutheran, Brentwood, 7:30 p.m.

2. Good Friday, Ascension Lutheran, McCandless, 7:00 p.m.

2. Good Friday Tenebrae Service, Concordia Lutheran, Brentwood, 7:30 p.m.

4. Easter Sunday, Ascension Lutheran, McCandless, 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Reservations suggested

4. Easter Divine Service, Concordia Lutheran, Brentwood, 10:30 a.m.

11. Tri-parish Stations of the Resurrection, Bethel, Glenshaw, 3:00 p.m. See Upcoming Special Events for details

22-24. Redeemer Lutheran School presents the musical "Annie" (watch party)

24. P.A.L.g.S Golf Outing, Victory Hills, Elizabeth, PA, 9:00 a.m. (Next Golf Outing 9/25/21, more info to follow)

JULY

12. CLM Golf Classic, Treesdale Golf & Country Club Times TBA



CALENDAR NOTE: DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THAT ANY OF THE SCHEDULED EVENTS MAY BE CANCELLED OR POSTPONED. PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL CHURCH FOR UPDATES.WE PRAY THAT ALL OF YOU ARE SAFE AND HEALTHY.



The Pittsburgh Lutheran

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<http://www.palmpa.org>

CAMPUS MINISTRY

SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY

by Augusta R. Mennell, Campus Ministry Director

Going Like Hotcakes

Ever since covid hit a year ago All Saints Lutheran Church and Student Center has been searching for new ways to connect with college students attending Slippery Rock University, Grove City College, and Westminster University. Campus ministry continues to make personal phone calls, sends emails, and takes students out for lunch. We've also recently discovered a wonderful additional way to meet students' needs! We are now giving them very readable and very topical Christian books to read and to keep. Who would've thought that books would go like hotcakes?

Campus pastor Rev. Larry K. Loree shares a book called Man Up: the Quest for Masculinity, by Jeffrey Hemmer (CPH). He believes that this book is so worth reading that he may require it to be read by all the men he meets with, especially those who come for pre-marital counseling with their fiancées. He wishes this book had been available when he prepared for marriage. Man Up helps men to "discover what it really means to be a man." Several copies are on our bookshelves to give to men as well as to anyone who might be interested.

The book Ladylike: Living Biblically, by Rebecca Curtis and Rosa Adler (CPH) challenges ladies to think outside the box; to rethink the "me first" culture. Ladylike talks about what comes first for the Christian woman: marriage, career, children. Men might find this interesting, too.

Portals of Prayer (January-March) has a full-sized ad for a book called Speaking Boldly: Sharing God's Word Every Day, by Edward Grimenstein. The author is the father of Anna, who attends Westminster College and attends All Saints worship when a ride is available. Campus ministry ordered several copies to give to students. It is an excellent book because Rev. Grimenstein writes with great enthusiasm in urging students to share the Gospel boldly. He knows just how to encourage students not to be afraid to share their faith in Jesus or to share all the Bible truths about gender, marriage, and the sacredness of life for all ages. He assures students that they should and can speak about God no matter if what they say runs counter to popular ideas held by their peers.

Light in the Dark Belt, by Rosa Young (CPH) is so gripping that even college students, who normally don't have much time to read, will not be able to stop reading her story.



College students visit Pastor Seaver. They are holding the books All Saints gave to them.

CAMPUS MINISTRY

The February Portals of Prayer, written by Christine S. Weerts, talked about the wonderful work done by Rosa with the help of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. The story is priceless because it shows what was accomplished with so little money, but with inspired effort. Rosa was fiercely devoted to helping children in Alabama who had almost nothing to be able to get an education. They didn't have shoes, running water, or even a comb to comb their hair with. They had hours and hours of work every day, yet could afford very little food. The poverty did not overwhelm this remarkable woman. She did not see poor children, she saw children who belong to God, and she was determined to help them.

Rosa's story is so magnificent because she prayed endlessly; always asking God for His will to be done. The story is very special because she does not play the blame game; she worked endless hours, sleeping very little, and giving all the little money she had to buy books and to build schools. Most of all, she fell in love with the teaching of the Lutheran Church and her pastors. She established schools which taught the ABCs and most of all which taught the Bible and Luther's Small Catechism.

Rosa Young does not waste time with bitterness. She just inspires with her trust in God, love for children, and her passion for pure doctrine which taught her students the unconditional love God has for them.

Many copies of this book will go into the hands of students. And when Covid ends All Saints will continue to encourage college students with books which will build up their faith. What a blessing to pass on such books.



LUTHERAN STUDENT FELLOWSHIP OF PITTSBURGH

by Pastor Eric R. Andrae, Campus Chaplain



CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE

“The Atheist Who Became a Bishop” - Bo Giertz is a Unique, Broad, & Deep Voice North Americans Need to Hear.

June 14-16, 2021, Grace Lutheran Church, Auburn, Michigan
Course begins at Noon on Monday and will end Wednesday afternoon

Instructor - The Rev. Eric R. Andrae

See this **NEW LINK** for all the details, including registration information.

<https://www.ctsfw.edu/ctsfw-events/continuing-education/auburn-michigan/>

Please help spread the word! Thanks.

Pastor Eric R. Andrae, Campus Chaplain
[Lutheran Student Fellowship of Pittsburgh](#) (LSF) & First Trinity Church
Instagram: LSF_Pittsburgh
Facebook: LSFofPGH
[Donate](#) to Campus Ministry



LOCAL MISSION

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHAPEL

Hazelwood

“To beautify the house of the LORD”: Holy Cross’ Enhancement Project #1
by Vicar Silas Hasselbrook

In the book of Ezra, Ezra himself is not mentioned until near the end. Before he came, the Jewish people had been sent back with King Cyrus’ approval. Amidst much work and some opposition and setbacks, the altar and the Temple were rebuilt and dedicated. The Jewish people had returned to their land. They were present in Israel once more.

Ezra was sent, not so much for the sake of rebuilding, but for appointing various people to various positions to govern the people, and to teach the people the Law of the LORD and what obedience to it entails. It is after the letter from King Artaxerxes that commands Ezra to go and lead his people that Ezra says: “Blessed be the LORD, the God of our fathers, who put such a thing as this into the heart of the king, to beautify the house of the LORD that is in Jerusalem...” (7:27).

While the return of the exiles to Israel is not quite the same as our situation at Holy Cross, there are some similarities. There is a strong LCMS presence in Hazelwood where there previously had been none. Part of that burgeoning presence has been the acquisition of a church building on the corner of Second Avenue and Mansion Street. And many efforts and hours of work have gone into beautifying the house of the LORD that is in Hazelwood.

This article will be the first of many that describe such projects of renovation and enhancement. In the final article of the series, I will provide before and after pictures of each project, with brief descriptions. But in this article the focus is the Sunday School room and Nursery area.

During my first week of vicarage, Pastor Spittel assigned me the duty of fixing up the Sunday School room and Nursery area. The walls in both rooms were painted yellow and needed another coat, not to mention that many areas had a bubble-effect going on due to water damage. The small Sunday School area was partitioned into even smaller portions by a divider. More space was needed, and the walls needed new paint and repairs. Further, other projects in the church started to find their temporary storage area in the Sunday School room. Large pipes from a pipe organ I found were stacked along the walls. Then the organ blower and its motor found a home. Then the Christmas Toy Drive overflow was placed in that area.

It was in February, a week before my wife and I took vacation, that things in my schedule and space in the rooms cleared up enough for us to start work. Before I describe all this work, I need to thank my dear wife, Moira, who helped me with most of the work, and knows quite a bit more about painting than I. Without her help and careful eye, the project would not look half as good. And without her willingness to help, it would have taken twice as long.

In my first month of vicarage, I had recruited John, our expert maintenance man, and our acolyte, Tyler, to assist me in tearing down the partition in the Sunday School room. We did that in short order, sanded the places on the walls where the wood had been and applied primer. We put primer on other parts of the wall that needed it. Then the project stopped for a few months. I was still getting acclimated to vicarage, then Advent and Christmas came.

LOCAL MISSION

With the walls complete, we started to rearrange the room. Old bulletins boards were thrown out, and a big new one was ordered. The old chalkboard, that had gashes in it, was tossed and a large, new whiteboard was ordered. We are also going to purchase a television and mount it on a wall, not just for educational content for kids (when needed), but also for congregational or Adult Bible Study instruction. Our Sunday School teacher, Anna, has plans of putting some paintings on the walls and books on the shelves.

My wife and I arranged four bookshelves in a corner for a little library. Two of those bookshelves we had stained and glossed. We pulled children's books down from the attic, tossed the bad, and kept the good. If you would like to donate wholesome children's books, religious or otherwise, we still have plenty of room!

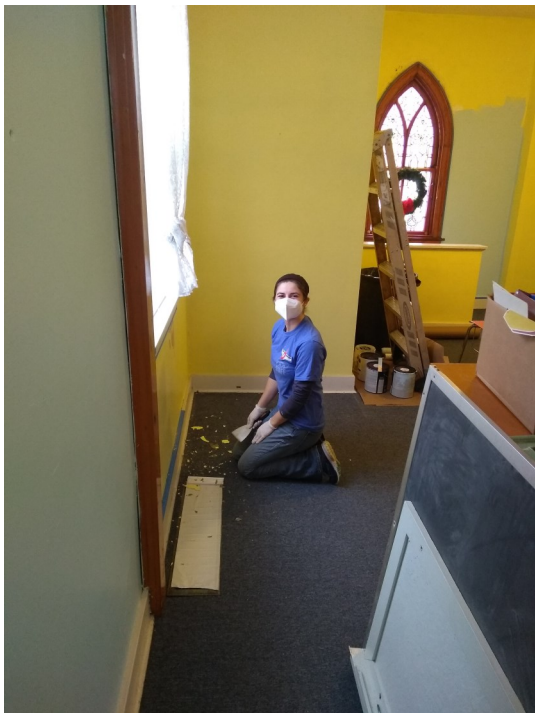
The Sunday School room and Nursery area look much better. It is a wonderful setting for our small but growing Sunday School class. Let us pray that it becomes the setting for many generations of children to be nourished in the instruction and admonition of the Lord. Let us pray that it gives our children a place to be formed into the image of Christ, to build upon the foundation that is Jesus so that they may weather the storms and confusion of the world and the devil. Let it be a place where friendships are formed and little souls are edified.

Any project at Holy Cross is a collaboration. Pastor Spittel gave impetus and wisdom; Leigh helped with the paint color; John instructed us how best to stain and paint; Moira was my partner in painting, displayed a keen eye, and would often paint by herself until I could join; Tyler helped with demolition and painting; his sisters Maia and Shay helped paint too; Anna provided suggestions and support for further improving the rooms; and the support of PALM and various donations helped us get it done. I also gained some useful knowledge and experience about staining wood and painting and repairing walls. But in the end, the collaborative efforts of all the people involved had one goal: to beautify the house of the LORD! And this project, with God's blessing, did just that.



LOCAL MISSION

It was after months of walking into my office and seeing an unfinished project and pseudo-hieroglyphics of white primer on a yellow wall that I decided it was time to get going. Initially, we were just going to put another coat of yellow on the walls. However, we decided that a softer, nicer color was better suited to the purpose of the rooms. I consulted Pastor's wife, Leigh Spittel, who specializes in interior design, and she sent me a few suggestions of good, light blue paint to use.



During one of his runs to Home Depot to obtain supplies for other projects, John picked up 3 gallons of the paint, and set my wife and I up with various supplies for painting: rollers, brushes, paint pans, plastic and cardboard to lay on the floor, painter's tape, and ladders.

I would work on my administrative and theological responsibilities during the first half of the day, then after lunch would paint until about 8:30 in the evening with my wife. It was actually pretty enjoyable at first. We listened to music, chatted, and joked around with each other while we painted. But the long days prompted us to finish the project soon. And besides, we had listened to the soundtracks of *Guardians of the Galaxy* and *Momma Mia* a few too many times.

It took nearly a week to complete. We removed all the boards from the walls, taped the edges, and laid down the plastic and cardboard. We scraped the water damage puckering off the walls, applied Plaster of Paris to all the holes, and applied primer. After running out of the 3 gallons of paint, we bought one more in order to have put two coats of paint on all the walls in the Nursery and Sunday School. My wife repainted the floor trim and door borders white. I touched up any persistent yellow edges that showed near the ceiling.

and door borders white. I touched up any persistent yellow edges that showed near the ceiling.

It felt good to look around at the room. The color was soft and gentle to the eyes, not as piercing as the previous yellow color. This certainly complements the intended use of the rooms as areas for little children to learn, or maybe sleep and nurse. I half-jokingly hoped that the color would make the kids in my catechesis class a bit more calm. That didn't quite pan out. But we did get them to help us with a little painting!



LOCAL MISSION

Mileposters News

The snow was still flying when this article was begun--the groundhog's revenge, followed by more cold nights. But activities were taking place to kick off the season, and miles have been accumulating for the 2021 campaign to raise support for LCMS ministry in Puerto Rico, 1,086 to date, by the group leader and two trail moms, nearly four times as many as at this time last year. Soli Deo Gloria. Another trail mom has expressed interest in joining us this year; she has three kids to be stokers.



Our two newest riders are twin 6-year-old boys, Elijah and Aaron (they will turn 7 in May). On March 7 they were checked for fit on one of our 20-inch tandems (pictured).

Although we are a tandem bicycle club, we keep a single or two around for use as needed. One of them, an aluminum-framed bike donated by Delores Hauser, longtime principal at St. Matthew, is being brought out of storage for use this season. It made one trip all the way to Washington, DC and participated in two others. It is pictured, along with a tandem and the triplet, at Buena Vista, PA, on June 19, 2006, first day of ten on that sodden ride to the nation's capital.



HOUSES OF WORSHIP SERIES

Our Houses of Worship

By Shirley Freyer

Christ Lutheran Church, Oil City
1029 Grandview Road, Oil City, PA 16301
814-677-4484
Rev. David Oester, Pastor



Of the 14 pastors who have served Christ Lutheran Church in Oil City, only one other than the beloved Herman Bielenberg has served longer than the current pastor, Rev. David

Oester. Pastor Oester was ordained at Zion Lutheran Church in Accident, Maryland on July 13, 2008, following his graduation from Concordia Seminary in Ft. Wayne. Installed at Christ, the following Sunday, he has remained in the area where Edwin Drake drilled the first oil well in 1859 and sparked the petroleum business in the United States.

Little did the son of a farmer and employee of the Oester Brother's Feed Store in Garrett County imagine himself called to do the Lord's work. He had chosen maintenance technology at Garrett College following high school and was ensconced in the operations of his family's two farms as well as the feedstore that was owned by his father and his cousin Jim's father. But the Lord had other plans as He did for his older cousin, Jim who graduated from Ft. Wayne 13 years before. Pastor David was one of the early non-traditional pastoral students.

"How the Lord shapes you in times and events to prepare you to do what He created you for," said Pastor Oester, "well, it's amazing." Much like Moses, he admits, "I can't do it; I can't stand up in a pulpit and preach but here I am."

He has developed a ministry where he can use his knowledge as "Mr. Fix-it" to help his elderly members. Former organist Adeline Kay said he helps everybody. At 94, she still lives in her own home of 60 years. Although she no longer drives, she remembers how the pastor came and fixed her car. Or late one Saturday night he was called when a furnace pilot light went out.

"The Lord places you where He needs you to be and gives us gifts to use for our fellow men," Pastor said. "I remember the song I learned from my Sunday School teacher, Velma Bicker, wife of our pastor as a young boy, "They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love."

And the community in Oil City is learning more every day about Christ since the pandemic. Quickly they developed a Facebook page and are working on building a new website. Plans for a men's group were put on hold. But the congregants have always been mindful of outreach. The women's group continues a blanket and quilt ministry as well as a quarterly mission project for the Pregnancy Crises Center in Franklin and the Christmas collection of gift cards for seminary students and deaconesses at Concordia in Ft. Wayne.

Adeline, one of the oldest current members, was baptized by Rev. Bielenberg who has a special place in the church's "Hall of Fame" having supervised the production of LCMS's first sound motion picture, *The Call of The Cross*. His son is one of five other "sons and daughters" who served in the Christian ministry. Others are Rev. Rudi Lenser, Rev. William Kay (related to Adeline's husband), Rev. Michael Heckathorn and Deaconess Brenda Gold Olson,

HOUSES OF WORSHIP SERIES

After 50 years on the bench, Adeline retired as organist and choir director at age 80. Her grandfather helped with the original church on Seneca Street. It was a busy place in 1898 with Pennzoil and Quaker State refineries developing. A group of German Lutherans met in a former armory building until the new church opened in April of 1903 and all services and confirmation classes were conducted in German until around 1915 according to the published church history. By 1936 however, only English prevailed. A committee was established in 1959 to relocate as growth was so rapid, expansion was necessary. Property was purchased on Hasson Heights above the city and the cornerstone was laid on Reformation Day in 1965. Architect Moll built the church in the shape of an ark with a free-standing altar. The statue of Christ in the original building was brought to the new church despite damage to his fingers. Coincidentally, his lost fingers were restored by a local art teacher.

Christ Church added a pre-school in 1995 which is currently closed.

About 70 percent of the current members are third and fourth generation relatives of early church parishioners. Adeline noted that the church was “our main thing. Our lives were wrapped around the church.” She laughed, “At one time I was practically related to everyone.” She and her late husband Chuck went to confirmation together, belonged to Walther League and sang in the choir. (He also belonged to a barbershop quartet.)

“The one big plus is how much we care about each other,” concluded Adeline. While Adeline lives in Rocky Grove, ten miles from the church, one of the families picks her up each Sunday so she can worship in person. “They are my church family and I love them all,” said the great-great grandmother of 4, great grandma of 35 and grandmother of 12, who still plays 500 in the church card club.

Current organist Cathy Kluck played the pipe organ for 53 years, she related, having started by playing a postlude when she was 14. In addition, the retired Speech-Language pathologist has been a Sunday school teacher and the church gardener. Cathy was delighted to mention that, “My grandchildren, children, parents, grandparents, and great grandparents have attended Christ Lutheran.” Adeline said, “She’s the best organist in this area!”



Built by contract in 1910, the organ was electrified in 1966 and remains a prized possession along with the large stain glass window according to recording secretary, Karen Holquist. A legacy member, she grew up in the church and is part of the family of original founders. In addition to the strength of family focus, Karen believes Christ Lutheran Church’s strength is the “preaching based on Scripture and what we stand for. I feel the greatest blessing is to be a part of a church that is active.”

Members are looking forward to Sunday School reopening as well as “Cookie Sunday.” The first Sunday of each month, members enjoy cookies and fellowship after worship. Sometimes Pastor even makes ice cream. “It’s a time to build relationship and strengthen the already existing bonds,” he said.

A favorite memory shared by all is the Fish for Fun event. Members built a pond. “People from the community planned their vacations around it. One year, Pastor McCants from Pittsburgh also attended the event and marveled at the wonderful memories this event would leave in the minds of the children,” Pastor Oester reminisced.

HOUSES OF WORSHIP SERIES

Oldest member, Betty Hoover is homebound but to keep her involved, this family-oriented congregation takes the weekly bulletins to her so she can fold them before the pandemic. Betty served for many years taking care of office duties, preparing worship bulletins, and ordering the special flowers for Christmas and Easter. She had also been a Sunday School teacher and a member of the Ladies Aid group. As a long-time resident of Hasson Heights, Betty recalls when the current church property was part of a large farm.

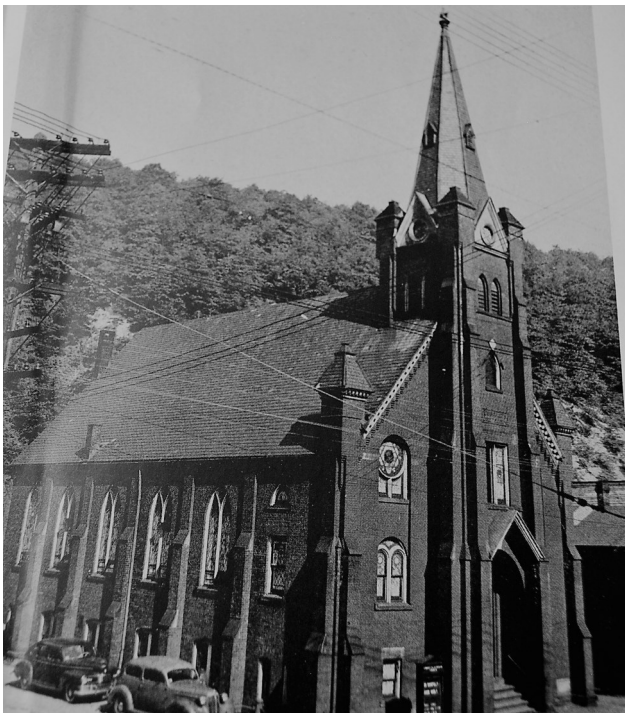
“Our mission is to proclaim Christ to the community around us through word and deed and to advance the mission of proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ to the world,” said president Tom Flinspach. To that mission, Tom has been instrumental in updating the church's sound system and website in an effort to expand online outreach.

“Our members are very supportive of church events, outreach, and financially.” Tom noted.

“We have established quarterly mission outreaches that we support through member giving that vary from year to year. The Church sets aside 10% of our budgeted receipts for mission work, in which 4% goes in support of our district and 2% goes in support of various needs in our surrounding committee. The remaining 4% is used as matching funds in support of our quarterly mission outreaches,” he explained.

As a result of tithing our budgeted receipts, we have been able to meet and exceed our expenses. It is truly amazing what trusting in the Lord will do, as it says in Malachi 3: 10. It is truly amazing in that even through the trials of dealing with Covid 19 we were able to exceed our budget needs, and this was a blessing from God,” he said.

Already, plans are formulating for the 125th anniversary in 2023 continuing to further the theme “Present Christ to All People,” according to Karen.



SCHOOL NEWS

REDEEMER LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Oakmont / Penn Hills

<http://rlspittsburgh.org/>

Spring is upon us! RLS is enjoying the milder temps, the longer hours of daylight, and the joy of celebrating the resurrection of our Lord Jesus.

Basketball season wrap-up

Congratulations to all of our basketball teams on finishing their season strong. Thank you to all of the coaches for a great season!

Middle School Girls

The girls finished first place in the Greater Pittsburgh Division of the SWCAC. After a first-round bye, they lost to Portersville Christian in the semifinals. Anika Vanwyk, Bianca Loewe, Grace Mancilla-Balog, and Alexis Bansah were selected to play in the All-Star Fellowship Game. Anika Vanwyk won the 3-point contest at the competition.

Middle School Boys

The boys finished second place in the Greater Pittsburgh Division of the SWCAC. The boys lost to Central Christian in the quarterfinals of the playoffs. Garrett Myers and Noah Susek were selected to play in the All-Star Fellowship game.

High School Boys

The boys competed in the Southwestern PA Athletic Association league, the first Redeemer Boys basketball team to be in a league! Battling illness, snow days, and crazy schedules, the boys worked hard and finished in 5th place after the 8-game league schedule. They lost a tough game to Calvary Chapel in the first round of the playoffs. Jesse Vanwyk and Christian Loewe were named all-league for their performance in the regular season. The team was able to play in the Bible Baptist Invitational Tournament, stunning Bible Baptist in the first round and losing a hard-fought game to First Baptist in the Championship game, earning them 2nd place. Jesse Vanwyk was awarded the team MVP trophy for the tournament.



RLS Teacher spotlight: Mrs. Dana Tews, 3rd grade teacher

Hometown: Kalispell, Montana

Education: Bachelors from Concordia University Chicago and Masters from Concordia University Nebraska

Interesting work experiences: 1st grade teacher, 2nd grade teacher, and now 3rd grade teacher

Family: Husband Zach Tews

Hobbies: Sports, both watching and playing, playing card and board games, outdoors, reading books

Other curious facts about me: I've lived in 6 states: Montana, Utah, Nebraska, Florida, Illinois, and now Pennsylvania.

SCHOOL NEWS

ZION LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

Bridgeville

As you can see from the pictures, our students are hard at work and play. As we approach the month of March we are getting closer and closer to the end of the year. In many ways, this year has flown by, and in many other ways it has been a long year, but all in all a fantastic year!

We have been so fortunate to have had in-person instruction since September... since July if you count our summer camps. But now its time for parents to decide whether or not to send their 5 year old child to Kindergarten. Each February we assess the children who are being considered for Kindergarten so we can give parents an accurate picture of their progress and readiness.

We use an assessment from "Get Set for School" which is part of the Handwriting Without Tears program we use in all of our classes . It teaches developmentally appropriate pre-writing and pre-reading techniques for ages 3-5. The assessment is divided into two sections: Language and Literacy and Numbers and Math. The Language and Literacy sections include recognizing both upper and lower case letters, describing and comparing objects, rhyming, and language progression development. The Numbers and Math section includes naming shapes, rote counting, identifying numbers, object counting, positions (top, middle, bottom), ordinal numbers, size, patterning, and measuring. Once the assessments are completed and scored, the results are then reviewed privately with parents to help them make the best decision for their child...to send to Kindergarten or stay another year at Zion for one of our transition classes.

As we continue to make preparations for the next school year, and as we evolve as a school to meet the needs of all children, please keep us in your prayers.



NEWS FROM AREA CONGREGATIONS

ASCENSION LUTHERAN

McCandless

Ascension Lutheran Church (8225 Peebles Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237) is continuing the *Return to the Lord* Lenten Series from Concordia Publishing House. We look forward to reflecting on Jesus' death and celebrating His resurrection during Holy Week with Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services at 7:00 p.m. culminating with our Easter Sunday services at 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. Please RSVP for Easter Sunday services at 412-364-4463 or secretary@ascensionpgh.com.



CHRIST LUTHERAN

Forest Hills

www.christlutheranfh.org, [Facebook](#), YouTube: [Christ Lutheran Church Forest Hills PA](#)

With everything that has gone on in the last year it is time we get together. SOCIAL DISTENCING OF COURSE. So, the 75th P.A.L.g.S. golf outing is on. Since this is a special milestone there will be special prizes and activities. Many of you have participated in the past. We have appreciated your support and look forward to seeing you again. We are also excited about seeing any new golfers that wish to join us. We hope to have 75 plus golfers. So, we need YOU.

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, April 24, 2021**. It will be held at Victory Hills Golf Course in Elizabeth, PA with a **9:00 a.m. SHOT GUN** start, a hot dog at the turn, and a buffet dinner afterwards with prizes. The cost is **\$80.00 per person**. Please call to sign up 412-271-7173. We would like to have as many golfers as possible and have fun and fellowship all at the same time. If you are not a golfer or cannot attend the outing but would like to show your support by sponsoring a hole you may send a donation in any amount to **Christ Lutheran Church, 400 Barclay Ave., Pittsburgh, PA. 15221 Memo: Golf Outing**. Hope to see you there!



CONCORDIA LUTHERAN

Brentwood

Concordia recently installed two new elders - John Mainarich and Gary Cacciani - and received Bev Smalley BACK into membership. After being married and gone for decades, Bev recently returned to Concordia, her home congregation, where she was baptized and raised - having been confirmed here originally in 1950. We're glad to have her back!

Technical upgrades continue, as we now have a Mevo Start camera recording our worship services. Our goal is to livestream our Easter Service as our first livestream event.

Johnny Mainarich, whose project was to repaint our undercroft, recently passed his Eagle Scout Board of Review.

We wrap up our Lenten Wednesday theme ("*The Lamb's Book of Life; Are YOU in it?*") based on 2Peter 1: 5-11) with Holy Week in April - our worship schedule is as follows

- Maundy Thursday Divine Service @ 7:30pm
- Good Friday Tenebrae Service @ 7:30pm
- Easter Divine Service @ 10:30am

NEWS FROM AREA CONGREGATIONS

MT. CALVARY

Westview

On March 7, Mt. Calvary hosted Girl Scout Daisy Troop 52841, led by member Jennifer Skinner, in its My Promise, My Faith Pin project. Members of Mt. Calvary's Outreach Group were asked to choose one line from the Girl Scout Law; find a story, song, or poem from their faith; tell what the two have in common; and explain to the Daisies how the church applies that thought.

The event took place from noon to 2:00 p.m. in the church hall following the Sunday service. The ladies chose "This Little Gospel Light of Mine" as the theme for the presentation, focusing particularly on the second verse that says, "All around the neighborhood, I'm going to let it shine," to correspond to the Girl Scout Law.

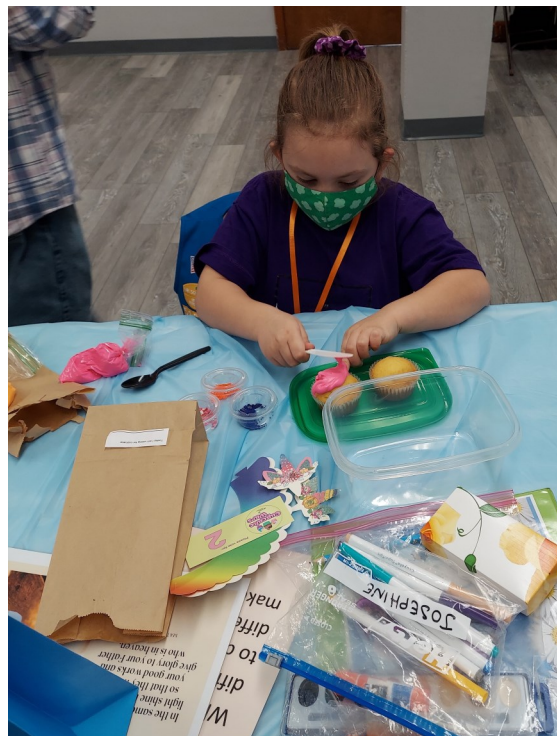
To show how the church "shines," the girls were given handouts that illustrated many of the recent activities, including: Christmas Blessings, where members and friends have provided gifts and made donations to local families each holiday season; a winter coat drive; collecting baby supplies for Genesis; a pajama drive for children and young teens; supporting Pets for Vets; sponsoring Cupcakes for Cohen during Vacation Bible School; and various food collections.

"We show God's love by shining our light" was the ultimate message.

In other news, the nation has been trying for a year to return to something resembling normalcy, but Mt. Calvary has had a good handle on providing Sunday services. Since early last summer, services have been offered in-person and virtually by Zoom (thanks to Jim and Dawna Heinrichs), and Easter will be no exception. At that time, communion kits plus instructions for proper use will be available by request for pick-up or delivery for those who will not be attending in person.

Additionally, Mt. Calvary has been blessed to have non-members watching the Sunday online services, and members of council reached out with an offer to deliver hymnals and other materials to them to enhance their worship.

Mt. Calvary sponsored a My Promise, My Faith Pin Girl Scout program for the 6-to-7-year-old Daisy Troop 52841.



UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Concordia Lutheran Ministries

Due to the delay in the vaccine schedule in the US - we felt more comfortable rescheduling the Fashion Luncheon for the fall. The new date is Saturday, October 23, 2021. Currently there is still only 10% capacity indoors for events and 15% outdoors. We are more hopeful for the fall. We will be sending out a save the date to residents, member churches, and regular attendees within the next few weeks and will begin planning as we can to account for contingencies.



Tri-Parish

The Tri-parish choir and Hand Bells group will perform the Stations of the Resurrection presentation at Bethel in Glenshaw on Sunday, April 11 at 3 p.m. It will be recorded and provided to the residents at Concordia. There will be social distancing so you are welcome to join us in person or check it out on our websites.

Bethel's Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/183323405082870/videos/1413344388850908/>
St. John's Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsMillvale/>
or St. John's YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/StJohnsMillvale>



Listen to "God with Us"

WORD-FM 101.5 Sundays @ 10:30 a.m. "God with Us" featuring Rev. Dr. Daniel A. Hahn Jr., Pastor, Tri-Parish.

Also available <https://stjohnsmillvale.org/god-with-us.html> and updated weekly

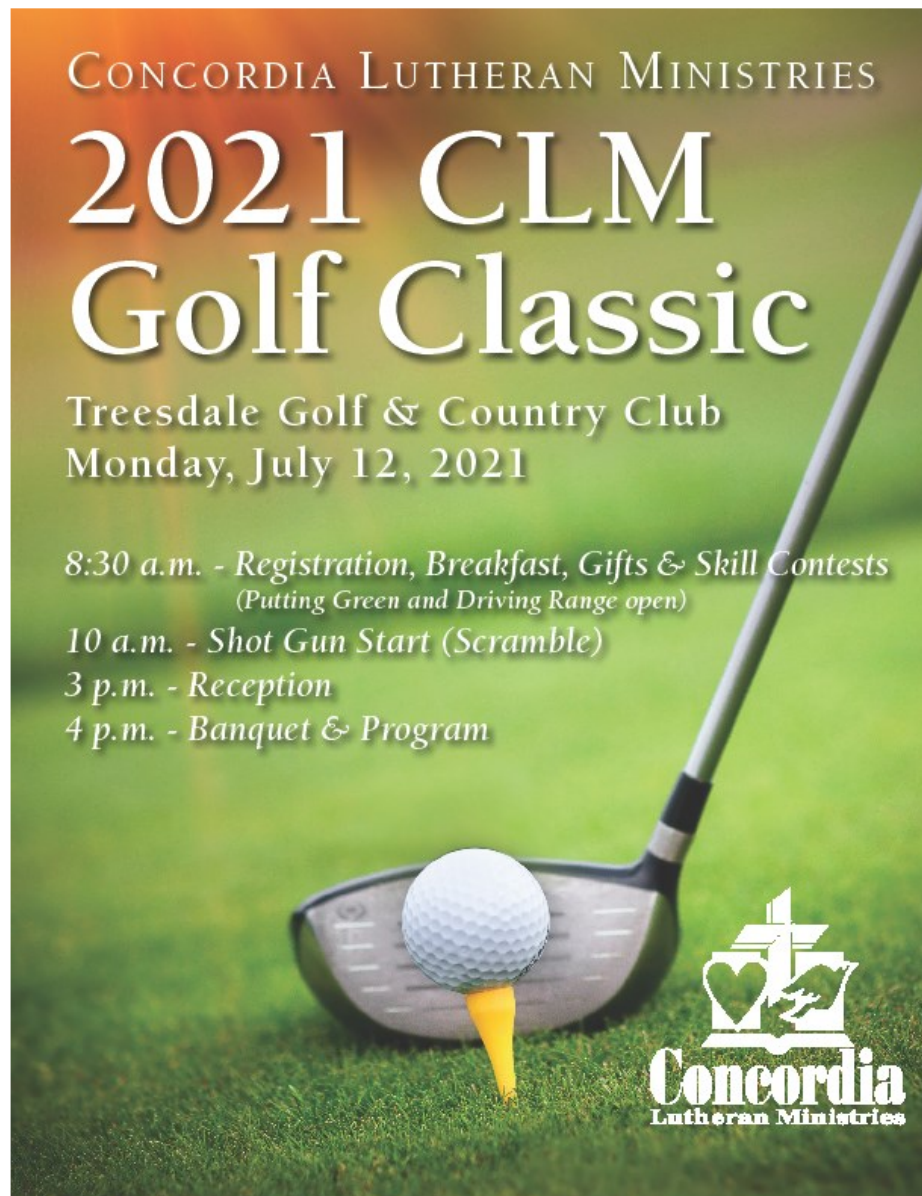
CLM Golf Classic

At Concordia Lutheran Ministries, we truly do put our *Faith in Caring*. For 140 years, Concordia has faithfully served and trusted God so that it may best serve others. This year is no different, even after an endless year of turmoil due to the global pandemic, we continue to look toward a hopeful future.

With that sentiment in mind, it is still full steam ahead with our biggest fundraising event of the year – our **Annual CLM Golf Classic**. This event supports our Good Samaritan Endowment Fund, Concordia's benevolent care fund which ensures our quality, Christian care won't stop even after a patient's ability to pay does. In our 2020 fiscal year, Concordia provided more than \$12 million in charitable care to over 550 residents and patients.

We are excited to return to Treesdale Golf & Country Club on Monday, July 12, and we have got something for every interest and budget level. We will, of course, be following all mandates from national, state and local legislature and operating in compliance with the Centers for Disease Control and the PA Department of Health.

Please contact the CLM Foundation, at (724) 352-1571 ext. 8363 or giving@concordialm.org if you have questions or need assistance. We look forward to partnering with you on another great day for our mission.

A promotional poster for the 2021 CLM Golf Classic. The background is a blurred green golf course with a golf club and a white golf ball on a yellow tee. The text is white and centered. At the bottom right is the Concordia Lutheran Ministries logo, which features a stylized building with a heart and a hand, with the text 'Concordia Lutheran Ministries' below it.

CONCORDIA LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

2021 CLM Golf Classic

Treesdale Golf & Country Club
Monday, July 12, 2021

8:30 a.m. - Registration, Breakfast, Gifts & Skill Contests
(Putting Green and Driving Range open)

10 a.m. - Shot Gun Start (Scramble)

3 p.m. - Reception

4 p.m. - Banquet & Program

Concordia
Lutheran Ministries



17th Annual CLM Golf Classic

Sponsorship & Participation Form

Monday, July 12, 2021 – Treesdale Golf & Country Club – 10:00 a.m. Start

CONTACT INFORMATION

Organization Name*: _____

**as you would like it to appear on promotional materials, website, program, etc.*

Contact Person: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

CHOOSE YOUR PARTICIPATION LEVEL:

_____ Platinum Sponsor (\$7,500)

_____ Gift Sponsor (\$5,500)

_____ Gold Sponsor (\$5,000)

_____ Golf Cart Sponsor (\$3,500)

_____ Banquet Sponsor (\$3,500)

_____ Shirt Sponsor (\$3,000)

_____ Social Hour Sponsor (\$2,500)

_____ Refreshments Sponsor (\$2,500)

_____ Breakfast Sponsor (\$2,000)

_____ Practice Range Sponsor (\$2,000)

_____ Contest Hole Sponsor (\$1,500)

_____ Silent Auction Sponsor (\$1,000)

_____ Green & Pin Sponsor (\$800)

_____ Teebox Sponsor (\$450)

_____ Golfer Package at \$225 each = enclosed amount of \$ _____

IDENTIFY YOUR GOLFER(S) AND SHIRT SIZE*

(*for ONLY CERTAIN sponsor levels as outlined on full-page flyer)

Golfer 1/Cart 1 (Captain) _____ Shirt Size _____

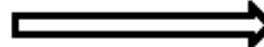
Golfer 2/Cart 1 _____ Shirt Size _____

Golfer 3/Cart 2 _____ Shirt Size _____

Golfer 4/Cart 2 _____ Shirt Size _____

SUBMIT YOUR LOGO AND/OR ADVERTISEMENT BY JUNE 11, 2021

More on reverse side



In the Footsteps of Jesus

A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

11 Days ~ November 4 to 14, 2021



*A TOUR TO THE HOLY LAND FOR THOSE WHO NEVER
THOUGHT THEY WOULD GET THERE*

visiting Jerusalem ... Bethlehem ... Sea of Galilee ... Nazareth and more

*Hosted by: **Pastor Emeritus Barry Keurulainen**
St. Luke's Lutheran Church ~ Cabot, Pennsylvania*

*Devotions, Sermons, Commentary by: **Pastor Ken Klaus**
Speaker Emeritus, The Lutheran Hour*

Dear Friends,

A pilgrimage to the Holy Land is like no other journey in life. It is here where God worked out His plan of salvation -- past, present and future. On return home, one will never read or hear the Scriptures in quite the same way. Holy History becomes real as what we have seen is superimposed on the Lord's familiar Bible stories.

Special devotions will be arranged at the following sites: the Sea of Galilee, the Garden of Gethsemane, the Garden Tomb, and hopefully at the Holy Sepulchre. In these places, and others, we can look forward to a pilgrimage which makes the history of the Bible real. By God's grace we can expect to be drawn closer to the One who wrote that history and Who continues to save lost souls and remake our world even today.

Pastor Barry, Pam and I invite you to join us for a pilgrimage to the land Jesus walked -- to places that saw the likes of Abraham, Mary, Moses, David, and the Baptizer. We invite you to join with the Bethlehem shepherds and "go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us."

We hope you will join us.

In Christ, I am, His servant and yours,



Ken Klaus, Pastor

Holy Land Pilgrimage

11 Days ~ November 4 to 14, 2021

TOUR COST FROM:

Chicago - \$4298 per person*

Dallas - \$4498 per person*

Atlanta - \$4589 per person *

Minneapolis - \$4849 per person*

Above rates are based on sharing a twin-bedded room

Supplemental cost for single room - \$1175

* Land and air rates based on tariffs in effect as of November, 2020.

Payment Schedule

\$600.00 per person - due with reservation

\$900.00 per person - due February 1, 2021

Balance due by July 15, 2021

Checks should be made payable to:

TRANS WORLD TRAVEL, INC.

and returned to:

Pastor Barry - Holy Land

c/o Trans World Travel, Inc.

734 Central Avenue

Highland Park, Illinois 60035

RESERVATION FORM

RETURN TO: Pastor Barry, c/o Trans World Travel, Inc., 734 Central Ave., Highland Park, IL 60035

Enclosed is my (our) reservation form(s) for the Holy Land Tour departing November 4, 2021 and a \$600 per person deposit check which indicates my (our) acceptance of the General Conditions stated in this brochure and the understanding that there can be future increases by the air carriers for fuel and/or for government related taxes. Also, we strongly suggest that all passengers consider the optional travel protection insurance that can include pre-existing conditions.

*** Please make your check payable to: Trans World Travel, Inc. and return to the above address. ***

NAME: _____ SIGNATURE: _____
print name as it appears on your PASSPORT

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ CELL PHONE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____ ROOMMATE: _____

Depart Chicago Depart Dallas Depart Atlanta Depart Minneapolis

Yes, I prefer a single room with a supplement of \$ 1175 - if available.

MEe110421-2884

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Thursday, November 4, 2021 - US Departure for our connecting trans-Atlantic flight to Israel.

Friday, November 5 - Tel Aviv / Tiberias: On arrival in Tel Aviv in the afternoon, we'll be greeted by our professional tour manager and begin our journey through Galilee to Tiberias, our home for three nights. The hotel is located directly on the Sea of Galilee. (D)

Saturday, November 6 - Tiberias and the Sea of Galilee: This morning we cruise on the Sea of Galilee to Capernaum, Jesus' home for two years. We then visit the Mount of Beatitudes where we will have devotions, Tabgha, the Church of the Primacy, Chorazin (a curse on Chorazin), and Bethsaida. Following our special lunch on the Sea of Galilee, we'll continue south through the Jordan Valley to Bet Shean where the Biblical history covers the Canaanites, the Philistines, and the Romans. Later this afternoon, we'll renew our Baptismal commitments along the Jordan River. Overnight Tiberias. (BB, L, D)

Sunday, November 7 - Tiberias - excursion to Mount Tabor, Cana, and Nazareth: Our journey today takes us by the Horns of Hattin where Saladin defeated the Crusaders en route to Mt. Tabor, the site of the Transfiguration. Later, we continue to Cana where Jesus performed his first miracle and we'll have the opportunity to renew our wedding vows before continuing on to Nazareth, the boyhood home of Jesus, where we visit the Church of the Annunciation. Overnight in Tiberias. (BB, L, D)

Monday, November 8 - Caesarea-By-The-Sea / Mount Carmel / Megiddo / Jerusalem: Today, be prepared to travel back at least 2,000 years, where every mile will tell at least one Bible story as we motor along the coastal plain to Caesarea-By-The-Sea. This ancient city was built by Herod the Great in honor of Augustus Caesar and was the capital of the Romans in the Holy Land for nearly 500 years. Caesarea serves as the backdrop for the Book of Acts, including the many visits by the Apostle Paul, his two-year imprisonment, and the commencement of his journey to Rome. En route to Jerusalem, we will also visit Solomon's Chariot city at Megiddo - the site of epic battles that decided the fate of western Asia that dates back to the 15th century BC. Overnight in Jerusalem. (BB, L, D)

Tuesday, November 9 - Bethlehem / Herodium / Jerusalem: Today we highlight the events surrounding the birth of Jesus by first visiting Bethlehem. Here we'll visit the Basilica and Grotto of the Nativity, the Church of St. Catherine, the Cave of St. Jerome (Latin translator of the Bible) and to the Field of the Shepherds. Our afternoon tour will take us to the Herodium, the fortress-palace, built by Herod the Great in 40 BC. Overnight in Jerusalem. (BB, L, D)

Wednesday, November 10 - Jerusalem: Our morning walking tour of the Old City begins at the Dung Gate. From here we'll visit the Western Wall, the Dome of the Rock, St. Stephen's Gate, and St. Anne's Crusader Church with the Pool of Bethesda where Christ healed the crippled man). We then begin the Via Dolorosa - the Way of the Cross. There are fourteen stations along Christendom's most sacred route - each one marks an event that took place during the last walk before the Crucifixion. Nine of these stations are actually along the Via Dolorosa, including the Chapel of Flagellation, Arch of Ecce Homo (Behold the Man), Pilate's Judgment Hall, the Lithostrotos, and the remaining five are inside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Later, we plan to

visit the Garden Tomb en route to our hotel. This evening we'll enjoy a special wine tasting and dinner overlooking the beautiful Old City of Jerusalem. (BB, D)

Thursday, November 11 - Jerusalem / Bethany / Dead Sea / Qumran / Masada: Today we visit the small village of Bethany (home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus) and the church near the grotto in which the Tomb of Lazarus is located. Later, we'll continue south via the Judean Desert to the Dead Sea, the lowest spot on earth (1,300 feet below sea level). Among our stops will be Qumran, site of the Essene Community where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered, and Ein Gedi where a precipitous cliff filled with caves rises some 2,000 feet. It was here that David and his men took refuge from King Saul and here also that David spared Saul's life. Arrive Masada in the late morning. Our tour will include a visit to the remarkable ruins of the Fortress built by Herod the Great where Jewish zealots made their last stand in revolt against the Roman legions from 70 to 73 A.D. During our return to Jerusalem, there will be time to float in the Dead Sea. Overnight in Jerusalem. (BB, L, D)

Friday, November 12 - Jerusalem: Our morning begins on the Mount of Olives where we'll visit the Church of the Pater Noster, the Church of Dominus Flevit where Jesus wept over Jerusalem according to Luke, and the Garden of Gethsemane and the Church of All Nations. Later, we cross the Kidron Valley passing the Tombs of Absalom, Zechariah, and St. James. On Mount Zion we'll visit the Church of St. Peter's in Gallicantu (Caiaphas' House), and the "Upper Room." Our afternoon tour will include the Shrine of the Book and the impressive scale model of the ancient city of Jerusalem as it looked during the Second Temple period - 516 BC to 70 AD. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem. (BB, D)

Saturday, November 13 - Jerusalem (Western Wall Tunnels): Today we will enter the Old City to visit the Western Wall and its tunnels ... one of the most popular tourist sites in Jerusalem. These underground tunnels connect the Western Wall prayer area to the northwest side of the temple mount. Along its path are remains from the second temple period, as well as structures from later periods. The experience of walking along the tunnels is like taking a time machine back to the time of the second temple. Later, we'll visit the Cardo, a Byzantine road, roughly the equivalent of an eight-lane highway that ran through the heart of the city, and we'll enjoy some free time in the Old City. This evening we'll enjoy a special farewell dinner in Bethlehem before returning to our hotel for our overnight. (BB, SD)

Sunday, November 14 - Tel Aviv / US: We bid farewell to our tour manager and begin our journey home.

(BB) Buffet Breakfast, (L) Lunch, (D) Dinner, (SD) Special Dinner

~ TOUR INCLUSIONS ~

- * Round trip air, including taxes and fees in effect as of Nov. 2020
- * First Class Hotels
- * All breakfasts and dinners, plus five lunches as noted
- * All admission fees
- * Comprehensive sightseeing
- * Professional Tour Manager
- * Private motor coach throughout Israel
- * Luggage handling at all hotels (one suitcase per person)

Non Discrimination Policy

To Whom It May Concern:

In accordance with the Provisions of Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act of 1995, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, Section 1557 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (2010), and the Equal Employment Opportunity Act, please be informed that it is the policy of Concordia Lutheran Health and Human Care, to admit and treat all residents without regard to race, color, ancestry, national origin, age, sex, religious creed, handicap, disability, or any other category that may be protected under applicable law.

This non-discriminatory policy applies to all applicants, residents, employees, and physicians of Concordia Lutheran Health and Human Care. Concordia Lutheran Health and Human Care is an equal opportunity employer and provides employment, compensation, and other terms and conditions of employment without regard to race, color, ancestry, national origin, age, sex, religious creed, handicap, or disability.

It is the policy of Concordia Lutheran Health and Human Care to comply with these acts in all areas and no person shall be excluded from participation in, or be denied benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination in the provisions of any service, including but not limited to our skilled, assisted living, and homecare services.

This policy and notification is inclusive of Concordia Lutheran Health and Human Care and all its locations, which include: Concordia at Cabot; Concordia at Ridgewood Place; Concordia at The Orchard; Concordia Haven Apartments and Concordia Physician Practice. Employees and others working for Concordia Lutheran Health and Human Care are expected to implement and abide by this policy of non-discrimination in services and employment opportunity.

Sincerely,

Keith E. Frndak

President & CEO of Concordia Lutheran Ministries



Concordia Lutheran Ministries Ways to give during COVID-19

As we continue to combat this pandemic together, we at Concordia have been so grateful for the tremendous support we've received from the community. Many people have asked how they can make a difference during these challenging times.

Here are a few ways that you can help Concordia while still maintaining social distancing:

Participate in our card/video campaign for our residents and patients.

To send cards for our residents to enjoy, please contact the Activities Department at the location you are interested in sending them. To send a video message, email us at SendASmile@concordialm.org.

Make or donate any type of masks or other personal protective equipment (PPE). There is no shortage of PPE for daily use at Concordia, but if you would like to help us prepare for our long-term supply needs, please contact our purchasing director at: 724-352-1571, ext. 8374.

Give the gift of a companion.

Some people have chosen to give toward our acquisition of lifelike robotic pets that help our residents cope with loneliness – especially during this time of social distancing. Please call our Foundation office at 724-352-1571, ext. 8363 for more details.

Making a tribute gift in honor of your loved ones.

Tribute giving is a heartfelt way to recognize, honor and celebrate your loved ones or the staff that are helping to care for them. With a tribute gift, you continue to support our mission of providing faith-based, quality care to those who need it most. You can give online at Give.ConcordiaLM.org and click the "GIVE NOW" button or mail to the CLM Foundation at 134 Marwood Rd, Cabot, PA 16023.

If you are interested in helping with any of these initiatives, please contact the Foundation Office at 724-352-1571, ext. 8363 or giving@concordialm.org.

For the most up-to-date information on Concordia's COVID-19 response, visit www.ConcordiaLM.org