



THE PITTSBURGH LUTHERAN

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PALM DEVOTION

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

“The Greatest Gift”

But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. As it is written:

*“He has dispersed abroad,
He has given to the poor;
His righteousness endures forever.”*

Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God. For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God, while, through the proof of this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal sharing with them and all men, and by their prayer for you, who long for you because of the exceeding grace of God in you. Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

The seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany evoke the traditions of giving. From the giving of alms during Advent to the giving of presents on Christmas Day to the giving of time and talents throughout Epiphany, the Church encourages her people to give of themselves for the benefit of others. This is, of course, the outward expression of our faith in Jesus Christ who was given to us in the flesh at Bethlehem, who lived for us throughout His earthly ministry, and who gave Himself for us on the cross for the forgiveness of all our sin.

Giving in Christ is always a prayerful and deliberate act, founded in the mercy that we have received from God and the love of our neighbors. Whatever we give is from the heart. The gift may be simple or extravagant depending on the relationship and situation. The giving is not predicated upon the expectation of acknowledgement or accolade. Sometimes our gifts are anonymous or to a stranger.



PALM DEVOTION (cont.)

Saint Paul extols the generosity of the Corinthians and gives thanks for the source of all giving when he says, *"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!"* The gift of our Savior Jesus Christ is, indeed, the greatest gift. Placing our faith in Him, we have the assurance of forgiveness, life, and salvation. This is the gift, par excellence, that is best enjoyed by sharing. As the Holy Days of Christmastide approach, take the opportunity to share the love of Christ with your neighbors. Be they family members, co-workers, members of the community, or someone you just met, give them the gift of Jesus in your words and actions. Help them or give a simple witness of the faith when the opportunity presents itself. Invite them to church services, that they may, like the shepherds on that first Christmas, *"see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us."* (St. Luke 2:15)

I have seen firsthand the profound effect that a simple invitation to attend church has had in the lives of many people. To be welcomed into the community of believers, hear the Gospel of Jesus (sometimes for the very first time), and receive the gift of the forgiveness of sins in Christ is the greatest, life-changing, and life-saving gift that anyone can receive. It is given in a simple yet sincere invitation to church from a Christian who cares. Merry Christmas!



PALM MISSION

by Pastor Brian Westgate

Veterans Day Service at Minersville Cemetery

Pastor Westgate conducted the annual Veterans Day service at Minersville Cemetery at 11:00 a.m. on Veterans Day, St. Martin's Day, November 11, 2021. A total of 17 faithful were in attendance, representing Redeemer Oakmont, Peace McMurray, First Trinity Shadyside, and Holy Cross Hazelwood. Pastor Westgate noted in his devotion that the Christian soldier serves both God and country and he fights against evil, just as does our Lord Jesus Christ.



Please consider joining us next year for our annual Memorial Day and Veterans Day services at Minersville Cemetery in Pittsburgh's Hill District.



PALM HAYRIDE

By Pastor Brian Westgate

Zion Bridgeville, Peace McMurray, Christ Forest Hills, and Redeemer Oakmont were among the congregations represented at the PALM Hay Ride on Saturday, October 30, at Simmons Farm in McMurray.

Organized by Pastor McCanless from Concordia Brentwood and, in his absence, led this year by Pastor Westgate. This year's hay ride was very rainy, yet the kids still had lots of fun. Bishop Hardy was in attendance too.

We look forward to next year and send Pastor McCanless prayers and "get well soon!" wishes.

PALM LAY MISSION

by David McElroy

*Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it.
Proverbs 22:6*

I am old. Back in 1955 when Disneyland opened it was the dream trip for kids like me. When I went there with my aunt and uncle it was the greatest place to be. Tom Sawyer's Island and 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea are my fondest memories of that trip. The day ended with a parade on Main Street USA and fireworks. Great times for an American kid.

Disney World View vs World View Everlasting

Years later when we took our kids to Disney World things had changed. Jurassic World was the ride of the year and Space Mountain was a good one too, if it wasn't broken down too long. But there was something different in the tone, there was a new influence in town. Bill Nye and Ellen DeGeneres had become "influencers"

At this point in my life, I am concerned with the ever-widening gap between "The World's View" and the "World View Everlasting" (Thank you Pastor Jonathan Fisk)

When I was in school from First Grade until I was 12 the school day started with The Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. In 1963 The Lord's Prayer was banned but the Pledge of Allegiance stood.



Ingomar Elementary School Built in 1910 One Teacher 22 students. Ingomar Elementary used to look like this. It was a good old-fashioned one-room schoolhouse. It was added onto over the next few decades before being destroyed in a fire in 1960. The current Ingomar Elementary School subsequently was built on the same site. *McCandless-North Allegheny Heritage Center archives.*

Since those days the goal of John Dewey on of the founders of the public-school movement has come closer to his ultimate goal of a totally secularized society. The one room schoolhouse gave way to the Elementary, Junior High, Highschool

model of the 1940's and 1950's which has become the present confabulation of increasingly centralized and modularized school systems. The present schools concentrate less on education than indoctrination to the secular world view. Interestingly the Amish bought up a lot of those one-room schoolhouses and use them to this day as well as many built since then.

PALM LAY MISSION (cont.)

9.5 Theses on Christian Education

1. Christian parents shall be encouraged to educate their children
2. Churches shall be encouraged to establish Schools and support education
3. As in the household School days shall begin the day in the Word of God
4. All schools should be seen as Vocational
5. Academic and theological study linked to one another lead to Vocations
6. A classical education should not be limited to “college bound” students
7. Home school parents, Parochial Schools, Christian Missional Organizations and Churches should be supportive of each other.
8. Home school parents should draw on their extended families for learning and knowledge.
9. Academic goals in the K-12 range in a classical program of education should include both college and skilled trades preparatory classes.
 - A. Lutheran Made should be as familiar as Amish Made yet more encompassing in products and services.

I have set these ideas out for discussion in the Pittsburgh Lutheran community. Please check out the resources listed below and contact me with your thoughts.

David McElroy serves as elder with Mt Calvary Lutheran Church West View, Missions Director on the PALM Board of Directors www.palmpa.org (with a hope of establishing an LCMS presence in the Cranberry / Mars corridor), and sits on the Redeemer Lutheran School Board. Please contact and comment david.mcelroy@comcast.net

Recommended Sources

[Redeemer Lutheran School \(rlspittsburgh.org\)](http://rlspittsburgh.org)

[Redeemer Classical School \(fortwayneclassical.com\)](http://fortwayneclassical.com)

[An American Classical Education | K-12 American Classical Education \(hillsdale.edu\)](http://hillsdale.edu)

[Lutheran Homeschool](https://www.lutheranhomeschool.com/) <https://www.lutheranhomeschool.com/>

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

December

1. Tri-Parish Advent Services, Bethel, Glenshaw, 6:30 p.m.
5. Christmas Party, Mt. Calvary, West View time TBA
8. Tri-Parish Advent Service, St. Johns, Millvale, 6:30 p.m.
12. Concordia Lutheran Ministries Live Nativity, Concordia Haven II, Cabot, 4:30 p.m., 5:15 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.
12. Sunday School Christmas Service, "One Night in Bethlehem", Good Shepard, South Hills, 10:15 am.
15. Tri-Parish Advent Service, Hosted by Zion Lawrenceville at Bethel, Glenshaw, 6:30 p.m.
19. Tri-Parish Caroling, Bethel, Glenshaw, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
24. Christmas Eve services, Good Shepard, South Hills, 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.
24. Christmas Eve Service, Zion, Lawrenceville, 5:30 p.m.
24. Christmas Eve Services, Bethel, Glenshaw, 7:30 p.m.
24. Christmas Eve Service, St. John, Millvale, 7:30 p.m.
24. Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols, Holy Cross Lutheran Chapel, Hazelwood, 7:00 PM.
25. Tri-Parish Christmas Day Service, St. Johns, Millvale, 10:00 a.m.



The Pittsburgh Lutheran

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<http://www.palmpa.org>



November 2021

Pittsburgh Lutheran Student Fellowship & International Student Ministry

“Christ is at the center of everything we are and everything we do.”

Pastor Andr e

“Students are so invigorating, so engaged, so energetic; they are forming and solidifying their world views. They are dealing with relationship problems, mental health issues, spiritual searching and soul-searing questions. I have a front row seat to cutting edge issues of the day, which is inviting, worthwhile, and purposeful.” Pastor Andr e

“In many ways I have my dream job”

This past summer our campus pastor sat for an interview with Emiola Jay Oriola, Program Manager for the Office of Interfaith Dialogue at the University of Pittsburgh. Oriola is completing his doctoral work and is looking to community faith leaders for input on his work on interfaith engagement. This interview provides a window into the broad range of Pastor Eric Andr e’s activities and priorities, and can be seen here: <https://tinyurl.com/b9fvebvm>

Pastor Andr e’s campus work, which he began in February of 2001, naturally leads to interfaith connections throughout the community. His intentional approach is to engage people of other faiths, believing that understanding will lead to truth. There is ample opportunity to acknowledge common ground while not downplaying differences. Ultimately there is room to work together in a wide range of settings that do not violate the unity in faith and worship embraced by the LCMS. Much good has been accomplished by interfaith approaches to crises on campus, social issues, and community need.

With regard to First Trinity’s student population, Pastor Andr e prioritizes personal pastoral care connected to corporate worship. With Christ as the center of the LSF community, truth, mercy and compassion are the desired corporate characteristics. Ultimately Pastor Andr e’s hope for students is that they “grow in faith towards God and in fervent love towards all people” and that First Trinity will be a “place of rest and refuge where students can receive God’s gifts and then share them with joy.”

Pitt graduate student Michael DiNenna (pictured to the right) is considering attending seminary in the future and is taking an informal pre-seminary program with Pastor Andr e. DiNenna and his wife Ginny find First Trinity to be a “safe place to talk about theology.” First Trinity is a place to “enjoy life together.”

An interview with Michael and Ginny can be seen here: <https://tinyurl.com/v4zhkn7a>



"I was living in fear every day because of what they had taught me. Now I know Jesus loves me and will forgive me when I confess my sins."

Jasmine



FAMILY SHIELD MINISTRIES

LSF occasionally partners with Family Shield Ministries (FSM — an LCMS Recognized Service Organization) to get students out of controlling cults. After several edifying conversations, Pastor Andr e referred Jeanette, a mother of a student in a cult, to FSM where she received help for herself and her daughter. For six months FSM mentored Jeanette with prayer and Bible study. As her faith was strengthened she was better able to guide her daughter.

After a year long battle with depression during the pandemic Jasmine, the daughter, reached out to FSM for help. The cult had taught her that "if we confessed our sins, but then sinned again, we were not really sorry and we were not forgiven." After several months of FSM mentoring and Bible study with her mother, Jasmine had left the cult, and the beautiful gospel message of Romans 8:1 - "There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" - finally became real to her.

Please remember in your prayers Jeannette and Jasmine, as well as Family Shield Ministries and our campus ministry as they work with many who are captured by false teachings that deny the true grace of God and instead seek to control in unhealthy ways.

Lutheran Student Fellowship (LSF) & International Student Ministry (ISM)

535 N Neville St
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
www.LSFPgh.com

412-683-4121

Instagram: LSF_Pittsburgh
Facebook: LSFofPGH

We Appreciate You!

During this pandemic, your campus mission is still serving the needs of students; God's work continues through your campus ministry, and we need your support.

Please, especially in these difficult times for us all, support the ministry financially.

You can donate online: scroll about halfway down at <http://lsfpggh.com/donate/> OR for no-fee, secure giving, go to the NEW giving portal at <http://www.firsttrinity.net/donate/>

and choose "Campus Ministry" from the drop-down menu (for recurring giving options, just follow the directions to sign up or contact me).

You can also make checks out to First Trinity with "Campus Ministry" in the memo line, and mail to: Campus Mission, 535 N. Neville St., Pittsburgh, PA 15213.

If you are a Thrivent member, please contribute through Thrivent Choice to "Lutheran Student Fellowship of Pittsburgh, PA".

MOST IMPORTANTLY, PLEASE PRAY FOR US, AS WE DO IN GRATITUDE FOR YOU. THANK YOU!

CAMPUS MINISTRY

SRU CAMPUS MINISTRY

by Augusta R. Mennell, Campus Ministry Director

Women Are Better Shots Than Men

All Saints campus ministry is always trying to find ways to expand our outreach to college students. We are so pleased when we can provide them with activities which they will enjoy and which will help them grow in Christian faith.

I still can hardly believe that taking college students from Grove City College, Slippery Rock University, and Westminster College to a local sportsmen's club to rent their gun range and skeet shooting facility would be such a marvelous opportunity. People were a bit skeptical with our plan, but it turned out to be well worth the effort to bring students to the shooting range.

The idea for a trip to the gun range came before Covid, and had to be canceled last year. Happily, church members Peter Rigney, Ed Geidner and vacancy pastor Jacob Deal decided to bring back this event which had originally been suggested by former campus pastor, Rev. Larry K. Loree. They worked hard to arrange for all the pistols, rifles, shotguns, and ammunition as well as transportation and food to serve the students. Campus ministry called many students to invite them to enjoy a day of fun in the outdoors.

The invitations definitely included women as well as men! After excellent instruction by Rev. Deal on how to use the guns safely, even the women and men who had not ever fired a weapon were willing to participate in firing the shotguns and pistols. The most fun for everyone was firing the famous Magnum pistol that Clint Eastwood used in a famous movie. The Magnum pistol was huge and sounded like a cannon when fired; it kicked like a mule too. One student immediately sent a video to her father after firing it.

When All Saints returns to the range next spring, we will arrange to have a skeet (clay pigeon) shooting competition between the men and women. A coach at the range told us that women are better shots than men. He should know since his wife is a national champion skeet shooter. It should be interesting to see if he is correct.

As you can imagine, the goal of the time to shoot rifles and pistols and clay pigeons was to have fun, but especially to provide fellowship, which it did. Christians from both colleges got to know each other. They had a good time telling about the places they had lived like California, Colorado, and Eastern Pennsylvania. Some talked about their interest in historical reenactment, and some talked about the families they had grown up in. Some talked about the plans they have for marriage. The students still glow about the time they had.

The event was scheduled for 1-3 PM, but we stayed until 6 PM, which says a lot about how successful the event was. No one wanted to leave.

CAMPUS MINISTRY

SRU CAMPUS MINISTRY (CONTINUED)

The range event was extra special because a college-age couple who are not in college accepted an invitation to join us at the range. Since the young man is passionate about collecting antique guns and because he had formerly attended worship regularly, he and his girlfriend came to our event. They felt so included and had a wonderful time meeting Rev. Jacob Deal. We invited them to come back to church. They realize that although they work 24-7, fellowship and worship is something to be part of our priorities. Imagine our joy when this couple came to worship the next Sunday.

Scheduling the event was a good idea. College students work hard. They endure constant stress trying to earn good grades. Their lives are not always carefree. They want to make right decisions, especially decisions about their faith. The day at the range was relaxing for them. It gave them the chance to know other Christians who face the same challenges they do. We can hardly wait to follow up with more range events in the future. We will see if the coach is right. Will the women be the better shots? Are the men okay to be out done?



Ed Geidner instructs students at the gun range.

Bethany, Samantha, Erin, Morgan, Caroline, Alex, Spencer, Bergen, Sam, Ed Geidner

Rev. Deal shows Mrs. Mennell how to hold a gun.



At the range. Jim Mennell, Pastor, Erin, Spencer, Sam, Bethany, Alex, Morgan, Samantha, Caroline, Peter Rigney.



Mileposters News

Plants and animals in God's creation are staples of our rides. Looking back to July 2, a sharp-eyed rider spotted an unusually long-stemmed clover blossom (pictured) at Dravo Landing, Milepost 25. Watching over the scene was a woodpecker perched in a dead tree (pictured). The third picture is from the last group ride of the 2021 season; it missed the previous issue because of a computer file error.

Acquisition of Puerto Rico jerseys for riders began this year, and by the time the December issue comes out, all nine should be delivered, from size XS to size 5XL. A cycling jersey is equipped with three back pockets so that the rider can comfortably lean forward to pedal. Total mileage for the 2021 campaign to raise support for LCMS ministry in Puerto Rico stands at 2,689.



HOUSES OF WORSHIP SERIES

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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www.holytrinitylutheranalbion.org

by Shirley Freyer

Founded in 1870, Albion is a small borough located in southwestern Erie County, 12 miles east to Edinboro, 22 miles south to Conneaut Lake and 28 miles from the city of Erie. Anglers sometimes refer to Albion as “The country’s best trout fishery.” The word **Albion** is an alternative name for Great Britain.

It was here where immigrants from Slovakia settled to farm or work on the Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad. They began to meet in one another’s homes and in 1911 called Rev. John Manka from Cleveland to conduct worship services. On May 28, 1934, the congregation was officially formed under the name of The Slovak Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity at the home of Paul Parobek Sr. Of the seven charter members, only John Klobusnik Sr. remained with the congregation until his passing in the 1990s.

The group purchased a Baptist church for \$75 and rebuilt it until land was donated by Klobusnik’s niece and her husband, and a new church on the corner of Crane and West Roads was dedicated on Sept. 6, 1936.

Holy Trinity called its first fulltime pastor in 1945. Jaroslav Vajda became a household name among LCMS members as he was known as “the dean of hymn writers in North America” and “the poet laureate of the hymn world.” A 1944 graduate of Concordia Seminary St. Louis, Dr. Vajda was the author or more than 225 hymn texts and translations that appear in some 60 Christian hymnals and printed collections on five continents. The Synod’s *Lutheran Service Book* includes ten of his hymn texts, including the widely used benediction hymn, “Go, My Children, with My Blessing.”

The current property was purchased in 1952 for \$200 from the borough of Albion and a third church was built and dedicated in 1956. This same year, the congregation began an outreach that continues today - selling “Heavenly” French Fries at the local fair. The church building has a distinctive square shape and one unique characteristic - the sanctuary faces south rather than the typical east direction of most churches. In the late ‘60s the windows of the chancel area installed stained glass - the left side depicting God the father, the right side the Holy Spirit and the crucified Jesus in the center.

In the neighboring community of Girard, a mission church was founded, and pastors of Holy Trinity served this congregation as a dual parish starting in the 60s until 1993. The ministry at Faith continued until its closure in 2004. Holy Trinity placed a cross from Faith on its exterior wall. The altar from Faith Lutheran was also added. Its members were welcomed by Holy Trinity.

A Preschool opened in 1982, a ministry that has endured for many generations of families. A typical day for children three to five years old includes “Learning center time,” outdoor play, singing, rhythms, dancing, “talk-time,” dramatizations, story time, counting games, and art projects.



HOUSES OF WORSHIP SERIES

In 1988, the Koehler Education Building was added to the present church parish hall housing a large fellowship hall, a professionally equipped kitchen, and the pastor's office.

Another outreach was initiated in 1990 - a recycling operation enabling the congregation to build a storage building five years later where the recycling operations continue to this day. During Rev. Fred Poepel's tenure beginning in 1997, Holy Trinity shared in a youth ministry with a local ministerium of churches using the parish hall for its activities. This group partnered with the local school district until two years ago. It also oversees a Food Bank serving 150 - 300 families every month.

Holy Trinity also adopted a Ping Pong Bible Study on Monday evenings through this partnership. With the decline in membership, leadership elected to participate in the Transforming Church Network in 2010 to help rebuild its ministry.

Around 2017, the congregation adopted the Community Garden from the Boro of Albion, which is still maintained.

Rev. Michael Taylor who had been serving a congregation near Cleveland accepted an interim position to serve Holy Trinity in December of 2019 bringing with him his wife Susan who is now the official piano accompanist.

In the spring of 2020, the worldwide pandemic closed church services, and the Preschool. Pastor Taylor immediately put his cellphone at the front of the church and initiated services on Facebook livestream. An Easter Service was held in the parking lot. Services resumed in the sanctuary in May of 2020.

According to him, he has experienced some defining moments during this last year. "I could say that holding a parking lot service on Easter wondering whether I would be arrested or finding the power source for the eternity light and getting it lit," Pastor revealed. "But I knew I was at the right place at the right time during the spring of 2020," he continued. "I called a family member I had not met but who was a cancer victim. As restrictions were lessened, he was finally able to get into hospital to see her. Not only was she suffering from cancer, but her brother had condemned her because she was covered with tattoos. What started as a battle against cancer became a battle against time. He baptized her at home and was giving her instruction along with consolation. Time ran out before they finished the catechism despite visiting her daily. The family held a funeral service at church and a gathering afterward in spite of pandemic restrictions.

At the very same time, Pastor's daughter was dealing with cancer and stayed with them during part of her procedures. "Here I was ministering to one who dies of cancer while my daughter is going through everything to survive this disease," he explained. The situation was 100 percent personal, but he knew God had placed him for such a time as this.

Preschool teachers held classes on Zoom so children could complete the year and four-year olds would be prepared to enter Kindergarten. Preschool did not resume until the fall of 2021.

"A daughter of the congregation, Debbie Stevens Bright, served as teacher and director of the Preschool for over 20 years, until her retirement in 2020," Pastor noted. Her protégé, Regine Fiscus is continuing in her footsteps.

The Albion Fair was cancelled in the fall of 2020. Without the revenue from the fair and the challenges regarding attendance, the church faced survival issues. Members increased their stewardship to keep their church open.

HOUSES OF WORSHIP SERIES

And they went one step further. They extended a divine call to Pastor Taylor, who was under contract, and he was installed last month. Born in Detroit, Michigan, his family was unchurched he said. “When I was young, a neighbor was dying of cancer. My mother, who was a nurse, cared for her after work. Her dying witness as a Lutheran led our family to the Lutheran church.”

He was then baptized and confirmed at Evergreen Lutheran Church in Detroit. A graduate of Concordia College, Ann Arbor and Concordia Theological Seminary, he served a vicarage at a church in Chicago. His first call was to a church whose Pastor had died the previous year from a tragic accident.

Pastor and his wife have four children - Kathryn, Emily, Kevin, Angela - and ten grandchildren. During his 30-years of ministry, he has served congregations in Ohio, New England, and Alabama. “My plans are ambitious,” Pastor Taylor admits. “As God blesses the Word and Sacrament ministry, I am working to put the church once more on solid ground with a solid ministry,” he promised.

“Two years ago, the church could have just disappeared - no pastor, no ministerial assistance, no church organ or accompanist and the pandemic just around the corner,” he continued. “God laughed and sent someone just like Clarence in the all-time favorite movie, ‘It’s A Wonderful Life.’ “

Rev. Vajda was not the only renowned LCMS “son of Holy Trinity.” President and CEO of the most successful synodical RSO Concordia Lutheran Ministries Keith Frndak was baptized and confirmed at this little country church where his late father was a lifelong member, and his 85-year-old mother has been a member since she was sixteen. In fact, the letter of recommendation written by his Pastor Philip Sallach (originally from Bethel in Glenshaw) back in 1983 was the key to the beginning of his career at Concordia.

Alice Frndak calls the church a blessing to her family – accepting and loving – a community of caring people who are so welcoming that strangers are not strangers for very long. She recalls yet another familiar name in the Pittsburgh LCMS circle. Pastor Molitoris served his first call at Holy Trinity, and Alice, for one, believes he could never be completely replaced. “I was a very young bride, and our Pastor was adamant that he would do everything in his power to make sure this young couple (Alice and Paul) were happy and successful,” she related. “He would come to our house and rock Keith while I hung the wash outside.”



HOUSES OF WORSHIP SERIES

The pandemic has had a dramatic ripple effect and has played havoc on a lot of things. Church attendance is part habit, and she is thankful that she is back in the habit. "Nothing is the same as being with friends and family, aware of others' problems and struggles," she said. "When you are worshipping virtually you cannot see expressions, hear the sadness in voices, or read the feelings of those you know and love. You can't reach out to them and give them the words of encouragement they need," she observed. "I have gobs of grandchildren and it's a rule that I get a hug hello and goodbye." Her loving character carried her through many different ministers with unique ways that she did not necessarily agree with, but this was her church family and she participated. "Our good Lord doesn't want us to get mad and go home," she advised. Alice taught Sunday School and she and her husband were youth group counselors for many years. "To this day, these kids are in their 40s and 50s and when I see them at the French Fry trailer at the Fair, I still get my cheek kiss," she laughed.



Her best friend and Holy Trinity's oldest member, Polly Klobusnik also joined through her husband, Al at age 17. She too recalls the active ministry of Rev. Molitoris, especially the young peoples married group and the plays they performed. "He wasn't afraid of any fight or anybody," she reminisced. "We survived a lot of heartaches, but the togetherness of the congregation supported us through our faith."

And that faith led her to teach Sunday School for 20 years. "Learning with my 1st and 2nd graders showed me how the Lord uses people to grow their faith. I became one of the children," she divulged.

And she is still learning at age 89 ... at Pastor Taylor's Thursday Bible Studies. "He is teaching us things we never knew - why you go to church and not sit at home and listen or when you enter the sanctuary you are in the presence of God," she explained. Her son, Dale, a lifelong member is currently president of the congregation. In just a few minutes of conversation his faith in action is evident. "We have to be more vocal, more engaged, more passionate about our Lutheran theology," he declared.

Dale is the essence of the Great Commission. His advice - go and meet your neighbors, take the initiative to share the good news. "I could never leave LCMS," he said. "It's as close to what Jesus taught and becomes a special blessing to reveal our teachings." Behind the scenes, his wife Lynne is as trustee and writes the newsletter.

Pastor Taylor also conducts Bible Study on Sunday mornings. Two worship services are offered: Sunday mornings at 10 and Wednesday evenings at 7.

He distilled the substance of his church: "The history of the church was one of faithful perseverance in faith through many difficulties. Before there was a building the people gathered. As they built places of worship, they also found ways to reach out to the community. They have kept the faith and continued the ministry, even when things were not easy. The future of Holy Trinity is in God's hands. He has put it in the people's hands to serve him and reach out to others.

SCHOOL NEWS

REDEEMER LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Oakmont / Penn Hills

The temperatures and the snowflakes are falling... 2021 is nearly over! As the seasons change, the events and special moments continue at Redeemer.

Our athletic teams wrapped up their seasons in late October, with each team advancing to the playoffs once again! The high school girls' volleyball team recognized senior London Ellis at a special ceremony before the final match. The cross-country team continued to post PR times at their final meets, representing Redeemer with honor. We are proud of all of our athletes and thankful to all the coaches and parents that make the athletic seasons possible.

Congratulations to our newest members of our JR National Honor Society, Mia, and Logan! These students were inducted during a special ceremony on October 15th. Our Jr NHS team consists of students in 6th - 8th grade who have demonstrated distinction in character.

A student's membership in the Redeemer Chapter of the Lutheran Junior Honor Association has been earned by the effective demonstration of four qualities, considered to be the cornerstones of the LJHA, which are: scholarship, leadership, service, and discipleship. Each quality supports the others, no one trait stands alone.

Our high school robotics team once again participated in the Wolverine BEST Robotics competition sponsored by Grove City College. The two-day event involves presentations in marketing, engineering/design, and robot performance. The team received recognition for the engineering notebook and robot design. Congratulations to the Robotic Rams and coach Mrs. Schumacher for their hard work again this year.

Our middle and high school students participated in Redeemer's third annual "Hopecoming Week" during the final week of October. Students gave a donation of \$1 per day to participate in different themes, including Decades, Holidays, and School Spirit. High school grades created mini floats for a parade, with the elementary and middle school students voting on the best float. The end of the week culminated with the annual high school Reformation Bowl touch football game and the middle school Catechism kickball game. Each grade earned points for participation and spirit, with the winning junior class receiving a trophy. All proceeds from the week are going to support the Hazelwood Project.

On Wednesday, November 11th, Redeemer held the annual Veterans Day event. In lieu of the usual parade and ceremony, classes produced a special video to honor all those who have served and are currently serving in our country's armed forces around the world. Students presented poems and songs, and Pastor Justin Schmidt from Peace Lutheran Church in McMurray shared a brief and heart-felt message. We encourage everyone to view the video on our Facebook page.

Students used donated items from school and church families to assemble Christmas gift bags to send to troops that are currently deployed. As always, we are grateful for this opportunity to support and encourage those that are bravely defending our country and our freedom.

Volleyball team honors senior
London Ellis



SCHOOL NEWS

REDEEMER LUTHERAN SCHOOL (CONTINUED)

Oakmont / Penn Hills

RLS Teacher Spotlight: Ms. Heidi Roth, preschool & early elementary teacher

Hometown: Penn Hills, PA

Education: BS in Elementary Education from Indiana University of PA

Interesting Work Experiences: Taught Pre-K and worked in Early Childhood field for 15+ years, Substitute Teaching in Penn Hills, and Deer Lakes School Districts, worked as a TSS for preschool and elementary students with special needs, and worked at the Pittsburgh Zoo as a teenager

Family: Mother to a 15-year-old son, 3 dogs, fish, and hermit crabs

Hobbies: Taking care of animals (my son and I recently fostered a 4th dog for 5 months), reading, traveling to the beach (when I can) and being outdoors

Curious/ fun facts about me: I enjoy cooking, baking and DIY home projects

My decision to become a teacher: I have had a genuine love for working with young children my whole life and I believe that being able to teach is to have an opportunity to mold and touch the future of our world.

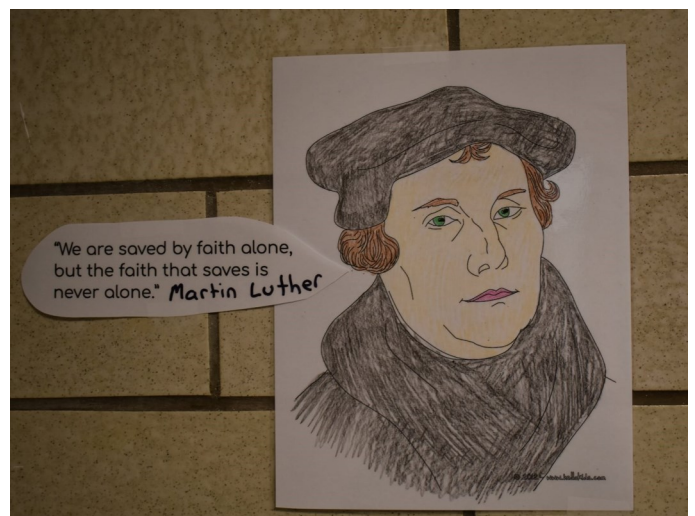
Why I choose Redeemer Lutheran School: The opportunity to teach with RLS came at the right time in my life and my career as a teacher! I am very excited to share my love for teaching & learning and to also share my faith with my students, a blessing that I have not had before. I look forward to all of the wonderful things that God has in store for me and my students this year!

Upcoming events: RLS will be presenting a live drive-through Nativity at the Penn Hills campus on Saturday, December 11th, from 5:00-6:30 p.m. We are excited to share the gospel in our community in this way! Check rlspittsburgh.org for signup details to come soon. You may also contact the school office at 412-793-5884 or school@redeemer-oakmont.org for more information.



Elementary students learn about Martin Luther and Reformation Day

Sophomores “jump” into the spirit of Homecoming



CHRIST LUTHERAN

Forest Hills

Christ Lutheran in Forest Hills has a bit of crafting going on. The Women’s Service Guild makes quilts and this last time sent them to the Veterans in Pgh. Another craft group which makes card and scrapbooks, celebrated Halloween with a few strange looking treats. We also had two baptisms and two new members.



GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN

South Hills

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and Preschool held a 3-week Food Drive for SHIM (South Hills Interfaith Movement) ending on November 28th. SHIM is all about neighbors helping neighbors. SHIM provides food, clothing, and services to people in need in Pittsburgh’s southern suburban neighborhoods. Good Shepherd has participated in SHIM’s Back to School drives and Food Drives in the past, and we have members who are intimately involved in volunteering their time at SHIM food distributions. SHIM is a wonderful mission opportunity for family members of all ages to actively participate.

Good Shepherd’s Sunday School Christmas Service, “*One Night in Bethlehem*” will be December 12th at 10:15 am. Children and youth of all ages will tell the Christmas Story, sharing the Good News of Jesus’ birth. Everyone is welcome to join us for this service, in person or on our [YouTube Channel](#). And our Christmas Eve services will be at 2:00 pm and 6:00 pm on December 24th.

MT. CALVARY LUTHERAN

West View

Oktoberfest is back! And Mt. Calvary in West View is extremely thankful. Perhaps it was just because everyone missed the event so much last year, but the 2021 version seemed to be the best ever. The church reception hall was crowded with people, and the Hoover family – with help from other members of the congregation – produced a feast that left everyone satisfied. The dishes were typical Oktoberfest fare, including bratwurst, pork loin, hot dogs, sauerkraut, buttered noodles, red cabbage, applesauce, German potato salad, green beans, and all the delicious extras. The hall was decorated in such a way that attendees might have thought they were walking down the streets of a small German town. Something added this year was a raffle of various gift items. Many people contributed to the success of the afternoon, and all of the effort was most appreciated.

In other news, with the beginning of fall, the voice and bell choirs began practicing and performed for Reformation and All Saints' Sundays.

The Christmas Blessings projects are also underway, with items being collected for the North Hills Community Outreach toy drive, as well as monetary donations for its utility fund; and for residents of Kane Community Living Center. All donations are due by the church Christmas party, which is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 5.



Mechele and Tom Hoover are in charge of Mt. Calvary's Oktoberfest each year

Members of Mt. Calvary peruse the auction items at Oktoberfest



The Oktoberfest menu provided many tempting dishes



UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Concordia Lutheran Ministries

Concordia Lutheran Ministries will host the eighth annual live nativity scene on Sunday, Dec. 12 in front of the Haven II building at 148 Marwood Rd. Performances are 15 minutes and will be scheduled at 4:30 p.m., 5:15 p.m. and 6 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

The scene will feature people from throughout the Concordia family, both staff and residents, and live animals. Live Christmas music, hot beverages and refreshments will be provided outside and indoors as well. Third and fourth graders from St Luke School will be performing at 5:30 p.m. outside and The Holiday Choir from Bethel, St. John's and Zion, Lutheran Churches will be singing inside Haven 2 at 4:45 p.m. A gift for children 12 and under will be available. This will be a "walk-through" nativity, so guests are encouraged to dress warmly.

As an organization rooted in Christianity, Concordia's vision statement is to serve the Triune God by providing for the needs of His people. Spreading the good news of the birth of Jesus Christ is one way to help care for the spiritual needs of the community.

Parking will be available at entrance six on Marwood Rd. For more information, call Frank Skrip at 724-352-1571, ext. 8268. To keep up to date with what is happening at Concordia, visit the Events page at www.concordialm.org.



TRI-PARISH

Our Advent Services this year will be held at 6:30 p.m. on the following WEDNESDAY evenings:

DECEMBER 1 hosted by Bethel at Bethel

DECEMBER 8 hosted by St. John's at St. John's Millvale

DECEMBER 15 hosted by Zion at Bethel (their kitchen being remodeled)

We will be having a light supper of different breads and soups prior to the worship service. Mark your calendars and join us for evenings filled with worship, singing, fellowship, The Joyful Noise Bell Choir, dinner, and a family movie.

CAROLING AT BETHEL

On SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. members of the three churches will gather together to "sing in the holiday season" while riding in a horse drawn wagon through the streets of Glenshaw! Top hats and bonnets and holiday refreshments are on the agenda for the afternoon.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

"Christmas through the Carols" will be the theme to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, the Son of God and help create a special moment of worship for the Christmas season featuring special music with our Holiday Choir and a violinist, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24 at 5:30 p.m. at Zion and 7:30 p.m. at Bethel Lutheran Church and at St. John's.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

For all three churches will be held at St. John's Millvale at 10:00 a.m.

Concordia Lutheran Ministries Elects Six Board Members

Keith E. Frndak, President and CEO, Concordia Lutheran Ministries announced the election of six board members yesterday at the annual delegate meeting. Currently, eighteen board members comprise the governing body and represent 28 Lutheran Churches Missouri Synod (LCMS) in the western Pennsylvania area. Yesterday, a motion was made to reduce the number of board members to fifteen over the next three years when delegates will vote for five board members. The by-laws change was adopted unanimously. Installed by Rev. Jack Hartman, director of chaplaincy services, the newly elected members follow. Each will serve a three-year term.

Peter Bodnar of Allison Park

A graduate of the College of William and Mary with a bachelor's degree in English Literature, Peter has been Director of Communications for Shadyside Presbyterian Church for the past 18 years. A Board incumbent, he served on the Personnel and Chaplaincy Committee, Concordia Visiting Nurses Professional Advisory Committee and the Concordia Community Support Services Board, A member of Redeemer in Oakmont, he has served multiple terms on the Board of Deacons. He is the grandson of the late Rev. Lorenz Blankenbuehler, Concordia chaplain.

Rev. Dr. Daniel Hahn Jr. of Verona

Pastor at St John's in Millvale since 2014, Dr. Hahn is Regional Vice President, Pittsburgh, Eastern District for LCMS. He was Mission Director of the Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries (PALM) for three years and served as Pastoral Counselor for LWML Pittsburgh Zone and a Director at Redeemer Lutheran School. A graduate of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis with a master's in divinity and a doctorate in Ministry, he served on the Concordia Board as Chairman of the Strategic Planning Committee and a member of the Executive Committee, Nominating Committee and Governance & Legal Committee for the past three years. He and his wife Mary have five children and four grandchildren.

Paul Hoffman of Allison Park

A Cytotechnologist for Quest Diagnostics, Inc since 1988, Paul earned his B.S. in Biology from Slippery Rock University and an MHA from St. Joseph's College in Maine. A member of Bethel, Glenshaw, he has served as a Sunday School teacher, and is currently Financial Director, elder, communion assistant and usher. Also, an incumbent, He was a member of the Financial and Audit and Mission and Ministry Committees. He is married to Kristen and has one son.

James Limbaugh of Cabot

James Limbaugh is an attorney with Corporate Council at United Cause, Inc., and a partner at Miller Limbaugh & Conley. A graduate of Parsons College in Fairfield, IA with a bachelor's degree in history, Jim earned his juris doctorate degree at Ohio Northern University School of Law. He has served on the Concordia Board for more than 25 years, holding offices as Chairman and Vice Chairman. He is married to Karen and has four children and one grandchild. Jim is a member of St. Luke Lutheran Church in Cabot where he conducts estate planning workshops regarding wills, trusts, power of attorney and living wills/healthcare.

Board Members (cont.)

Donald Olmstead of Cabot

Olmstead has served on the Concordia board for 12 years and currently is on the Building and Strategic Planning Committees and the Foundation Board. Co-founder of Venture Engineering & Construction, Inc. with more than 40 years in the engineering field, he holds a master's degree in engineering from the University of Pittsburgh. He and his wife Diane are members of St. Luke Lutheran Church in Cabot and have three adult children. Currently, he is involved with the church's men's group and teaching.

Robert O. Schmidt of McMurray

Bob is a graduate of Duquesne University with a master's degree in business education and the University of Notre Dame's Bayer custom MBA Program. Retired Vice President of Bayer Corporation in the area of Technology and Operations, Bob also served as chairman of the congregation as well as chairman of the Board of Education for Zion in Bridgeville where he and his wife Diana have been members for more than 50 years. They have two children and six grandchildren. Previously, he has served six years on the Concordia board.

Chief Financial Officer, Michael Falbo announced that Concordia Lutheran Ministries is the only Standard and Poors AA rated senior care organization in the United States. A special thank you was extended to Dr. Jennifer Lewis, Zion Bridgeville who has served six years and Len Bloom, St. Luke, Cabot serving the past four years.

Twenty-one churches were represented and a total of fifty delegates as well as management staff and guests were in attendance. Keith E. Frndak, President and CEO is looking forward to robust expansion and strong support of our mission of faithful caring.

Left to Right: Jim Limbaugh, Don Olmstead, Peter Bodnar, Paul Hoffman, Bob Schmidt and Pastor Dan Hahn.



Concordia Lutheran Ministries Welcomes a New Chaplain

Rev. Adam Carl Salinas was officially welcomed at a worship service in his honor on Sept 22 at the Haven I Chapel. Originally from Highland, Indiana, Chaplain Salinas was called as a sole pastor at Golgotha Lutheran Church in Wausa, Nebraska from October 2010 to November 2017. For the next two years he served as pastor of Zion in Power, Montana and Saint John Lutheran Church in Fairfield, Montana as and as an associate pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Great Falls, Montana. Most recently, he served as a chaplain resident at Erlanger Health System in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

A graduate of Concordia University in Mequon and Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, Pastor Salina will concentrate his work at Concordia at Cabot, Rebecca Residence and Concordia of Fox Chapel. He and his wife, BethAnn have three children – Rachel, age 10 and Isaac, age 8 enrolled at St. Luke’s school and three-year-old Daniel.

“I am living my dream in serving here as a chaplain ... God has brought me here along this journey in my life to become a part of the Concordia family. I am excited to be here in embodying and sharing the love of Jesus Christ with others and thankful that God has given me this amazing and awesome opportunity to serve Him and others in my life.” Pastor enjoys running, playing basketball, swimming, bicycling, playing video and board games with his family.



Adopt A Concordia Resident at Christmas

A fun way for a church group to remember residents is the “Adopt-A-Resident” approach. As we approach the Christmas season, we ask that you also do what you can to support the residents at our Concordia communities. In these uncertain times, please consider helping our Activities Directors with gifts for our residents.

If you prefer to send a general gift, we can suggest the following newly purchased items that our residents can typically use: large or extra large sweat suits; adjustable ball caps, socks, large or extra large undershirts, Hair clips/combs/barrettes, Stationery/stamps, Puzzle books, Word Search, Sugar free candy, Books on tape, large or extra large size Dusters/loungers, Snack shop gift certificates, Door decorations, Puffs or Kleenex brand tissue, Watches with large numbers, Lotions and cologne, Tape players/radios for rooms, Music CDs and cassette tapes, a gift box of chocolates, Digital clocks with large numbers, Seasonal sun catchers with suction cups, Large print books (no magazines), Large or extra large cardigan sweaters or sweatshirts, Washable slippers with backs or slipper socks, Jewelry (not pierced), Gift certificates for beauty/barber shop, Decorative small pillows, Devotional books, Decorative throws/blankets, Magnifying glasses, Picture albums/small frames, Lipstick, rouge, liquid makeup, loose powder, toiletries, Sports memorabilia, and Snow globes. Donated general items should not be wrapped and may be dropped off to the Lund Care Center, Building #4. If it is after hours or on the weekend and the administration area is closed, please leave items at a nurse’s station.

Finally, monetary contributions are always appreciated and need to be sent to CLM Foundation, 134 Marwood Road, Cabot, PA 16023. If your congregation or individual members are interested in “adopting a resident,” please call:

CABOT (Donations are needed by Dec. 3)

Jaime White (personal care): 724-352-1571 ext. 8302

Brandy Muth (skilled nursing): bmuth@concordialm.org

ORCHARD

Jodi Macko (personal care): 724-285-4490 (Donations are needed by Dec. 3)

FOX CHAPEL

Kelly Ellena or Sharon Scott (Memory care): 412-767-5808(Please call for assistance with what to donate) (Donations are needed by Dec. 10)

Fashion Luncheon



Jo-Ann Paulenda and Charlotte Hoener, Haven 2 residents and members of St. Luke, officially greeted more than 200 guests at Concordia's Fall Fashion Luncheon on Oct. 23 at Butler Country Club.

Naomi Rysell and Ruth Miller were vendors at the event. Daughter and mother are members of Zion, Lawrenceville



Deaconesses Sara Scungio and Heather Wathall flank their intern Abbey Taylor who were guests at the event. Sara is a member of Grace, Penn Hills and Heather belongs to All Saints in Slippery Rock.



JOIN US FOR CONCORDIA'S NINTH ANNUAL LIVE NATIVITY

* Sunday, December 12

148 Marwood Rd., Cabot, PA 16023
(Entrance #5, Haven II)

Performances at 4:30, 5:15 and 6 p.m.

- *Featuring Concordia staff and residents*
- *Live animals*
- *Hot beverages and refreshments*
- *Gift for children 12 and under*
- *Live Christmas music*
- *Free admission*



This will be a "walk-through" nativity, so guests are encouraged to dress warmly. Parking at entrances 5 and 6. For more information, call 724-352-1571, ext. 8268 or visit www.concordialm.org.

