



THE PITTSBURGH LUTHERAN

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PALM DEVOTION

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

“Taking the Blame, Receiving the Reward”

“The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”Romans 6:23

Holy Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2. While this season of the Church’s year has many nuanced themes, it is primarily focused on our sin and Jesus’ passion. Sin is that caustic brokenness from which we all suffer. It is our condition that corrupts and ruins everything. Sin is most noticeable to us in others. We can see the wickedness of others in the world. We complain of “how bad things have gotten” for this reason or for that. What is the most difficult aspect of sin is our inability or unwillingness to see it in ourselves.

No one likes to admit to their sin. Sure, we might say that we are sinners, but to admit that we actually bring misery into the lives of our loved ones, that we contribute to the troubles in the world, that we are guilty, and that no one else is to blame – that is most difficult. Sin makes us afraid of dealing with its consequences. Sin makes us want to believe ourselves to be better than others. Sin wants to hide in the darkness of our hearts. Sin makes us prisoners in a cell of denial. Most people do not seek out their pastor for private confession because they simply don’t want to. Sin denies responsibility, truth, and finally God.

But the Christian faith, implanted by God’s Word in us, looks not inward to keep sin hidden, but outward to the Christ who suffered and died for our sin. Holy Lent (which means “Spring”) is that most penitential of seasons when the light of God’s grace in Jesus opens us to confess not only that we are sinners, but that we are to blame for all that is wrong. The eyes of faith see the love of Jesus and are no longer fixed on the rot of sin that keeps us apart from our God. Faith boldly confesses in the sure and certain hope that Christ forgives us completely.

Holy Lent is a time to again take the blame for our sin and to receive the renewing forgiveness of Christ in His death and resurrection. The wages of sin is death. But instead of death, our gracious God gives us poor, miserable sinners the free gift of eternal life in Christ Jesus. What a marvelous, liberating gift that He bestows on us! Return to your God, return to your Church, speak with your Pastor, make use of the multitude of services to be found throughout Lent. Confess your sin and receive the forgiveness and peace that passes all understanding. Be free and enjoy this Holy Spring!



PALM Dedicated Mission Fund

by Justin D. Spittel, Treasurer

Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries' first two objectives are the initiation of new congregations and ministries, and the support of new ministries or of ministries that are inherently unable to support themselves.

PALM has therefore established a new Small Grant Fund to address the short-term needs of the growing missions in our region. Grants up to \$500 will be made available to new PALM congregational mission endeavors, available on a rolling basis throughout the year. Each mission will be limited to one grant request in a six-month period.

The Fund is supported by a percentage of the PALM Endowment Fund's annual earnings. We also encourage our congregations and individuals to prayerfully consider donating to the Fund as they are able, whether through their annual pledges or as separate gifts.

Donations can be made by check (to "Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries", memo line "Small Grant Fund"), or online at www.palmpa.prg/donate.

Thank you for your prayers and generous support. God bless us and help us all.



LCMS Synod Anniversary to be Celebrated

Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries and Redeemer Lutheran Church of Oakmont invite the members of our area congregations to unite at Redeemer on Sunday, May 1, 2022, for a special service in praise and thanks to God upon the 175th Anniversary of the founding of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

Our Synod was founded in Chicago, IL on April 26, 1847 at First St. Paul's Church as Die Deutsche Evangelisch-Lutherische Synode von Missouri, Ohio, und Andern Staaten (The German Evangelical-Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, & Other States). This Solemn Vespers will take place at 3:00 p.m. at Redeemer (13th St. & Pennsylvania Ave.) in Oakmont. The day is both The Second Sunday after Easter (Misericordias) and The Feast of Ss. Philip & James, Apostles. A reception will follow the service. More details will be provided.

Preacher for the service will be the Rt. Rev'd. Dr. David P. Stechholz, Bishop emeritus of the English District-LCMS and pastor at Redeemer 1978-1988. Pastor Stechholz is the pastor who spearheaded the building of the current Redeemer Lutheran Church in 1979-80 and then also the founding of Redeemer Lutheran School in 1983. Many also remember him from his days leading the Pittsburgh Lutheran Chorus while Redeemer's pastor. He will already be in town for the English District LWML Convention, to be held April 29-May 1 at the Hilton Garden Hotel at Southpointe. Pastor/Bishop Stechholz in retirement still serves the church at large as a member of the LCMS Board for International Mission and at home as Archdeacon of Zion Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Detroit. He has also written two books in retirement: Love, Hope, and Faith: Anecdotes from the Building Projects of Three Churches, and The English District Saga: A Niche in the History of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in North America.

Take Heart! Renewed to Be a Blessing

A Retreat for All Teachers & Commissioned Ministers — Presented by DOXOLOGY and
the LCMS Office of National Mission

June 21-23, 2022

Antiochian Village Conference Center – Bolivar, PA

The “**Take Heart!**” respite retreats invite all teachers and church workers to step away for a few days. The retreat will provide **rest and renewal for all dedicated teachers and commissioned ministers** who have served faithfully throughout and beyond COVID challenges. The goal is to serve the servants and have them return to their schools and parishes refreshed for the work God has given them to do.

These retreats are fully funded by the LCMS Office of National Mission; *there is no cost for participants to attend!*

PLEASE NOTE: Respite retreat registration is available **only** for those Teachers and Commissioned Ministers who are actively serving an LCMS church, school, or institution.

The respite retreat features:

Worship where participants can gratefully receive the Word.

Mutual conversation and interaction of the participants.

Exploration of spiritual care resources.

Christian psychological tools/strategies for resilience and application in home, school and parish settings.

Table talk among participants to allow for important sharing, debriefing, and problem-solving.

This retreat will provide **encouragement for ministry, enhance confidence in ministry** and will **strengthen all teachers and commissioned ministers**. Respite retreat participants often report, “this is just what I needed!”

Presenters for the Retreat

Rev. David C. Fleming
Executive Director for Spiritual Care

Dr. Beverly K. Yahnke
Executive Director for Christian Counsel

Location: The retreat sessions and lodging will be at the Antiochian Village Conference Center in Bolivar, PA.

Cost: *All Teachers and Commissioned ministers* may register online from this web page and will attend at no cost. (There are no provisions for spouse or family members to attend.)

Schedule: Event check-in begins at 2:15 p.m. and the event begins at 3:00 p.m. on June 21st. The retreat ends by 1:15 p.m. on June 23rd. Event schedule to be posted soon.

Registration is open through June 6, 2022

Please direct questions or cancellations to Nancy Ewert at newert@doxology.us

doxology.us

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MARCH

2- Ash Wednesday

13- Daylight Savings

20- Community Event, "Birding in Lawrenceville Zion Lutheran Church, Lawrenceville, 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

APRIL

2- An Evening at LeMont, RLS Fundraiser, 7:00 p.m.

29- Sound of Music, Redeemer Lutheran School, more info next month



The Pittsburgh Lutheran

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CAMPUS MINISTRY

SRU CAMPUS MINISTRY

by Augusta R. Mennell, Campus Ministry Director

Jo Dublin Is An Answer to Prayer

Jo Dublin is an amazing Christian. She has been a blessing to All Saints Campus Ministry ever since she walked in the door in 2010 and volunteered to cook our Korean student meals. She has been such an answer to prayers that we would like to share her story.

Jo was born in South Korea. She grew up with very few material possessions, but she and her siblings were rich in having a mother who was a Christian. She is the one who set an example for Jo and her brothers and sisters. Because of her influence, they are Christians.

Jo brought her faith with her when she moved to Slippery Rock with her American Christian soldier husband, Mark Dublin. While they raised two daughters Jo worked at Slippery Rock University. During this time she took a special interest in being friends with international students. She loved to help the students and delighted in sharing the Gospel with them. She did this because she is a missionary at heart.

How did Jo become such a great friend to All Saints? It began when she invited my husband and me to a social gathering she was holding for students. She asked us to join in the games she was playing with the students and to eat her homemade meal, too. While there we had time to talk. We discovered that she and All Saints Campus Ministry had something in common: we were passionate about including students in our lives for the sake of the Gospel.

Before meeting Jo, All Saints already had a ministry to students. Church members Dr. and Mrs. Henry Lenz had enthusiastically supported the annual university-wide international student dinner. My husband and I continued the outreach by inviting students to All Saints for free pizza and Christian movies. Movies were a lot of fun until the students decided they would rather talk with each other instead of watching movies. Students were also “pizza-ed out”. Pizza was served at almost every gathering they attended, so something new to eat was very much in order.

We concluded that we needed a cook to prepare homemade meals. Jim prayed that God would send us a cook. Within a short time, Jo walked into All Saints and offered to cook. She would prepare the meals. She offered her talent and refused to take anything in return. She is a special Christian.

Jo’s offer to cook the student meals each month was an answer to prayer. She is remarkably generous and hard-working. Her meals don’t come out of the box. They are homemade. She even goes to a farm to harvest fresh Asian cabbage and radishes. She has no leftovers because she sends the remaining food home with students to enjoy in their dorms. Jo insists that making the meals is what she wants to do; it is how she serves the Lord.

At Christmas Campus Ministry tries to give her gifts, but the only thing she will accept is gifts to her favorite charity. Jo describes herself as just a Christian who shows her love for Jesus in her actions and words to students; especially to students who enjoy her meals at All Saints.

All Saints is thankful for Jo’s help. We don’t take her years of cooking for granted. We are thankful to God for answering our prayer. The seventy students who poured in for the January meal are, too. They came to eat and experience the friendship of Christian fellowship offered. Thank you, Jo, for your willing, loving, helping us to share God’s Word. We love you.

CAMPUS MINISTRY

SRU CAMPUS MINISTRY (Continued)

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Left: Jo Dublin shares leftovers from Korean Student Meal with Jin Lee. Jin Lee helps spread the word to other students at Slippery Rock University about the free meal.

Below: Mrs. Augusta Mennell shares a moment with Jo Dublin who cooks the Korean Student Meal for the All Saints Lutheran Church and Student Center's



Campus Ministry.

Pittsburgh Lutheran Student Fellowship & International Student Ministry

by Pastor Eric R. Andrae [Pittsburgh LCMS Campus Ministry](#) (LSF-ISM)

Faith & Fellowship in Uncertain Times

LSF was featured in a recent [Pitt News](#) article focused on local response to COVID-19. As both Pitt and CMU existed in “shelter-in-place” mode once again through January, LSF wrestled with the obligation to meet both temporal and spiritual needs. Pastor Eric Andrae has found that virtual connections offer the opportunity to expand Bible study to include alumni located around the country along with current students.

In an article in *The Lutheran Witness*, Gene Veith reports that “Attendance at movies, sporting events and other entertainment venues is way down. Some restaurants have closed their dining rooms and have switched to take-out only. Americans are increasingly just staying home, preferably by themselves. This is especially true of young adults. A [study](#) has found that Americans between 18 and 24” – the age of the students we serve through your campus mission – “spend 70% more time at home than the general public.”

However, Sarah Todd, senior reporter at [Quartz](#), notes a paradox regarding this phenomenon: “The internet has given rise to a new kind of night in. We may indeed feel relaxed and cozy beneath our weighted anti-anxiety blankets, relieved to be spared the rituals of shots and small talk and shouting over music. Still, there’s a part of us that wants to connect. So we reach for our phones [Instagram, texting, Facebook, etc.], wanting to share the pleasure we take in being alone.”

By the way, Veith (Jan. 2020) and Todd (Nov. 2019) both offered their observations BEFORE the pandemic, before lockdowns, before facemasks, before social distancing...!

“So what we have here,” concludes Pastor Andrae “is both challenge and opportunity. The students don’t get out of their apartments and dorms as much as they used to, but they still crave — and need — community just as much as their previous generations of humans. And that’s what LSF provides.”

Along with students from the Beatrice Institute, LSF students from Chatham, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Pitt, & CMU attended the new movie, [C.S. Lewis: The Most Reluctant Convert](#), on 7 November 2021. Dinner and robust conversation followed.



Pittsburgh Lutheran Student Fellowship & International Student Ministry (Continued)

In ongoing work with the Beatrice Institute (BI), Pastor Andr  taught an undergraduate seminar last October as part of the Institute's course on "Formative Christian Ideas." The session entitled "Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: The Holy Trinity" included reading the Athanasian Creed, the Augsburg Confession I, and selections from Dorothy Sayers' *The Mind of the Maker*. One attending Pitt student, who is actually agnostic, said "Pastor Andr 's seminar on the Trinity provided an enjoyable and meaningful discussion on one of the most mysterious and complex aspects of the Christian faith."



LSF also hosted BI's spring semester welcome back dinner on January 28 (see photo below).



We Appreciate You!

You can donate online: scroll about halfway down at <http://lsfpgh.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".

Also, if you have any *graduating high school seniors* who will attend college in the Pittsburgh area, or any current students in our schools, *please share their contact information with us* and ours with them. Even if they might be worshipping at their home congregation on Sundays, we would love to connect them with our community of students for Bible Study, social events, service projects, and overall peer and pastoral care & support!

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

MISSION NEWS

MILEPOSTERS NEWS

It is time to look back on the year 2021. The Mileposters are tandem cyclists (since 1997--24 years) who participate in other activities as well.

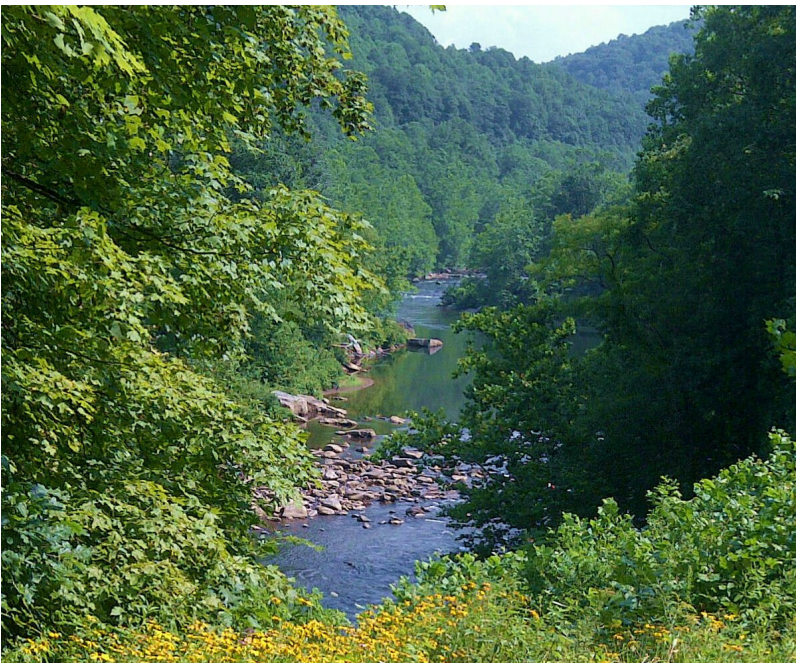
There are 20 members; 8 adults lead and assist in various ways. Stokers (riders behind the captain) range from 4 to 15 years of age. 4 kick bikes are in the stable with 1 triplet (with attachments for quad and quint), 8 tandems (including stoker-forward), and 3 singles. There are 4 adult captains. There were 5 new riders from 3 families; 15 continued from previous years.

46 rides have been made since last year, starting at 18 different trailheads, by 20 riders, for exercise and Christian fellowship, as well as raising support for Lutheran Disaster Relief in Puerto Rico, including bicycles built for one, two, and three riders. Rides for this year's campaign totaled 3,100 miles. Some \$60,000 has been raised for Lutheran charities since fundraising began.

In addition to cycling, games events, movies, city steps hikes, outdoor park events, and chess have been offered. Over 127 different children have participated since 2007. Movies events focus on an analysis of each movie from a Christian perspective.

Two pictures give a taste of the year past: a new rider wading in the Ohio River near Western Penitentiary, and a view of the Youghiogheny River gorge from the Great Allegheny Passage near Ohiopyle.

The snow and cold weather at the time of this writing have placed a damper on winter events, as has non-Covid illness. A short movie about the origin of Valentine's Day, with refreshments, is in the planning stages, but is beyond the article deadline.



HOUSES OF WORSHIP SERIES

Houses of Worship By Shirley Freyer

Mt Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church

285 Highland Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15229 (West View)
412/931-4500
Rev. Scott A Kuntz, Pastor
www.mtcalvarywv.com



Now seven years away from a Centennial celebration, Mt. Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church began as a vision of Rev. J. K. E. Horst, pastor of St. Matthew's on the North Side in 1929. The Eastern District Mission Board extended a call to Rev. E. G. Tieman who was serving two congregations in Glen Savage and Johnsborg, Pa. He and his family arrived in May, and he preached his first sermon in a vacant store building at 460 Perry Highway on June 9. The following week a Sunday School was organized with seven children, and by October 23 founders adopted a constitution.

"My grandparents, John and Sophia Gredlein, were charter members," said current member Dawna Heinrichs. Her parents were active in church groups. Dawna's husband Jim is Vice President and Dawna serves as Treasurer. "I have been a member since the day I was born," Dawna continued. "Jim joined the church 46 years ago when we became engaged, and we are committed to serve in any way we can."

President Mike Paprocki spoke a similar story. "My wife is a lifelong member," he said. "Some of her family were founders of the church." Having joined Mt. Calvary 15 years ago, he has continued to become increasingly more passionate about Lutheran worship.

Church forefathers shared his passion, and in 1931 dedicated their new church only five months after the groundbreaking on Bronx and Highland Avenues in the heart of West View.

According to Sharon Pritchard, music director, organist and financial secretary, this community was one of the closest suburbs to downtown Pittsburgh where a person could walk to the local grocery store, pharmacy, bakery, and schools. The fire and police stations were handy, and streetcars were a block away.

"The physical design of the church was changed at some point in the early years," she said. "The structure as we know it now was built with beautiful woodwork and soaring ceilings, and the outside brick was actually laid by a member." Her parents were members of St. Matthew's on the North Side. "However, when they moved to the North Hills, West View seemed closer for them, and Mt. Calvary was their new church home," she explained.

A Walther League was organized in 1932 and the first VBS began in 1933. A choir was established, and a new Wangerin Pipe Organ was donated in 1940 - all these new beginnings under the 19-year-long tenure of its first pastor (who also organized Bethel in Glenshaw in 1935).

HOUSES OF WORSHIP SERIES

Pastor at Christ in New Castle, Rev. Martin Lobeck came to serve this young congregation in 1948 until he was called to his eternal home in 1960. Membership grew, families grew, and Mt. Calvary was a thriving church with young families and social activities for the members and their friends. It was time to expand, and in 1953 architect J. E. Thoma submitted a plan to design a new structure to match the existing building, doubling the Sunday School and social room seating capacity; it was dedicated in 1957.

Sharon remembered that in the '60s and '70s, the pews filled up quickly and one Sunday service just wasn't enough to accommodate all who came to worship. In 1971 under the leadership of Rev. D. Thomas Kraft, two services were launched, and the early Sunday service became known as The Family Service where more contemporary music was used, children's sermons were preached, and the length of the service was but a half hour, so that the kids could then go to Sunday School and the adults to Bible Study. "The traditional Sunday service followed, and some folks even stayed for the whole morning," she noted. The congregation celebrated its 40th anniversary with the addition of chimes and the 50th anniversary with baptismal renewal, confirmation reunion, and marriage re-dedication services during Pastor Kraft's time.

The 'Passionate Principal of Perpetual Praise,' as Sharon is referred to in the weekly worship folder, has played for 46 years, and her journey to that post is a familiar one ... "When the organist for the family service left for college, the search committee asked if I could play the organ as I was a piano player still in school ... just until they found another organist. I consented for the short-term. Shortly thereafter, the other organist resigned due to health reasons. The search committee for the organist position (that I consented to do for the short-term) has got to be the slowest in history! When asking the last remaining member from the original search committee how the search was coming along, he said with a grin, 'I stopped looking a long time ago!'"

The current pastor, Rev. Scott A. Kuntz, was installed in 2003, having served a vacancy at Mt. Calvary for two years during his ministry at Zion in Lawrenceville. At the same time, he also continued to fill a vacancy at Pentecost in Avella until last year. He began his ministry as pastor of three churches in North Dakota and recently was asked to serve the congregation at St. Mark's in Steubenville.

"Multiple opportunities to preach the Word and administer the Sacraments in different church settings is a great blessing," he claimed. "Some are new, others are older; there are those that are just existing, but your audience realizes they are not forgotten but are the faithful few. It's a learning experience for me to minister to different individuals," he said, as he maintains his greatest challenge is to motivate people to share their faith.

It seems his members have heard that message loud and clear, as expressed by 87-year-old church secretary Madeleine Jerry, who joined the church after she and her husband married and bought a home in McCandless Twp. "We were members of St. Mark's in McKees Rocks, but my mother knew some people from Mt. Calvary and suggested we consider Mt. Calvary since our daughter was old enough to be in confirmation class. Eventually my mom and Dad moved in with me and they too became members." One of the oldest members of the congregation, she mentioned the letter the church sends to new move-ins in the community and referred to Dawna who spearheads community involvement.

"It is a joy to work together in our community outreach programs," said Dawna. The most unique mission is the Blessing Box. "We built a large container in the shape of a church and a separate pathway outside and fill it with food and other necessities."

HOUSES OF WORSHIP SERIES

Annually, this “small but mighty” congregation, as they refer to themselves, chooses several recipients for the Christmas Blessings program - North Hills Community Outreach, Kane Regional Nursing Home, Genesis Center, Backpack Initiative program, women's shelters, and individual families in need. They not only provide cookies for Meals on Wheels in October, but also design treats for their recipients for Christmas, Easter, and Halloween.

They are emboldened by their leader as expressed by Dawna and Sharon. “Most of all, I believe that we are blessed having Scott Kuntz as our pastor. Pastor Kuntz and his family are active in all of our church activities and projects. His sermons and teachings are based on Scripture, but he always applies the Word to modern day issues and is always available to help when needed,” said Dawna.

“We realize that despite our size, we can be mighty - with the help of the Lord! Pastor Kuntz has given us the energy in the Word and encouragement to look beyond our numbers, and to imagine what a difference one small word or action can do for another person in the name of Christ,” said Sharon. “Our numbers are only a number. Our small numbers continue to keep our church funded to meet the budget and we now focus our mission strongly with community outreach.”

The size of this congregation was an attraction for 20-year member Lois Thomson and her mother (who joined the Church Triumphant in 2016). “When the church Mother and I attended, St. Paul's Lutheran in North Side, closed, we started looking for another. We visited many, including other denominations, but didn't find one that was the right ‘fit,’” she shared.

But when she remembered meeting a woman at her first job who spoke highly of Mt. Calvary, they decided to visit one Sunday. “The first thing we saw when we walked in the door was the Gethsemane Rose Window above the altar. St. Paul's had the same window, and we felt as if we were home. The immediate friendliness of the people was also quite welcoming. St. Paul's had been a small church, and we liked worshipping where everybody knows your name,” Lois said. Lois is recording secretary and belongs to the bell and vocal choirs.

The congregation continues to work together on internal projects and programs. “Our congregation members have coalesced in recent years to support and assist on some major projects,” said Mike. “We refinished the church basement for worship and social gatherings, Sunday School, and VBS.” Air conditioning units were added. All cement was replaced in the front of the church including walkways and parking. New landscaping was added.

“I am hoping to re-introduce VBS this summer,” noted Pastor Kuntz. “We have Sunday School once a month since even though we have only a few children (Pastor and his wife Nicole have two sons, Liam age 6 and Oscar, age 3), this gives grandparents the opportunity to bring their grandchildren.”



HOUSES OF WORSHIP SERIES

The pandemic interrupted the sponsorship of VBS, but the congregation is mission-minded and eager to share the Word to the community according to Pastor Kuntz. During Covid they started online Zoom meetings to bring Sunday services to those who were unable to attend in person and continue these broadcasts even though more people are back to worshipping in church. "Sometimes," said Pastor Kuntz, "we have more online than in person." There's a disadvantage to this kind of preaching, he believes, because "I do all the talking."



A newer member who joined the flock in 2002 is Elder David McElroy. He said he didn't pick this church at all. He hadn't gone to church for a long time. Raised as a Methodist, he went from place to place – Unitarian, Anglican, Catholic and Greek Orthodox. "Out on the road in Michigan, my wife Patti called and said we are going to church this Sunday," he said. Their two children were in day care with Dorothy and Tom Hoover, active members of Mt. Calvary, and the Hoover grandchildren and Emily and Brett became really close.

"The first visit, Pastor Kuntz handed me a 1941 edition of the Book of Concord and I began to read it and said 'Yeah, this is it.'" His work selling wholesale diamond jewelry to retail stores called for travel from St. Louis to western Illinois up to New England and the Carolinas, so he had time to study the Bible and discover more about LCMS.

"If I was on the road, I would make certain I could visit an LCMS church in the area, so I began to connect with pastors and members all over the country," he said. Now he participates in the bell and vocal choirs at Mt. Calvary, serves as one of three missions directors for PALM (Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries), and belongs to the Tri

-parish choir (Bethel, St. John's and Zion, Lawrenceville).

Mt. Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church was a bright spot in the year of the Great Depression. For just one week before, so states the pastor's message in the 75th Anniversary program, God began anew His blessings upon the faithful band of servants in West View, who, armed with the Word of God in one hand and the Holy Sacraments in the other, made the pledge to be that beacon of light which would shine in this community to spread the Word of God and the Peace found in a Risen Savior, Jesus Christ, as He promised to do, "from faith to faith."

SCHOOL NEWS

REDEEMER LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Oakmont / Penn Hills

The final week of January was Lutheran Schools Week, a celebration of all Lutheran Schools across the country. This was also National School Choice Week, a chance to celebrate the ability of parents and families to choose the best educational options for their children.

To celebrate the week, Redeemer hosted a variety of fun dress-up days and events. Students had pajama day, mismatch day, and school spirit day, just to name a few. Each class also participated in a door decorating contest to illustrate parables that exemplified our theme, "In All Things, Christ is Found." The annual Penny Wars competition will contribute all earnings to mission work in Zambia, and students in each class collected funds and made cards for Phil's Friends, a support organization for those battling cancer. It was a busy, joyful week. Be sure to check out our Facebook page for all the pictures and updates.

The summer of 2021 marked the 10th anniversary of the purchase of our Penn Hills campus and the foundation of Redeemer Lutheran High School. Faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of Redeemer gathered for a 10th anniversary dinner in January at Concordia Highpointe. It was a wonderful evening of celebrating the Lord's goodness and providence for Redeemer, and thankful anticipation for the years to come.

Circumstances and challenges haven't kept Redeemer from participating in winter activities and programs!

Athletics: The basketball season has been in full swing. Our upper elementary boys team finished their season 6-0, and our middle school teams for boys and girls are both in good positions to make the playoffs. Our high school team continues to work on their skills and develop their team abilities for future years.

Senior bowler Lucas Brown was featured in an article in the Tribune Review for having the eighth best average in the WPIBL East, with a high game of 222 and a high series of 558. Congratulations to Lucas!!

Service: National Honor Society and Junior Honor Society have been very busy, organizing the annual Valentine's Day grams in February. High school students have regularly scheduled work days at Holy Cross Lutheran to assist with the clothing ministry and other service projects. Student council also raises money for Holy Cross through Care for Coffee sales of hot drinks for students, school staff, and families.

Extracurricular: Our middle school robotics team took two top awards in competition recently and are looking to head to state competition later in February! Congratulations to our Robotic Rams and our coach Mrs. Schumacher!

Performing arts is likewise in high gear, preparing for the musical presentation of *The Sound of Music* in April. We are thankful to the Lord and to everyone involved for making all of these activities possible for our students!

Enrollment for 2022-2023 is now open! Visit our website to submit an inquiry, or contact our admissions counselor, Mrs. Jackson, for a tour!
rlspittsburgh.org, 412-793-LUTH

We continue to be blessed to be in school 5 days a week!

Please contact us for more information and **follow us on Facebook:**
Redeemer Lutheran School

Please keep Redeemer Lutheran School in your daily prayers.

SCHOOL NEWS

REDEEMER LUTHERAN SCHOOL (Continued)

Upcoming Events:

April 2nd: An Evening at LeMont fundraiser, 7:00 p.m. Come join us for a wonderful evening and support RLS. Purchase tickets at mkt.com/rlspittsburgh or contact the school at 412-793-5884 for more information.

April 29th & 30th: Redeemer presents *The Sound of Music*. Ticket information to come in next month's issue!

Middle school boys basketball finishes season 6-0 Favorite book character day for Lutheran Schools Week



Work day at Holy Cross in Hazelwood



Senior Night to recognize RLHS senior winter season athletes



MT. CALVARY LUTHERAN

West View

Mt. Calvary in West View is currently undergoing some improvements and renovations to different areas of the church. Late last year, a portion of the ceiling crumbled in the men's room. Members from the church are in the process of repairing the ceiling, with painting and other updates to follow. In addition, in the back of the sanctuary, the church had an issue with water leakage last year. A pointing company made the necessary repairs, and now that the area has withstood subsequent rains and snowfalls, painting will be done to restore the section like new.

On the fun side, Mt. Calvary hosted a Games Night for family and friends at the church Feb. 26. A variety of games were on board (pun intended), along with refreshments and fun. Look for a full report next month.

Bell and voice choirs have begun holding practices on Monday nights in anticipation of performing during the spring.

In addition, the congregation is MOST grateful to members who have been giving up their time to keep the sidewalks and steps in front of the church cleared of snow.



FIRST TRINITY LUTHERAN

Shadyside

Join us for Lent, Passiontide, and Easter!

Ash Wednesday (March 2) Divine Service: 7:00 PM

Wednesday Lenten Vespers: 7:00 PM

Holy Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday (April 11, 12, 13):

9:30 AM Matins

7:00 PM Divine Service

8:00 PM Vespers

Maundy Thursday (April 14):

9:30 AM Matins

7:00 PM Divine Service

8:00 PM Vespers

Good Friday (April 15):

Tre-Ore -

12:00 PM Matins

1:00 PM Divine Service

2:00 PM Vespers

7:00 PM Way of the Cross Devotional

Holy Saturday (April 16):

8:30 AM Matins

12:00 PM Vespers

Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord:

Saturday (April 16): 8:00 PM The Great Vigil of Easter

Sunday (April 17): 11:00 AM Divine Service



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN

Bridgeport, WV

St. John's has had a very blessed and busy time since Pastor Lacey's ordination and installation on June 15th. Here are a few of the highlights from the past eight months.

Throughout June and July, Pastor Lacey spent most of his time visiting with members, meeting city leaders, and continuing a relationship with the Clarksburg Mission. This was a place that Rev. Amadeus Gandy, Pastor Lacey's predecessor, made quite an impact. His work left an open door for Pastor Lacey to jump right in and get to know leaders and residents at the Mission. The Clarksburg Mission is a faith-based recovery center in Harrison County, WV. Pastor Lacey's activity at the Mission has led to his leading devotions and teaching a class introducing the Christian faith to men at the Mission called "Not Sure Yet." He was also recently elected as a board member for the Clarksburg Mission.

Through meeting various leaders in the community, Pastor Lacey found ways that he and other members of St. John's could start serving their community with others. One of these opportunities was Clarksburg Community Action. This group is led by a few city council members. Their main activity is organizing trash cleanup in various neighborhoods throughout Clarksburg. Another group that Pastor began to work with is called Friends Feeding Friends. This group works with various organizations to feed people in need. Every Wednesday evening in downtown Clarksburg, Pastor Lacey attends Friends Feeding Friends, speaks with people, occasionally helps cook and serve food, and entertains the masses with his karaoke skills.

During August and September, Pastor began working more with volunteers in his congregation to develop plans for Christian education of children and adults. Each Sunday, St. John's Head Elder, Ray Higginbotham, teaches children's Sunday School, using materials from Concordia Catechetical Academy. During the same time each Sunday, Pastor Lacey teaches the Adult Sunday School class, which discusses a passage from the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions each week.

Pastor Lacey continued his involvement with various service organizations in town. He was asked to speak at a community gathering for recovery awareness called Clarksburg's Recovery 2021 Speaker Jam Fest. This was a city-wide event involving city officials, church leaders, and various news agencies. At the end of September, Pastor Lacey ran in the Clarksburg Pepperoni Roll 5K. One inquirer of St. John's was injured while preparing for the 5K so Pastor pushed her in a wheelchair.

Over the next several months, St. John's moved to a new location. You can now find St. John's worshipping on Sunday mornings at 721 Hall Street in Bridgeport, WV. Just before their move to Bridgeport, Pastor Lacey was recognized as the Harrison County Citizen of the Month by the Shinnston News & Harrison County Journal. With the move to Bridgeport, Pastor became involved in the Bridgeport Ministerial Association. He participated in a video produced by the group. Pastor spent a couple of minutes explaining the meaning and significance of the Advent season. During these months, the congregation also began planning and carried out their first community activity. This was their first annual St. Nicholas Open House. The Open House included Christmas music, treats, and children's activities. This event had a wonderful turnout and many who attended have continued to maintain a relationship with our congregation.

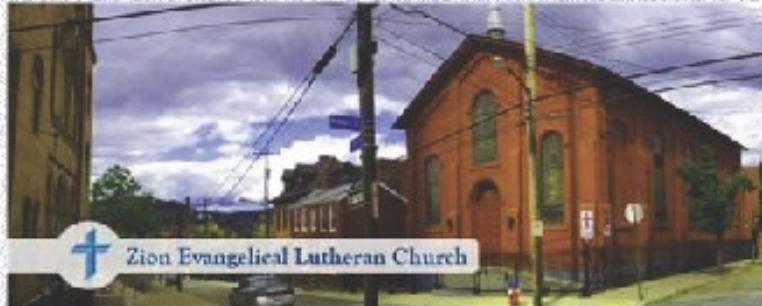
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN (Continued)

St. John's has been greatly blessed by God over the past eight months! She has received her second residential pastor. She is served by dedicated members ready to volunteer and give of their possessions, time, and talent. In addition to these blessings given by God, they have also received a great deal of support from many saints in the Church at large. We are so grateful for the generosity of congregations contributing to the English District's 1-1-1 Dollar For Missions giving program. We are also extremely thankful for all those who have given one-time gifts and ongoing support to the Lord's ministry being carried out by the people of St. John's in North Central West Virginia. Please continue that support! If you look at St. John's Lutheran Church on a map of Missouri Synod congregations in West Virginia, you'll see that this is a vital outpost for the preaching of the pure Gospel and the administration of the Holy Sacraments. We are *the* LCMS presence in this part of the state. Your prayers and monetary support are critical to ensure that christians in North Central West Virginia have access to a Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregation! Thank you and God bless you!



Community Event “Birding in Lawrenceville”

March 20, 2022~ 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.



Zion Ev. Lutheran Church
237 37th Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15201
412-621-2720

Roxanne Swan, Coordinator for the Audubon Center for Native Plants, will be presenting to the public the topics on Bird Habitats and Rain Gardens. Roxanne has been in the Green Industry for 25 years, and has a degree from Chatahm University in Environmental Botany and a Certificate in Horticulture.

1:30 p.m. - Bird Habitat: Learn about the benefits native plants provide our local birds and their connections with bird habitats. Uncover the amazing connections that plants have with birds to entice pollination, dispense seed and control pests.

2:30 p.m. - Rain Gardens: Learn how rain gardens can address storm water runoff at its source. They can address a significant portion of the runoff caused by impervious surfaces such as roofs, sidewalks, and driveways. Learn about how to properly install a rain garden on your property and help manage storm water runoff while creating habitat with native plants.

Free to the public: Reservations required by March 18. Face Masks recommended, follow CDC guidelines. Please call: 412-621-2720 to make your reservation, please leave name and phone number.

Become a Concordia Hospice Volunteer

Make a difference today!

What do volunteers do?

Volunteers help our patients with everyday tasks so they may live each day to the fullest. Our volunteers enhance the quality of life for those receiving hospice care by simply holding a hand, sharing a story or being a friend. No prior knowledge is needed, just an open heart and a desire to change a life!

Our volunteers:

OFFER companionship and support to patients

GIVE caregivers much needed breaks

SHARE prayer or spiritual support

PLAY music or sing

VISIT with a therapy dog

HELP patients write or tell their life stories

SIT quietly with someone during the last hours of life

PROVIDE haircuts or massages

ASSIST staff with administrative tasks

Because hospice patients have diverse needs, Concordia welcomes individuals and groups with varied skills and talents. Our volunteers have been gardeners, hairstylists, artists, musicians, carpenters, quilters, housekeepers and writers. Every special skill and talent can be used when you're a hospital volunteer!

Concordia is blessed to offer hospice volunteer opportunities throughout our western PA service area. If you are interested in volunteering in southern Allegheny, Washington or Greene counties, visit www.ConcordiaHW.org or call our Concordia Hospice of Washington volunteer team at 724-250-4500. For those interested who live north of Pittsburgh, visit www.good-samaritanhospice.org or call 1-800-720-2557 to be connected with our Good Samaritan Hospice volunteer coordinator!

