



THE PITTSBURGH LUTHERAN

VOL 92, NO 7, September 2022

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PALM DEVOTION

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

“From Generation to Generation”

The Blessed Virgin Mary sang those words in the *Magnificat* to point us to the One “who has done great things,” her Son, God’s Son, Jesus Christ. She prophetically proclaims that Jesus’ mercy has no limits and will continue to be proclaimed and celebrated from one generation to the next. She says this just after proclaiming that “*all generations will call me blessed*” and tells us this is not by any merit or worthiness of her own but because “*He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name.*”

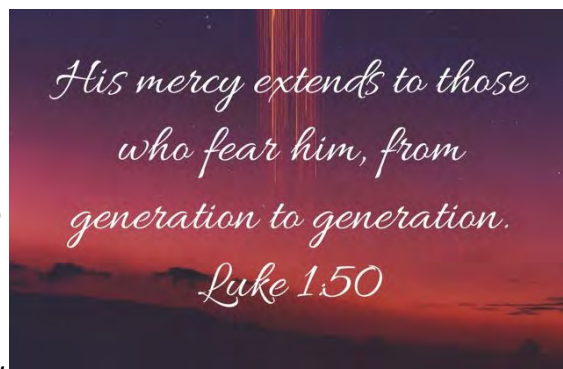
ALL GENERATIONS.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ has been delivered to us from our ancestors and it will continue to be proclaimed to the generations of our descendants. This is a comforting promise to us that Jesus’ Name will continue to be proclaimed after we are gone. History shows that this promise has survived wars, plagues, and famines. It has seen the rise and fall of many empires. Neither wealth nor poverty can overrule it. Until the return of Jesus on the last day, our grandchildren and their children will have the merciful promise of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus in which to find hope and comfort.

But this is not told us simply to put our minds at ease about future generations. This promise has practical implications for the Church if we believe it. This promise lays the privilege of proclaiming and passing on the Gospel upon us. As the mantle of Elijah fell upon Elisha, so the mantle of the Church is passed from generation to generation. It is given to us to bear witness to the hope that we have in us to our neighbors, to raise our children in loving Christian homes, and to catechize young and old in the doctrines of Holy Scripture.

It is also our privilege to preserve and hand on to the generations following us not only this saving message, but also the foundational places and means by which we have done this and they may use to continue this privileged work. Our forefathers built churches and established congregations in our boroughs and neighborhoods as places for the faithful to gather to hear and receive Jesus’ Word and Sacraments. They provided us with ministers called in Jesus’ name and stead to preach His Word and administer His Sacraments to us. It is our privilege and calling to do the same for our descendants in the Faith.

The legacy of every congregation is not simply its name, building, money, ethnicity, or families. The legacy of your congregation is the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ proclaimed in your location from generation to generation. Your congregation’s name, building, money, even people are all means that God uses to continue that legacy which He promised so long ago. If we believe the words of Scripture that Mary sings in the *Magnificat*, if we believe that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is truly for all generations, then this Faith will guide our outlook and decisions concerning our present congregations and their future.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

September

- 7. Free speaker "Crimes Targeting Senior Citizens" Ascension Lutheran, McCandless, 2:00 p.m.
- 11. Rally Day Ascension, McCandless, after church.
- 11. Concordia Concert, Harrisville Community Band, Haven II patio, Cabot, 4:00 p.m.
- 15. Pie Baking - Ascension, McCandless Fellowship Hall, time TBA
- 16. 19 Concordia Concert, Mickey Dee, Concordia of the South Hills, Mt Lebanon, 3:30 p.m.
- 18. PALM Annual Delegate Meeting, First Trinity, Shadyside.
- 23. Concordia Purse Bash, The Mansion, Butler, Pa, 6:00 p.m.
- 24. Christ Lutheran PALs Golf Outing, Victory Hills Golf Course, Elizabeth, Pa, 9:00 a.m.

October

- 1. Concordia Oktoberfest, Haven I, Cabot, 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- 7. Pie Baking -Ascension, McCandless, Fellowship Hall, time TBA
- 8. Pumpkinfest/Flea Market - Ascension Lutheran, McCandless, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



The Pittsburgh Lutheran

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Justin Spittel, Treasurer
Rev. Brian Westgate, Secretary

PALM Website
<http://www.palmpa.org>



PALM DEVOTION (continued)

The PALM Board of Directors firmly believes that Jesus's mercy is for those who fear Him from generation to generation. We are committed to helping all our member congregations to reach out in faith to proclaim the Gospel in their various locations. We are convinced that Jesus desires His ministry to continue and not be extinguished. We are here to help you preserve and continue to proclaim the Gospel in your location. We have the expertise to assist you in maintaining a healthy and robust ministry among you and to find creative ways to maintain your presence in the community. Even now we are helping to foster congregations in new locations and revitalize older parish churches. No matter your numbers, no matter your finances, the Lord can bring us together to help one another. Don't give up on your parish church! He who is mighty has done great things for you and will continue to do so!

LCMS EASTERN DISTRICT CONVENTION

By David McElroy

**Report of the 100th Regular Convention of the Eastern District,
Lutheran Church Missouri Synod**

On June 17th and 18th delegates convened at First Trinity Lutheran Church in Tonawanda, New York for the 100th Regular Convention of the Eastern District, LCMS. At the opening of the convention there were 73 Lay delegates and 65 Clergy delegates present for a total number of 138 voting delegates which established a quorum at 11:18 a.m. on Friday June 17, 2022.



In the order of business following the report of the District President Rev. Chris Wicher, nominations for District President were held in which Rev. John L. Pingle of Salem Lutheran Church in Buffalo, NY (Rev. Pingle formerly served as pastor at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Beaver Falls, PA) was elected on the second ballot at 1:11 p.m.

Following the Presidential election was the vote on the order of Vice Presidents the results follow as:

- 1st Vice President: Rev Dr. Daniel Hahn of St. John's Lutheran Church, Millvale, PA
- 2nd Vice President: Rev. Charles Whited of 1st Trinity Lutheran Church, Tonawanda, NY
- 3rd Vice President: Rev. Frederick Hoover of Christ Memorial Lutheran Church, Malvern, PA
- 4th Vice President: Rev Larry Stojkovic of Hope Lutheran Church, Rochester, NY.

PALM NEWS

EASTERN DISTRICT CONVENTION (continued)

Due to demographic changes within the Eastern District LCMS and the need to comply with the requirements of Synod it was resolved that the Visitation Circuits of the Eastern District be aligned as follows:

Buffalo North

Hananiah, Buffalo
Lutheran Church of Our Savior,
Buffalo
St. Luke, Cheektowaga
Holy Cross, Clarence
St. Paul, Clarence Center
St. John, Depew
First Trinity, Tonawanda

Buffalo South

Immanuel, Buffalo
Salem, Buffalo
La Santa Cruz, Buffalo
Redeemer, Colden
St. Martin, Colden
Immanuel, East Aurora
Faith, Elma
St. John, Orchard Park
Trinity, West Seneca

Lakeshore/Cattaraugus

St. Paul, Allen
St. John, Angola
Trinity, Ashford
Grace, Bradford, PA
Immanuel Cattaraugus (E. Otto)
St. Paul, Eden
St. Paul, Fredonia
Immanuel, Gowanda
St. Paul, Northeast, PA
Trinity, Silver Creek
Salem, Springville
First Trinity, Wellsville

Niagara

St. Paul, Batavia
Mount Olive, Lockport
St. Peter, Lockport
Trinity, Lockport
Trinity, Medina
Holy Cross, Middleport
Concordia, Newfane
Our Savior, Niagara Falls
St. Andrew, Pekin
Immanuel, Ridgewood
St. Michael, Wolcottsville
St. John, Youngstown

Niagara South

Holy Ghost, Bergholtz
Grace, Niagara Falls
St. John, North Tonawanda
St. Mark, North Tonawanda
St. Matthew, North Tonawanda
St. Paul, North Tonawanda
Immanuel, Tonawanda

Rochester East

Redeemer, Auburn
Grace, Canastota
Redeemer Canastota
Faith, Penfield
Hope, Red Creek
Redeemer, Newark
Risen Christ, Fairport
Bread of Life, Rome
St. John, Rome
Trinity, Utica
Calvary, Waterloo

Rochester South

Holy Trinity, Binghamton
(Chenango Bridge)
Good Shepherd, Canandaigua
Faith Corning
St. Paul, Cortland
St. John, Farmington
Alpha Deaf, Henrietta
Pinnacle, Henrietta
St. Mark, Mendon
Christ, Interlaken
Trinity, Ithaca
Zion, Owego
Grace, Vestal
Trinity, Wellsboro

Rochester West

Epiphany, Avon
St. Paul, Cohocton
Hope, Greece
St. John, Hamlin
St. Mark, West Henrietta
St. Paul, Hilton
Trinity, Spencerport

Pittsburgh North

Mount Olive, Beaver Falls
St. Luke, Cabot
Prince of Peace, Freedom
St. John, Morrisdale
Christ, New Castle
Christ, Oil City
Ascension, Pittsburgh
St. Paul, New Kensington
Martin Luther, Punxsutawney
Good Shepherd, State College
Mount Calvary, Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh South

St. John, Accident, MD
Zion, Accident, MD
Concordial, Brentwood
Zion, Bridgeville
Saints. Peter and Paul, Central City
Christ, Forrest Hills
Trinity, Glen Savage (Fairhope)
Calvary, Murrysville
Faith, Pittsburgh
Trinity Deaf, Pittsburgh
Good Shepherd, South Hills
Grace, Penn Hills
St. John, Millvale
St. Matthew, Pittsburgh
Zion, Pittsburgh
Bethel Glenshaw

Susquehanna (S) / Philadelphia

St. Like, Croydon
S- Faith, Easton
S- Christ, Freemansburg
S- Faith, Herndon
S- Grace, Hop Bottom
Hope, Levittown
Christ Memorial, Malvern
S- Our Savior, Mount Pocono
Christ Assembly, Philadelphia
Holy Cross, Philadelphia
St. Phillip, Philadelphia
S- St. John, Pittston
S- Immanuel, Scranton
S- Peace, Scranton
S- St. Paul, Tunkhannock
S- St. Peter, Wilkes-Barre

EASTERN DISTRICT CONVENTION (continued)

The vote on the proposed realignment was held at 1:21 PM on Friday June 16th and passed by a margin of 134 for and 4 against.

In addition to the executive elections and in conjunction with the realignment in the Eastern District circuit visitors were also elected at caucus.

CIRCUIT VISITORS

Buffalo North	Rev. Jeff Nickel, Holy Cross Lutheran, Clarence, NY
Buffalo South	Rev. Nycholas Greig, Trinity, West Seneca, NY
Cattaraugus / Lakeshore	Rev. Thomas Lutz, St. Paul Lutheran, Eden, NY
Niagara	Rev. J. David Duke, Concordia, Newfane, NY
Niagara South	Rev. Ben Bahr, Grace Lutheran, Niagara Falls, NY
Rochester East	Rev. William Dorow, Calvary, Waterloo, NY
Rochester South	Rev. Robert Weidmayer, St. John's, Farmington, NY
Rochester West	Rev. Mark Brown, St. Mark, West Henrietta, NY
Pittsburgh North	Rev. Scott Kuntz, Mt. Calvary, West View, PA
Pittsburgh South	Rev. Dr. Edward Grimenstein, Zion, Bridgeville, PA
Philadelphia / Susquehanna	Rev. Steve Geske, Grace Lutheran, Hop Bottom, PA

Lay Directors of the Board of Directors were also elected from 8 sections of the Eastern District as follows.

LAY DIRECTORS, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section Number	Circuits	Representative
Section 1	Buffalo North, Buffalo South, Cattaraugus/Lakeshore	Carl Fretthold
Section 2	Niagara, Niagara South	Open
Section 3	Rochester East, Rochester South	Jon Allen
Section 4	Rochester West	Michael Launhardt
Section 5	Pittsburgh North	Open
Section 6	Pittsburgh South	Tracey Harris
Section 7	Philadelphia	Susan Bell
Section 8	Susquehanna	Kevin Durland

Apart from the structural business of the convention there were a great many presentations from the attendees beginning with a Report by outgoing District President Rev. Dr. Chris Wicher.

Greetings were presented by Rev. Arthur W. Zogar who has departed from Christ Assembly Lutheran Church in Philadelphia in 2015 and returned to his home city of Monrovia, Liberia as Senior Pastor/ Planter of New Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church in Liberia. They are providing a feeding program 5 days a week in their school and have requested aid from congregations and individuals for Bibles, Computers and many other items for their school.

EASTERN DISTRICT CONVENTION (continued)

Greetings also presented by:

Roger Dow of the St. Louis and Fort Wayne Seminaries.

Kathy Fretthold; Education Executive for the Eastern District/ Supporting Lutheran Day Schools and Pre Schools

Bob Marshall; Lutheran Heritage Foundation / lhmissions.org

LCMS Foundation; "Set apart to Serve"

Friends of Pioneer; RSO Concordia Lutheran Ministries now owns property and partners with the organization will soon reopen as PIONEER ON THE LAKE.

Susan Knowles presented greeting from Ambassadors of Reconciliation. Encouraging beautiful feet. "Go and be Reconciled" bible study. More at <https://www.hisaor.org/>

Lutherans for Life

President Matthew Harrison presented a two-part report of the state of the LCMS and its missions in the world today. Topics covered were the state of the Concordia Universities, the need for more Seminary students to serve the congregations, Religious freedom in Finland "The more they attack us, the more we grow." ; Fellowship pending in Sudan and South Sudan; talks with the Wisconsin Synod; Ukraine, 1100 Ukrainian refugees in The Old Latin School on Wittenberg; the need to increase staff and missionaries for the Office of International Mission; the Dominican Seminary; the new Spanish Hymnal; the Taiwan Seminary; fifteen Seminaries in Africa.



Eastern District
The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod



Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries 2022 Annual Delegate Meeting

Important News and Business for Our Missions



18 September 2022

Registration—2:30 PM

Meeting Begins—3:00 PM

First Trinity Evangelical-Lutheran Church—Shadyside

Second Floor Auditorium

Each Member Congregation is asked to send

1 Pastoral and 2 Lay Delegates

Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries

Oh, give thanks to the Lord!

Call upon His name;

Make known His deeds among the peoples!

- Psalm 105:1

535 N Neville Street • Pittsburgh, PA 15213

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412-407-3306



An Annual Report Booklet and Delegate Packet will arrive at each parish office in early August.

CAMPUS MINISTRY

Penn State University
State College, PA

Revive Campus Ministry - New School Year!

We can't wait for another school year starting up here at Penn State in State College, PA! The fall is an exciting time with students arriving back and all that brings! Our Revive Campus Ministry is connected to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church - 851 N Science Park Road.

Here is an outline of our month of August:

- Reaching out to new students and helping with move-ins
- Re-connecting with our students
- Outreach to international students the entire week before classes start. We will help with orientation check in, help desk, resource fair, and the President's picnic
- The first week was busy with our welcome week activities as seen on our flyer- this will include: our weekly gathering, HUB lunch, small group, mount nittany hike, church, and promoting our group

Please share with us if you know students who will be attending Penn State (don't have to be Lutheran!). If you can share their name and phone number that would be great. My contact information is 919-744-1433 and slaybaugh.matt@gmail.com.



The flyer features a large stylized 'r' logo on the left side, set against a white background within a blue-bordered box. To the right of the logo, the text 'REVIVE 2022 WELCOME WEEK' is displayed in a mix of bold, sans-serif and script fonts. Below the logo, the schedule for the first week is listed, including events like 'Fall Involvement Fair', 'Revive Gathering', 'Hub Lunch', 'Small Group', and 'Sunset Hike'. The second week's schedule includes 'Hub Lunch'. Contact information for Matt Slaybaugh is provided, including a GroupMe link, Instagram handle, and phone number. The flyer also includes a link to the organization's website.

**REVIVE 2022
WELCOME
WEEK**

Join the GroupMe:
<https://tinyurl.com/Revive2022-2023>
Instagram: @revivepsu
Text/Call Matt
919-744-1433

FIRST WEEK:

WED. AUG 24TH - FALL INVOLVEMENT FAIR
HUB Lawn 11AM - 4PM
learn more about our group and upcoming events!

WED. AUG 24TH - REVIVE GATHERING
Old Main Lawn 6:30PM - 8PM
pizza, hang out, games, & a devotional

THUR. AUG 25TH - HUB LUNCH
HUB Lawn 11AM - 4PM
come join us to hang out, grab lunch & meet new friends!

THUR. AUG 25TH - SMALL GROUP 4 PM
946 Kathryn Street Boalsburg
work out, bible study & dinner

FRI. AUG 26TH - SUNSET HIKE @ MT NITTANY
Mount Nittany
HUB ride 6:45PM & ice cream after

SUN. AUG 28TH - CHURCH
851 N Science Park Rd.
HUB ride 10:10 am & lunch after

SECOND WEEK:

TUE. AUG 30TH - HUB LUNCH
HUB table 11AM - 1PM
come meet us and learn about our campus ministry

Org Central: <https://orgcentral.psu.edu/organization/revive>

CAMPUS MINISTRY

SRU CAMPUS MINISTRY

by Augusta R. Mennell, Campus Ministry Director

Campus Ministry's Precious Task

Just because Christian parents do all they can to instill faith in their children, it is still a huge challenge for their college-bound children to remain Christian when they attend college. This is where campus ministry comes into the picture.

Campus ministry at All Saints Lutheran Church and Student Center is well aware of the challenges facing students when they come to Slippery Rock University, Grove City College, and Westminster College. One of the first things campus ministry does is to connect with them as soon as possible so they will know that we are eager to be part of their lives.

I called students inviting them to join us for a Saturday kayaking outing this month which is just after classes resume. The nineteen slots available for places in the kayaks filled quickly. The opportunity to talk to the students was a blessing for us. They appreciated our willingness to help make their first weeks on campus more fun and less stressful. They were glad to be assured when we said they didn't have to worry if they had never been kayaking before.

Calling them about kayaking gave us the opportunity to invite them to come to All Saints for any help they need in their personal lives. One young lady we called stammered when she, on her own, said she knew she "should" come in for confession, but went on to say she really didn't understand it. Calling the students about kayaking, therefore, was a good way to help them understand that we can help them even with their very personal questions!

All Saints campus ministry is committed to showing that we are all about the Gospel. As soon as a student steps into our sanctuary, the striking crucifix above the altar rivets their attention. The crucifix leaves no doubt that this ministry is all about the Gospel.

You might say, "Well, of course! What else could campus churches proclaim?" Thankfully, the college students who come in through our doors will hear what the Bible says about everything: marriage, who God is, piety as opposed to pietism; God's gift of life to babies. All Saints campus ministry pastor, Rev. Jacob Deal, is not only at ease with students, he is intent on being available to give them God's Word to answer their questions: how Lutherans differ from Presbyterians; and what a Christian should feel about any of the current issues. Pastor Deal encourages students to come in to share their questions. He knows life is stressful and confusing for students. He is always available for questions like: "Isn't God unfair by demanding that we either believe in Jesus or face eternal damnation? Or, "Is Christianity only for getting ready to die? Or is it also for our everyday living?"

Campus ministry will do everything possible to help students remain strong in their faith, but campus ministry would really appreciate your help. Would you please pray for our college students? You can also give the name of your college students to members of your church so that they can send them cards and cookies. Another way to help with students is to have activities like sewing classes which include students like Mrs. Rigney's class at All Saints does. Remember that students, especially internationals and out of state students, would enjoy being invited to your home. Could you be a friendship family to a student?

Let the students know their pastor would be glad to connect them with the Lutheran Church on their campus. And never give up on praying for students, even students who are growing in their faith need prayer, as do students who are struggling to let God hold onto them. Especially point them to hearing God's Word in church and in daily devotions. God hears your prayers for students. Campus ministry appreciates all of your loving help for our treasures: our students.



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHAPEL

Hazelwood

Why do bad things happen?

By Vicar David L. Wenndt

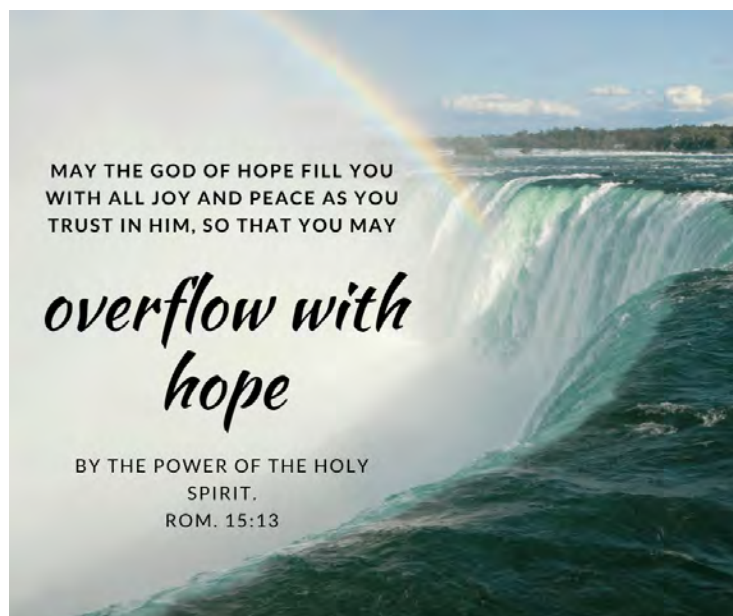
Why do bad things happen? This is a question that people and philosophers have struggled with for centuries. Non-Christians have often used it as an attack on the sovereignty of God. It is an especially pertinent question within the Hazelwood community with the recent deaths of Jamel Austin and Darrian Davis: two young men who died in Hazelwood recently. How many more names could each of us add?

Friends and loved ones that we knew that left us all too early. It is a difficult question, and one that drives many to despair. It is the unfortunate effect of living in a fallen and sinful world. We see too many people go before we are ready for them to.

Many people immediately want to solve the problem. Evil exists, sure, so what can we do? There are a variety of answers that people look to. Being active in the community and being civic minded certainly, help us feel like we are doing something. Joining together as a community can solve many of the ills that we face as a society. But we are only treating the symptoms. The root problem remains: the world is still a sinful place.

Why do bad things happen? Because we are living in a fallen and sinful world. What can we do? We look to the only person, the only thing that can solve the root problem: Jesus. Christ's death for you is what gives eternal hope. Christ's death for you conquered sin and death so that you do not have to live afraid of the effects of sin. Rather, you can live free knowing that Christ has saved you, and has made death but the door to life everlasting.

So, as we live surrounded by sin and death, we do look to our neighbors and band together as a community to relieve the pain and help alleviate the symptoms of living in a fallen and sinful world. But we also look to Christ; the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, and reconciles us to the Father. We come to His house to hear His word of comfort; to receive the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation that He brings us in the sacraments. And we pray that all may come to know Him, and live in the light of His love



HOUSES OF WORSHIP SERIES

Houses of Worship By Shirley Freyer

Redeemer Lutheran School

1261 Pennsylvania Avenue, Oakmont, PA
15139 412/828-9323

700 Idaho Avenue, Verona, PA 15147
412/793-5884

rlspittsburgh.org

school@redeemer-oakmont.org

Rev. Brian Westgate, Pastor

Gail Holzer, Administrator

Pre-School, Elementary and Secondary
School



“Start children off on the way they should go and even when they are old, they will not turn from it.” – Proverbs 22:6

“Certainly, one of Redeemer’s greatest and far-reaching outreach opportunities is Redeemer Lutheran School,” noted Charlie and Beth Buttgerit, lifetime members of Redeemer.

“Redeemer Preschool began in the early 1980s and consisted of a handful of students and one full-time teacher and one part-time teacher. Our school enables the children to hear God’s word on a daily basis,” Charlie said.

And that is one of the many reasons the current chairman of the RLS Board Connor Hagey and his wife Linda decided to start his four children there. “From a parent standpoint we find that this decision is absolute. This choice is nothing short of necessary,” he said.

“I want kids to be able to talk about things they can’t in what we refer to as public schools,” he continued. “And not waste their time learning things of no value. We have graduates with semesters and more under their belt for college,” Connor maintained.

One of them, Joshua Hanley, class of 2015, is an attorney. “I grew up at Redeemer. I graduated with more than a year of college credits already completed. That enabled me to graduate from Pitt in three years and go directly to law school. Now, I am years ahead of my peers because of the strong start I had at Redeemer.”

Redeemer’s Pastor, Rev’d. Brian P. Westgate provides the history. In September of 1983, Redeemer Lutheran School was begun as a preschool with an enrollment of nine. Janet Stechholz, wife of the current pastor, Rev. Dr. David Stechholz, was the first teacher until 1986 when Gail Holzer began her 37-year tenure as teacher, principal, and current administrator. Enrollment grew to forty-two when in 1993 Kindergarten classes were state approved for four students. The elementary school (first and second grade) was officially established in 1996 at Grace in Penn Hills due to building ordinance issues at the Oakmont campus.

The following year grade three was added and the school moved into the Fellowship Hall at Redeemer and added an art and music teacher. Another year and another grade and building expansion. The courtyard was enclosed in 1998 and the following year the school wing was built with five classrooms. Sixth grade was added in 2000. Seven years later both seventh and eighth grade were added and two teachers who continue their role today – Carol Schumacher and Sarah Holzer Driscoll – assisted in the school’s NLSA accreditation.

HOUSES OF WORSHIP SERIES

In 2009, girls' basketball was initiated as the first sports team. The school continued to grow and finally moved to the former Penn Hill's Shenandoah School with the beginning of the 2011-12 school year. At that time high school classes were launched, with a new grade being added each year.

It was in the spring of 2011 that John Driscoll, a lifelong member of Redeemer - baptized in 1982; confirmed in 1997 in the same class as Sarah Holzer, married in 2008 to Sarah - became involved with RLS.

"After graduating from Slippery Rock in 2007, I struggled to obtain a full-time teaching job in the public school system," he recalled. Gail had asked him a few times if he would be interested in teaching at Redeemer and he continually refused with the answer, "I want to be the light in the darkness."

However, when Redeemer decided to start a high school, he agreed to serve on a committee to establish curriculum and create a handbook. At the same time, Pennsylvania cut education funding which caused a lot of furloughs making it even more difficult to secure a teaching position. After completing the handbook, Gail needed a high school literature teacher and asked if he would be interested.

"I prayed hard on that one," he remembered. "And it was one of my favorite decisions ever. I am still a 'light in the darkness' just in a different sense than I thought! God had an amazing way of opening and closing doors for what is best for His people," John exclaimed.

He was commissioned in 2015 and currently serves as the Dean of Students as well as teaching middle school and high school literature and high school theology.

"The new school building, formerly the Penn Hills Shenandoah School was dedicated in the presence of Synodical President Matthew Harrison as well as English District Bishop Stechholz, whose son had attended Shenandoah, on August 28, 2011," noted Pastor Westgate, a milestone in the history of Redeemer and among the Lutheran church bodies in western PA.

The 2014-2015 school year marked the first high school graduating class of Redeemer Lutheran High School, the only Lutheran high school in Pennsylvania. Again Pastor/Bishop Stechholz was present to see the fruits of his labors some 30 years before.

And in 2016-2017, RLS recorded the highest enrollment at 292 at this time having complemented the staff with a Spanish teacher, a special Education program, an Admissions Counselor and an ECE (Early Childhood Education) Director.

Today, the school includes preschool through 12th grade and has 270 students.

"Redeemer has grown from a stand-alone Preschool to a school serving Preschool through High School students because parents asked us to expand our influence to their children," said Gail Holzer, Administrator since 1983.

Parents requested a Kindergarten; two years later, an elementary school, then a middle school and finally a high school. Each step of the way the members of Redeemer were willing to walk through the open doors and provide a Christ-centered Lutheran education for families in Pittsburgh, according to Gail.

"It's a safe place for their child to learn and develop - not only keeping them physically safe, but spiritually safe and emotionally safe as well," described Gail. "Many are frustrated with the absence of basic morality in schools, and the ungodly agenda that is consistently pushed through district curriculum and policies," she clarified.

"College partnerships with Concordia University in WI and Grand Canyon allow students to earn transferable college credits and AP courses."

The strong music program has won RLS three Gene Kelly Music Awards for its musicals. Middle School Robotics earned an invitation to World Competition according to Jean Wilshire, Director of Marketing/Administrative Assistant.

Jean and her husband Rob were married at Redeemer. "When my first daughter became preschool age in 1996, I started to send her to the three-year old class once a week. While she was in class with her aunt (Gail Holzer), I volunteered to do office work for Gail, who was the PreK director/teacher."

All of their children attended RLS beginning with preschool. Their oldest daughter Addy was a graduate of the first eighth grade class. Son Sam graduated from the high school in 2018 (graduated in architectural engineering 2022); Grace in 2019 as co-vice president.

HOUSES OF WORSHIP SERIES

Grace is in her last year as an elementary education major at Concordia University Wisconsin where she plays womens soccer and lacrosse. She credits growing up at Redeemer with her career pattern. "Throughout my school years I was blessed to participate in mission trips and got to really know teachers and staff. They were like family."

She emphasized the class size allowing the teacher to have more interaction with the student and the fact that she was able to talk about things other than academics. "My favorite experience was the ability to be involved in multiple extracurriculars at the same time." She led a week of summer camp at RLS preparing her for student teaching in her last semester and definitely wants to stay in Christian education. Would she return to RLS? "It's a missions and Christ-centered school that I want to be a part of," was her candid answer.

Current Spanish teacher Anna Auernhamer, a member of St. John's Millvale, shared Grace's opinion. "The small class sizes allow for more personalized instruction and more feedback from teachers. Students also form close relationships with their classmates as they learn together, play together, and serve together," she said. Anna mentioned too that "students learn to be outstanding citizens and faithful Christians, and then they are sent out to be a 'light in the world.' "

According to Gail more than 80% of their students come from the community, and while 70% say they are Christians, many are not practicing the faith. "The opportunity to teach and model the Christian faith to children from age three until they are 17 or 18, is an amazing gift that we have."

Preschool-12th grade classes continue at the Verona campus, and preschool classes continue to be held at the church as well. College partnerships with Concordia WI and Grand Canyon allow students to earn transferable college credits. Other benefits include AP courses, a strong music program, athletics, and leadership opportunities.

Dr. Luther said education should be an extension of the home. "RLS strives to be an extension to the Christian home and bring Christ to homes who do not yet have Him as their Head," explained Gail.

Redeemer has been incredibly blessed with the servant-minded attitude of people from Redeemer Lutheran Church and sister congregations, faculty, and staff. "We at RLS are reminded of Paul's statement about spreading the saving message of the Gospel in 1 Corinthians 3:5-7, *What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So, neither he who plants, nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.*

At any given time in a child's life the mission of RLS is planting or watering the seed of faith, but it is God who gives growth. We are not always permitted to see the fruits of our labor, but it cannot stop us from our mission, for we know from 1 Timothy 2:3-4, *This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

Earlier this year, Redeemer Lutheran High School marked its 10th anniversary with a celebration dinner at Highpointe at Rebecca. One of the newer teachers, Sarah Stanley, expressed what RLS means to her. "My time with RLS has been an absolute blessing." Only in her second year she said she feels like she has been here forever. "The relationships I have built with staff and students have given me a sense of belonging that I have not experienced anywhere else."

She believes there is future opportunities for this school. "There is an abundance of potential within the walls that God has blessed us with. I would love to see those walls expand," she said.

That is a wish that may come true. Gail's greatest challenge of providing appropriate space and structure for a developing High School program that includes an athletic and performing venue as well as classrooms may well have found a solution as another door has opened for this ministry's expansion.

Gail announced that the members of Trinity Lutheran Church in Monroeville graciously gave RLS their church building. "We were able to sell the facility and will use those funds as seed money for a capital campaign to add a full-size gymnasium and classrooms for our middle/high students."

HOUSES OF WORSHIP SERIES

On behalf of the board, Connor stated, “I am happy to be part of a team that is dedicated to see this through. Making hard choices so kids can have an option is our responsibility. I want it to be a sweeping success and dispel the thinking that Lutheran education is only about teaching Lutheranism and all other things fall by the wayside. The schools of today are subject to the ebb and flow of the world. Redeemer is not,” he stressed.

“We need to grow and continue to be challenged and the challenge is growth. It is a good challenge as we want to be able to accommodate more students,” he pointed out.

Redeemer Lutheran School may best be described by the former Director of LCMS School Ministry Dr. Bill Cochran, “A small school that thinks and acts like a large school.”



CRIMES TARGETING SENIOR CITIZENS

FREE SPEAKER EVENT

Detective Sergeant Eric Egli,
Supervisor of Investigations at The McCandless
Police Department, will be discussing how to protect
yourself or inform your loved ones on:



ONLINE
SCAMS



PHONE
SCAMS



DISTRACTION
CRIMES

A time for questions and answers will follow the talk.
All are welcomed to this free presentation.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 AT 2PM

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

8225 PEEBLES ROAD PITTSBURGH, PA 15237
WWW.ASCENSIONPGH.COM

ASCENSION LUTHERAN

McCandless

Annual Pumpkin Fest & Flea Market

Saturday, October 8, 2022, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

For the eighth year, Ascension (8225 Peebles Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237) will be holding our Pumpkin Fest & Flea Market. Our "almost famous" HOMEMADE APPLE and PUMPKIN PIES will be on sale, as well as hot dogs, beverages, and various other goodies. Of course, there will be PUMPKINS for you to buy. Many vendors with crafts or treasures participate in the FLEA MARKET both inside (even if it rains) and outside the church, weather permitting.

To reserve a space for \$20, contact Vicki at vickig@zoominternet.net or 724-816-0413. For more information, please contact Trish at pyoung1234@comcast.net It's a great way to spend a crisp, fall morning.

CONCORDIA LUTHERAN

Brentwood

Meet the Muschiks!

On Sunday, July 17, we welcomed our newest members, The Muschik family of Whitehall Chris, Sr., his wife Kim, and their three sons, Christopher, Jr. (far right), Matthew (far left) and Nathan (center).

After many months of studying the small catechism together, the boys were all baptized that morning, and then with mom and dad, were confirmed thereafter. So three baptisms and five confirmations in a single Sunday made for a great celebration and reception in our recently refurbished undercroft after the service as they joined the family of Concordia.

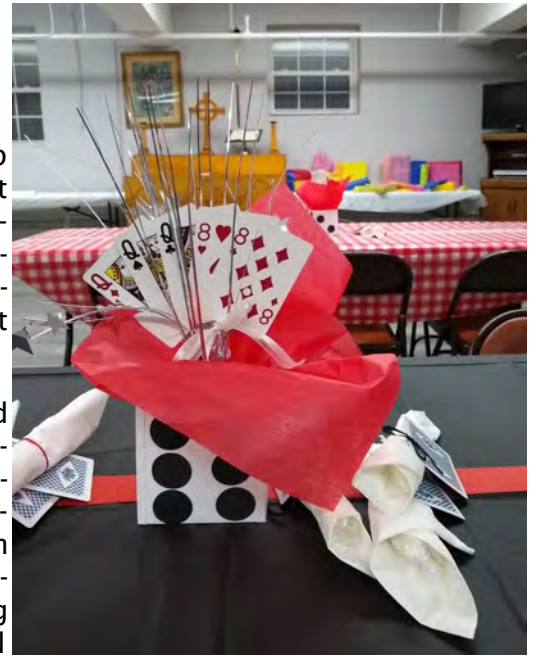


MT. CALVARY LUTHERAN

West View

Members of Mt. Calvary in West View who entered the fellowship hall for the annual church picnic might have mistakenly thought they walked into a casino. The theme of the picnic was Card Party, and the Outreach Group worked hard to create a festive, representative atmosphere. The table centerpieces and other decorations were crafted to look like poker hands and dice. But not to worry – no actual gambling took place.

Instead, the day included a luncheon, followed by games and prizes for all ages, and a "Chinese" auction, where people purchased raffle tickets for the dozens of prizes that had been donated. Many, many thanks to Pastor and Nikkie Kuntz, who solicited the bulk of the prizes, and to others who donated them as well. They ranged from gift cards for restaurants and services, to artwork, tickets for sporting events, baskets containing a variety of items, and a 5-lb. Sarris chocolate bar! Four grand prizes were a Coach bag; an air fryer; two tickets to a Sight and Sound production of "David" in Lancaster; and an overnight stay at Mountaineer Park in West Virginia.



The children provided entertainment by riding ponies in a wooden horse race and enjoyed participating in a wooden piñata game in which they gathered handfuls of candy and other goodies once the device opened.

The regular Sunday morning church service took place at 11 a.m. before the picnic. Perhaps appropriately, the Gospel message began with Luke 12:22 – "He said to his disciples, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear . . .'" No one had to worry about what they would eat, because the buffet table was filled with catered dishes, along with potluck items provided by the congregation. Chicken, sandwiches, hot dogs, hot sausage, meatballs, fruit, a vegetable tray, beans, salads, etc., along with a variety of desserts, made sure no one went away hungry.

The picnic has been held at the church since the Covid virus first closed the outdoor parks in 2020. The parks are now open, but the church arrangement works well, guaranteeing good "weather" and less set-up, and allowing for more creativity. Thanks go out to the many, many people who helped to bring it all together.



NEWS FROM AREA CONGREGATIONS

REDEEMER LUTHERAN

Oakmont

On Saturday, July 30, Redeemer Lutheran Church & School had their annual booth at the Oakmont Street Sale. Kids got to make various crafts and various booklets and Bibles were available, along with free water.



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN

Bridgeport, WV

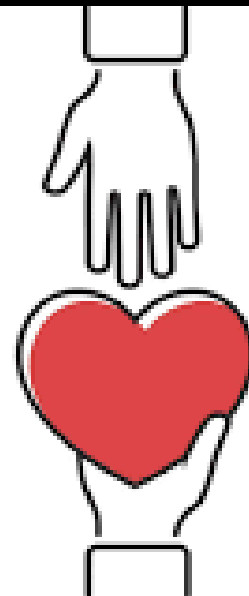
St John's Lutheran in North Central West Virginia has had a busy year. They have been busy making the neighborhood aware of their new location in Bridgeport. An open house was held where they welcomed many to the new church and a spring plant sale was held where over 100 neighbors came through the door. Eleven adults and children have been baptized and eleven adults have been accepted as members through confirmation.

In their desire to serve the community, Pastor Lacey has joined the board of The Mission, a Christian drug rehabilitation facility, and has volunteered with Friends Feeding Friends, which provides a hot meal to anyone who needs one. Members have also volunteered at food pantries and town cleanups.

In looking for other ways to support their neighbors, they wrote a grant proposal to the state of West Virginia for a Family Support Center in Harrison County. And it was accepted! The Center will reach out by supporting families with family activities, play groups, and parenting and skill classes. The Center will also be helping direct families to needed resources, such as food banks, counseling or medical help. Operations are set to begin in October. Facilities have been located and the hiring process is beginning. They are currently preparing to hire a full time Program Manager, who will direct and plan the day to day operations and activities of the Family Support Center, as well as be active at St John's.

If you are interested or know of someone who is a warm and caring self-starter and is comfortable showing the love of God in service, please contact Pastor Stanley Lacey at pastor-lacey@stjohnslutheran.org.

Serving God by
Serving Others



ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN

Pittsburgh - North Side

We hope many will be able to participate in these missions within our church body. All are in need and the support for Pastor Schumacher is dearly appreciated. Please remember us in your prayers and those we try and reach through this Health Initiative fund raiser for missions, all to the Glory of God in celebration of the 150th Anniversary of St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church.

**ST. MATTHEW EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
LCMS - PITTSBURGH
150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION - 2023
Know God's Grace - Share God's Love!
It's Still All About Jesus!**

**Our first Anniversary project will be a Health Initiative
to promote a healthy leader, healthy pastor,
and healthy congregation in a
60lb challenge weight loss by Pastor Schumacher.**

Our pastor, Rev. Michael Schumacher has had several medical issues(heart, blood and legs) in the past few years. He now has difficult mobility due to these situations and increasing arthritis in the hips. He needs hip surgery(both), but to have surgery, he needs to lower the risk due to these situations by losing 60lbs. He has already lost 54lbs, but we are talking of 60 more pounds to reduce the high risk in surgery. To support and care for Pastor we are implementing this Health Initiative and 60lb Challenge Pledge Fundraiser for Missions!

**"Encourage One Another" 1 Thess. 5:11
"Pray for one another" James 5:16
"Love One Another" John 13:34
"So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do,
do all to the glory of God." 1 Cor. 10: 13**

ST. MATTHEW (continued)

Support Pastor Schumacher (Call him if you wish at 208-922-8299) and Pledge to Missions per pound of Weight Loss Challenge

Example: Pledge \$2 per pound for 60lbs, a total of \$120. You decide the pledge amount yourself.

Send this pledge insert and amount by check to the Church at:

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church
600 East North Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

anytime between now and November 30, 2022
Anyone can pledge as many times as you desire.

Your pledge will be divided 5 ways to the Health Initiative Missions noted below. So, if you pledge, for example, the \$120 as noted above it would be divided

5 ways and each mission would receive \$24.

This is an example.

The 5 missions that are of this Health Initiative are:

- Prince of Peace Lutheran Preschool, Freedom, Pa
- Journeys Lutheran School, Hales Corner, WI
- A Lutheran School for Special Education Students - LCMS
- Campus Ministry, Pittsburgh PA
- Holy Cross Chapel Mission, Hazelwood, PA
- St. Matthew, Pittsburgh Food Pantry and Music Ministry

MY PLEDGE per pound will be \$_____ x 60 = \$_____

The plan is to lose 60lbs. Updates will occur with doctor signing off every 10 lbs lost. Final loss will be publicized.

Print your name, address below and send this and your check to St. Matthew address noted above:

YOUR NAME_____
ADDRESS_____
CITY, STATE, ZIP_____

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

ASCENSION LUTHERAN

McCandless

Rally Day - Sunday September 11th after church! We are celebrating the kickoff of Christian Education by having a time of fellowship with our members, families, and neighbors from the community! We will provide ice cream sundaes, hot dogs & drinks. Please let Vicki Wiegand know if you would be willing to help with the grill or would like to donate a side dish!

Pumpkinfest/Flea Market - Saturday October 8th, from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. Tables for the flea market are being reserved now. Contact Vicki Wiegand at 724-816-0413 or email her at vickig@zoominternet.net. More details to come.



Pie Baking - In Fellowship Hall September 15th & 16th and October 7th.



CHRIST LUTHERAN

Forest Hills

So, the 78th P.A.L.g.S. golf outing is on. We had a Great turnout for the last couple outings let's have that continue. Many of you have participated in the past. We have appreciated your support and look forward to seeing you again. We are also excited about seeing any new golfers that wish to join us. We hope to have seventy-five plus golfers. So, we need YOU.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 24, 2022. It will be held at Victory Hills Golf Course in Elizabeth, PA with a 9:00 a.m. SHOT GUN start, a hot dog at the turn, and a buffet dinner afterwards with prizes.

The cost is \$90.00 per person. Please call to sign up 412-271-7173. We would like to have as many golfers as possible and have fun and fellowship all at the same time. If you are not a golfer or cannot attend the outing but would like to show your support by sponsoring a hole you may send a donation in any amount to Christ Lutheran Church, 400 Barclay Ave., Pittsburgh, PA. 15221 Memo: Golf Outing. Thank you! Hope to see you there.



5th Annual History Event “Music of Lawrenceville” September 18, 2022 - 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.



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

1:30 p.m. - Known as the father of American music, Lawrenceville native Stephen Foster is the focus of our first two presentations. A few of his most popular songs will be performed by The Wayward Companions, a small group of musicians in 19th century period dress.

2:30 p.m. - As Project Coordinator at the Center for American Music, University of Pittsburgh Library System and Artist Lecturer at Carnegie Mellon University, Dr. Christopher Lynch has vast experience with the Foster Museum and Archives. Such knowledge is sure to please our audience.

3:30 p.m. - Another famous musician born in Lawrenceville, Billy May, a composer, arranger, trumpeter, and band leader was a two-time Grammy Award winner and an inductee in the Big Band and Jazz Halls of Fame. Mike Plaskett, producer and co-host of the Rhythm Sweet & Hot show on 90.5 FM WESA has worked in radio and television since 1958. His background provides the expertise to introduce us to May – his music and his life.

Free to the public.

Face Masks recommended, follow CDC guidelines.

Concordia Retirement Living to Host Outdoor Concert Series

The Concordia at Cabot Haven Apartments and Concordia of the South Hills will host a free Summer Concert Series. Those at Cabot will be held at our Haven II Patio (148 Marwood Rd., Cabot, PA 16023, Entrance 5) on Sundays – Aug. 21, and Sept. 11. Each concert will begin at 4 p.m. and run for 2 hours with an intermission. If inclement weather occurs, concerts will be moved indoors to the Haven I Dining Room, located at 112 Marwood Rd, Entrance 2. Tours of our beautiful campus will be available before and after each performance, and parking is free and convenient to the patio.



Sunday, September 11 – Harrisville Community Band

For over 50 years, the Harrisville Community Band has been sharing their love of music with their community. Recognize Patriot Day with the Band as they perform American standards and patriotic music. Concerts held at Concordia of the South Hills are located in the Harmony Room, located at 1300 Bower Hill Rd, Mt Lebanon. Tours will be available for one hour before each of the performances.

Friday, September 16 at 3:30 p.m. – Mikey Dee

Mikey began his musical career at age 4, learning guitar, bass and tamburitza from his grandfather. To date, he has recorded and produced 19 albums and numerous singles. Currently he performs more than 200 shows a year,

playing everything from oldies to ballroom, polkas to tamburitza.

Walk-ins are welcome - but registration is strongly encouraged. To reserve your seat in Cabot, call Admissions Director Peggy Trettel at 724-352-5378 or email at PTrettel@concordialm.org. Learn more at www.ConcordiaHaven.org. To reserve your seat at South Hills, call Director of Marketing Christie Wahlen at 412-294-1351. Learn more at www.Concordia-SouthHills.org

Concordia's 141st Summer Festival logged more than 1,000 in attendance.

The day kicked off with the kitchen opening to serve excellent meals from our summer picnic-themed menu, and our kids' activities and mini fishing derby at the pond behind the Lund Care Center were a huge hit as always.

The Mikey Dee Band brought down the house with a variety of everyone's favorite tunes, and over thirty classic cars and tractors were on campus for a car cruise.

Concordia Chaplain Rev. Duane Voorman, guest preacher for our traditional worship service, delivered a moving message about the Parable of the Good Samaritan. The Pittsburgh Lutheran Chorus, comprised of singers from Concordia's member churches, opened and closed the service.

Concordia President & CEO Keith Frndak wrapped up the day by thanking our volunteers, community, staff, and board members for their continued support, and asking for prayers as Concordia continues to grow to meet the needs of our residents, patients, families, and communities.





Power of the Purse

Hospice Youth Bereavement Care
A purse bash to benefit Good Samaritan
Friday, September 23, 2022
6 p.m. The Mansion, Butler, PA

141 Mansion Lane, Butler, PA 16002

\$40 per admission ticket

Each ticket includes chances to win one of 10 designer handbags

Additional drawings for:

- **Spotlight Designer Bags worth \$2,000+**
- **A “Win It All” Wine Table** (bring a bottle and get a free ticket, or tickets are \$10 each – winner takes all!)
- **High-end purses, wallets and baskets!**

Light appetizers and non-alcoholic beverages provided.
Outside snacks and alcoholic drinks are permitted.

Call 724-352-1571, ext. 8363 or visit give.concordialm.org to reserve your tickets.

Oktoberfest 2022

Saturday, October 1, 4 - 8 p.m.
Haven I



For your Enjoyment: German Band

For your Appetite: German-Themed Menu

For your Kids: Bouncy Castle, Balloon Artist, Games, Pumpkin Painting, Free Food and much more

For your Curiosity: Haven I Open House

Fireworks at 7:45 p.m.

Flu Shots (4-7 p.m.)

For more information call 724-352-1571, ext. 8268

www.ConcordiaLM.org • Haven I - 112 Marwood Rd., Cabot, PA 16023

Menu

À La Carte Items

Main entrées - \$6.00

- Kielbasa
- Roasted pork
- Sauerbraten
- Bratwurst
- ¼ lb. Hot Dogs (2)

Sides - \$2.00

- German Potato Salad
- Red Cabbage
- Sauerkraut
- Spactzle (German Pasta)
- Potato Pancakes

Desserts - \$2.00

- Black Forest Cake
- Pumpkin Pie

Beverages - \$2.00

- Soda, Water, Coffee, Iced Tea
- Apple Cider (hot or cold)

Dinners - \$10.00

Include two sides, dessert and beverage

- Bavarian Style Pork Roast Dinner
Roasted pork with pan gravy
- Kielbasa and Sauerkraut Platter
Home-cooked kielbasa braised in sauerkraut served on a hoagie roll
- Bratwurst Platter
Two grilled bratwurst (or hot dogs) served with spicy mustard
- Sauerbraten Dinner
German-style pot roast

Quick tent

- Bavarian Pretzel - \$3.00
- Chicken Tenders - \$3.00
- ¼ lb. Hot Dog - \$3.00
- Black Forest Ham Pretzel Melt - \$3.00
- Beverages - \$2.00

Beer

- Samuel Adams Oktoberfest*
- Signature Mug - \$9.00 (*limit 2 refills*)
- Glass - \$3.00

