



THE PITTSBURGH LUTHERAN

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PALM DEVOTION

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

“The Eucharistic Life”

“Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.” 1 Chronicles 16:34

Mention the month of November and nearly every American will think of Thanksgiving. Bedecked with images of turkeys and pilgrims with thoughts of football, food, and family, the national holiday of Thanksgiving is much beloved. Travel around this holiday surges to its highest level of the year. It kicks off a longer season of holidays before the doldrums of deep Winter. Thanksgiving is the culmination of all the pumpkin-spiced scents and flavors that we have been inundated with since the beginning of Autumn.

Our National Day of Thanksgiving is a day on which we are to be thankful for the blessings of our nation. Whether it is a rich harvest, a robust economy, or simply the freedoms that we enjoy as citizens of the United States of America, the context of our Thanksgiving Day is the bounty of our nation.

The verse above is the Biblical cry of the Church’s Thanksgiving. It appears verbatim six times in the Bible. It appears once in 1 Chronicles and the other five times in the Psalms. Even the appearance in 1 Chronicles is a Psalm of King David. It is this particular Psalm that elicits our understanding and context of these words and makes sense of the place where the churches of the Lutheran confession have placed this verse in our Divine Liturgy.

Scripture tells us that King David sang this psalm of thanksgiving on the occasion of the placing of the Ark of the Covenant in a tabernacle that he had built in the city of Jerusalem. Sacrifices were made, a feast was celebrated, the people were blessed, and much music was made including this divinely inspired psalm of David. David and the people were overjoyed that the Lord God Almighty had come to dwell in their midst. The merciful Lord of the universe had seen fit to be present among the people of Jerusalem. The presence of God elicited much thanksgiving and praise.

We also sing this verse nearly every week in the Divine Service. After the consecration and distribution of the Lord’s Supper and before the post-communion prayer, Lutherans have the option to sing either 1 Corinthians 11:26 or this verse. Most congregations use this one. Like King David, we give thanks that the Lord God Almighty has visited His people with mercy and forgiveness. In the Preface, the celebrant calls the people to “give thanks unto the Lord, our God,” to which we respond, “it is good and right so to do.” We then do so by hearing our Lord Jesus Christ tell us again that His body and blood, once given for us on the cross of Calvary, is now truly present under the bread and wine. We joyfully receive these gifts in the certainty that He is giving them to us to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of all our sin. We conclude by again singing our thanks for His presence and mercy. The Church has given many names to describe this entire Service of our Lord – the Lord’s Supper, the Sacrament of the Altar, the Holy Communion, and the Holy Eucharist. That last name, Eucharist, comes from the ancient Greek word that means “thanksgiving.”



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

November

11. The American Red Cross Blood Drive, Bethel Ev. Lutheran Church, Glenshaw, noon until 6:00 p.m.

11. Veterans Day Service, Minersville Cemetery, 11:00 a.m.

13. Concordia Lutheran Ministries Annual Meeting, Concordia Haven I, Cabot, 3:00 p.m.

14. The American Red Cross Blood Drive, Zion Ev. Lutheran Church, Lawrenceville, noon until 6:00 p.m.

19. "Evening of Praise, Christ Lutheran Church, Forest Hills, 4:00 p.m.

20. "Evening of Praise" Zion Ev. Lutheran Church, Lawrenceville, 4:00 p.m.

December

3. Bethel and Zion present "Spiritual Conversations in a Digital World" Christ Lutheran Church, Forest Hills, Pittsburgh, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

11. 9th Annual Concordia Live Nativity, Entrance #5, Haven II, Cabot, 4:30, 5:15 and 6:00 p.m.



The Pittsburgh Lutheran

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Palm Devotion Continued

The Church's Thanksgiving is a weekly, sometimes daily, thanksgiving for the presence, mercy, and forgiveness of our Lord Jesus Christ among us. It is words of thanksgiving, but most importantly, it is the act of Jesus giving us His grace that we may receive it in joy. Our lives are Eucharistic. We are refreshed with the Blessed Sacrament of our Lord's Body and Blood for the forgiveness of our sins and then, going about our various vocations with joy, we return to His Altar to receive it again and again. For this, we are thankful.

While our nation puts much effort and fanfare into a once-per-year Thanksgiving Day, we Christians are privileged to enjoy an ongoing and continuous Thanksgiving, that is, Eucharist, through our whole lives. May we celebrate it with joy and fanfare like King David did. Indeed, the Lord is good and His mercy endures forever!



Minersville Cemetery Veterans' Day Service

Vicar Wenndt from Holy Cross will conduct the annual Veterans' Day service at Minersville Cemetery at 11:00 a.m. on November 11. We hope you will attend this short service at our cemetery in Pittsburgh's Hill District (Shawnee & Ossipee Streets).

10K Lutheran Life Bike Ride:

A Multi-Church fundraiser, 10K Lutheran Life Bike Ride, was held at the Three Rivers Heritage Trail on Oct. 15th.

Peace Lutheran, McMurray, Redeemer Lutheran, Oakmont, First Trinity Lutheran, Shadyside, Ascension Lutheran, McCandless, and Zion Lutheran, Lawrenceville gathered to raise over \$2,000 for Mary's Place (a South Hills nonprofit that supports and assists new mothers and their children who are in need of assistance for support and housing).

The funds collected will be matched by the LCMS synodical Million Dollar Life Grant.



CAMPUS MINISTRY

SRU CAMPUS MINISTRY

by Augusta R. Mennell, Campus Ministry Director

What Do Students Worry about?

(Left: Pastor Jacob Deal and Mrs. Deal always make time to minister to college student at All Saints Lutheran Church and Student Center.)

Campus ministry is a wonderful place for college students to talk about problems that worry them. The need to help them deal with these worries remains great.

One wonderful student who came into All Saints to talk is a Slippery Rock University student. He was so impressed by the sharing done by Pastor Jacob Deal and church members during the free student Labor Day meal that he came to the worship service the following Sunday and later in the week came in to talk some more. What did he talk about?



Although the student seemed to be well adjusted, and he is, he wanted to describe the pain he had experienced in elementary school. He had been so bullied that he almost lost hope that his parents and teachers would recognize his pain. Later they did recognize it. They realized that he had special needs.

The student said he has not forgotten how much he hurt, but he went on to say that he had been able to use his past pain to help others. He has worked at many youth camps where young people confided in him about their difficulties and he has helped them find answers.

School is still not easy for him, especially taking exams. He comes to worship, to student meals, and asks for our prayers that he can do his best on his exams. He is very appreciative of our prayers for him. He wants to do his best in his studies. He wants to comfort those who have experienced a difficult early childhood.

Another student seemed to have her life together. She accepted my invitation to have lunch. She didn't have a sign on her forehead saying "help needed." Instead, she described being adopted from Asia by a loving American Christian family. We happily enjoyed the lunch at the Thai restaurant in town, but most of all the softserve ice cream cone from another restaurant. She has a sweet tooth.

Before saying goodbye, she said she would come in for a Bible study the following week, which she did. We read the Book of Ruth. She enjoyed this book because she really wants to know what it will be like to be in love. She considered having another Bible class, but later she called to tell me she couldn't come because she'd signed up for too many other commitments so that she could not come. I told her that the door is always open.

But then she came back to talk again. She came to ask for advice on what is necessary to be a good Christian daughter. Her parents have placed many restrictions on her, even though she lives in a college dorm on campus. Her parents do not approve of her wearing hot pink lipstick, going to the mall to shop, or spending time on sports.

Should she disobey them? It bothers her when she disobeys them.

She related her deep conviction that her siblings are very much smarter and attractive than she is. She wonders what her worth is. We talked about her concerns by reading what the Bible says about them, as well as what the Bible says about worry. As she left, she said she would return because she feels she needs mentoring. We will again search for answers from the Bible, and maybe we will go out again for another delicious lunch. Like most college students she is usually hungry!

All Saints Campus Ministry realizes that times change, but the need for faith and friendship do not. Students need Christ-centered answers to their problems and worries. The need for campus ministry is as great as ever.

MISSION NEWS

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHAPEL

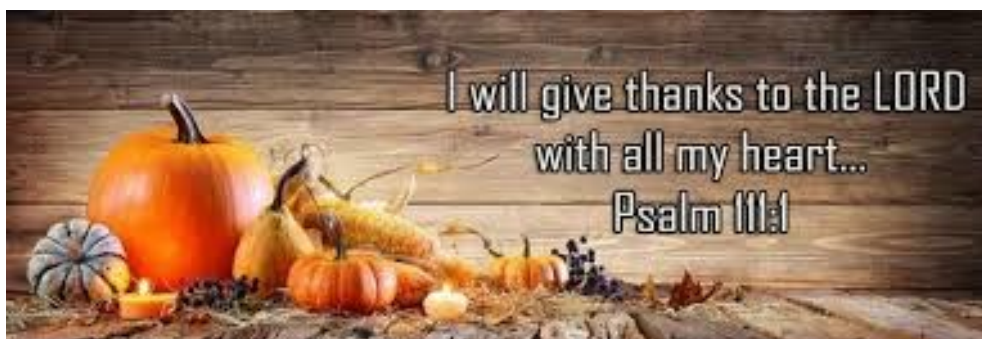
Hazelwood

As we look at November, one word usually comes to many people's minds: Thanksgiving. Indeed, that American gateway to the holiday season stands as a beacon at the end of November signaling the arrival of Advent, and the impending coming of Christmas. However, there is more to Thanksgiving than a colossal feast; there is the act itself of giving thanks. While we who live in the city aren't as tied to the success of a yearly harvest, so giving thanks for the harvest isn't a part of our lives. The month of November is still a time when we give thanks to God for all His blessings to us in the past year.

We at Holy Cross have much to be thankful for. Not the least of which is all the churches in PALM. Your support, your gifts, donations, and prayers have helped this mission in ways that can't begin to be measured. I can't help but think of the words of St. Paul in Philippians 1:3: "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy..."

We continue to serve the people of Hazelwood and we try to distribute the gifts that God freely gives to them. We want to help them recognize what God has done for them. But we couldn't do that without all the support that you give. As we get ready for another Christmas toy and winter coat drive, we thank God for all the blessings that He has given us that we can share with our neighbors. Your continued support makes all that we do possible. So, from the bottom of our hearts here at Holy Cross in Hazelwood: Thank God for His goodness, and thank God for every one of you.

by Vicar David L. Wenndt



Houses of Worship
By Shirley Freyer

St. Luke Lutheran Church and School

330 Hannahstown Road, Cabot, PA
16023 724-352-2777

241 Freeport Road, Butler, PA 16002
724-285-5893

stluke@stlukecabot.org

Rev. Benjamin C. Berteau, Lead Pastor

Rev. Jared C. Townley, Associate Pastor

Rev. Brian C. Bocian, Associate Pastor

Traditional Worship Service: 6 p.m. - Saturday; 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. - Sunday (Cabot campus)

New Life Worship: 10:30 a.m. - Sunday, Activity Center (Cabot campus)



“Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” - Ephesians 3:20-21

Excitement, energy, and enthusiasm for the future at St. Luke is at an all-time high, having just celebrated 175 years of blessings this past August 28. As the oldest LCMS congregation in the Pittsburgh area, it records a history that affirms over and over the renewed vision statement Rev. Benjamin C. Berteau, lead pastor, is “putting into practice on every level.”

In his letter to the congregation published in the anniversary program, he reminded them of the blessings God has poured out to His people. “Just as our forebears did in 1847, we commit ourselves to following Jesus as God’s people at St. Luke in response to His many gifts to us. We do so with the vision to be a people who ‘Gather, Grow and Go’ with the Gospel of Jesus Christ guiding us,” he states.

“We believe that Jesus calls each disciple to live in relationship with the Father, fellow Christians, and with those who do not know Him yet. The way we find balance in those relationships is by modeling after Jesus by ‘Gathering as God’s people, Growing in His love and grace, and Going with the gospel,’” explained Pastor Ben, who was called to St. Luke from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis and mentored for more than two years under Rev. Barry Keurulainen.

Pastor Barry spent almost his entire ministry career at St. Luke, called from Trinity in Monroeville in 1982 until his retirement in November 2020 – most likely the longest of any pastor in the histories of LCMS parishes in this area. Indeed, he even served his vicarage at St. John’s in Millvale, and he continues to serve God through his ministry at Good Shepherd of the South Hills as vacancy pastor.

In addition to Pastor Ben, St. Luke called Rev. Jared C. Townley from Concordia Seminary in June 2020. When the old school was renovated in 1993, head elder Brian Bocian coordinated the New Life worship service under Pastor Barry’s direction on Sunday evenings. He realized God’s command to follow him and was ordained January 9, 2021. His B.S. in Information Technology came in handy during the pandemic with livestreaming of worship.

HOUSES OF WORSHIP SERIES

“My absolute favorite thing at St. Luke is the outdoor worship service held in the summer on Saturday evenings. There is something about that casual service, with the breeze and the sun and the overall tone, that really speaks to me,” revealed Frank Skrip, a member at St. Luke since he was in seventh grade. “Our family worshipped regularly at various churches in Butler, but we did not have a home church at the time. As a St. Luke School student, I was taking Religion class with Pastor Barry, which doubled as confirmation class for the students who were members of the church. I suggested to my mom that we try the church at St. Luke – in part because I was enjoying the religion/confirmation classes and in part so I could hang out with my friends more,” he said.

Interestingly, this new Gather, Grow and Go theme surfaces throughout the chronicles of this church. It was on August 8, 1847, when the German Evangelical Lutheran Church of St Luke adopted a constitution and three years later welcomed its first resident pastor, Rev. Hahn. But St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized as early as 1837 with both German- and English-speaking people worshipping together as one congregation. It was not until 1869 that the English congregation moved to Saxonburg and erected a church of its own.

Lifelong member Linda Bogan is the great-great-granddaughter of charter member Henry Doerr, an elder who was one of the authors of the first constitution. He is reputed to have arrived in Saxonburg in 1832 with John Roebling, one of the 19th century’s most brilliant civil engineers who designed the Brooklyn Bridge. Pastor Ben noted the generosity of the congregation to fund projects large and small. Linda, a retired beautician at Concordia’s Lund Care Center, enjoys telling of the bounteousness of her great-great-aunt Margaretha Oertel, whose gift of a farm to St. Luke and the churches of Pittsburgh became an orphanage and the foundation of Concordia Lutheran Ministries. During the 21 years, Rev. Frederick Wilhelm pastored the congregation, the second church was built, a new church bell (still in use) was purchased for \$255.19, and a pipe organ was added.

Headed on a mission trip to Kentucky with the Fuller Disaster rebuilders, Linda has inherited that trait of benevolence with her involvement with the Dress A Girl project for children aged 3 to 6 in Kenya and the Child Beyond medical mission in Guatemala, as well as New Beginnings for needy new parents. “God has sent us fantastic pastors who work together and complement each other, so God expects a lot from us,” she said.

“St. Luke has something to offer people in all walks of life, regardless of age, family/marital status or where they are in their faith. I believe the latter comes from the pastors’ ability to empathize and speak directly to the heart with their messages each week,” added. Frank, director of public relations at Concordia Lutheran Ministries.

A third church was dedicated in 1927. A Sunday School was established six years later, and by 1957 a Parish Hall was added with two classrooms. The school celebrated another expansion in 1974. (School history will be detailed in the December issue of *The Pittsburgh Lutheran*). A second addition was completed in 1986, the sanctuary was dedicated, and the first associate pastor was added with Rev. William Schneider. A new organ was purchased in 1997, marking the 150th anniversary of the church.

Current members Don and Diane Olmstead lived in Penn Hills and went to Redeemer until that year. “Back in 1997, we made the decision to move and after much searching, finally found our new home in the little town of Cabot. The house was bigger, the property was bigger, and it seemed like the perfect spot!” described Diane.



“Soon we would discover what a blessing this move would be,” she continued. St. Luke has a school where their children could continue their Lutheran education and the church offers several worship services. The teaching and preaching are faithful to God’s Word and there are opportunities to become involved with ministries that enable members to grow in Christian faith.

HOUSES OF WORSHIP SERIES

“A few years after our move, we experienced an outpouring of love and support from the church and school when one of our children required emergency surgery. People cleaned our home for us, fed us, and watched our children when needed. It was a moment of God using His servants here on earth to share His love and concern for us, and truly made us part of our larger St. Luke family. To this day, St. Luke continues to be a blessing to our family,” she thankfully expressed.



St. Luke is a real and genuine church that puts honest-to-goodness love in action. The pastors and fellow members of the congregation are sincere in their faith and in their sense of joy and celebration worshipping the Triune God, according to Pastor Adam Salinas, associate chaplain at Concordia Lutheran Ministries since 2021. A lifelong LCMS member, he previously served parishes in Nebraska and Montana. He and his wife, BethAnn, moved here with their three children and bought their first home in nearby Freeport.

“They are a loving and caring congregation who has welcomed me and my family with open arms and caring hearts. We have enjoyed the relationships and friendships that we have developed them in the last year. and love going to church here as a family. We feel this congregation has given us their love, care, support, encouragement, and prayers,” Pastor Adam believes.

That family feeling is pervasive among parishioners. “I have been a member of St. Luke for more than 30 years,” noted Michelle Rhodes, current chairperson of the St. Luke School Board. “I was confirmed at St. Luke, and as an adult, what really got me involved were the children's programs and the school,” she said.

“Some of my closest and dearest friendships started because of the toddler Sunday School class. We would gather each week to share in the Word and fellowship, and our shared experiences allowed our friendships to grow as our children did. I am constantly awed by the things God does through both our church and school. The opportunities to grow your faith have always been plentiful - from inspiring and thought-provoking sermons to deep and meaningful small group studies,” Michelle said. “My children's faith grew in amazing ways as they attended school each day, and it continues to be fed through programs like the National Youth Gathering.”

But the strength of this congregation of more than 1,300 members is more than the family feeling, the pastors' leadership, and the exceptional generosity. President of Lay Leaders Dave Pasquini agreed that the sacrificial giving is unlike anything he has ever seen. It is more than the time, talent, treasure philosophy. “There is an unwavering willingness to serve,” he remarked. “The 90 percent of the work done by 10 percent of the members is not the rule here. There is a reason why God put us on this property.”

Dave, his wife Annette, and their two children built a home in Mars, fourteen miles from St. Luke in 2008 when he returned from a three-year expatriate assignment in Slovakia. A native of the Brentwood section of the city of Pittsburgh, and the youngest of six children, he was confirmed as a high school senior at Concordia in Brentwood, was married there and served as treasurer. After graduating from Pitt with a degree in management information, he spent the next 32 years at US Steel and retired in 2016 at age 52.

Always involved in church activities – “it's what we did on Sunday” – they found a bi-lingual church in Slovakia, so when they returned, they attended an ELCA church in Wexford. “We could tell the difference, “And they began the search for what they were accustomed to.

“My wife decided to take a drive to Cabot thinking it was in the middle of nowhere, having been a ‘city slicker’ where houses are 20 feet apart,” he remembered. “After all, everyone knows that no one from the South Hills moves to farmland in the north,” he laughed. When Annette arrived, Cindy Alviani, director of youth ministry in 2008, took her on a tour, and the rest is history. “We knew this is what home feels like,” he revealed. “We love it here.

HOUSES OF WORSHIP SERIES

Dave donated to and helped with the Food Table at Concordia in Brentwood that contributed to a nearby food pantry. He is the current food pantry coordinator at St. Luke that was founded as a community outreach in 1986. “We had thirty volunteers and during the pandemic the number of needy people tripled. But we never missed a beat. We always had enough to share and by the grace of God none of our members were recipients.”

Michelle believes people are initially attracted to St. Luke because of these kinds of outreach programs. “We actively seek to go into the community and serve in a variety of ways - from our Food Pantry and our annual Service Weekend to mission trips to areas of the country that have been devastated by natural disasters - the people of St. Luke have a true servant heart,” she reiterated. “The community knows that we are about spreading God's love through service to others in mission work and through our school,” she said.

Along with the new beginning the vision and mission have created, the merger of Faith located about six miles down the road from St. Luke in 2019 was a major development in its recent history. Perhaps the shared vicarage of Dagan Siefert, the single vicar mentioned in the published timeline, was the catalyst that caused the two congregations to begin to work together.

A revitalization that Dave eagerly anticipated is the change in governance. Rather than a church council that is tasked with minute decision-making, the policy-based format allows more freedom to do day-to-day ministry and provides power in setting boundaries. He was also involved in what he calls the branding of this church. “We are good at defining the 'what,’” he said. “But how do we do the 'how'? We are good at doing outreach at our site but how do we go outside our four walls?”

Pastor Ben shepherds that journey. “As we embark on the next era of ministry at St. Luke, we do so with a mission statement that describes why we exist as a congregation: Making and Maturing Disciples for Ministry and Mission,” Pastor Ben answered.

“Our leadership team has been at work for over a year defining and clarifying a shared vision that will guide us as we seek to live out the Christian life, and shape our ministries, programs, and relationships. In biblical, actionable words we believe the life of a maturing disciple of Jesus is marked by these three words: Gather. Grow. Go.

“Our vision for ministry at St. Luke going forward is that we live life: ‘Gathering as God’s people to receive His gifts, Growing in His love and grace, and Going with the Gospel!’ It is reflected in our new logo as the St. Luke tower steeple is depicted as the place where we Gather; the cross of Jesus is at the heart of all we do as we Grow to look more like Him; and the rays coming out from the cross reflect our desire to Go with the Gospel to the world.”

In the words of Pastor Ben, the continued blessings God has poured on this congregation for the past 175 years confirms that God has indeed done “Far more than all we could ask or think.”



SCHOOL NEWS

REDEEMER LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Oakmont / Penn Hills

High school freshman Anika Vanwyk was recognized for her outstanding performance this year at Allegheny County Camp Cadet. Anika spent a week this summer at the camp developing leadership skills. Anika was recognized in particular for her outstanding leadership and work ethic as squad leader. Our students got the opportunity to hear about her week and ask her questions about her experience. Congratulations, Anika!

The Redeemer Lutheran High School National Honor Society inducted three new students into their 2022-2023 membership. Jacob Hudzinski, Emenet Richardson, and Chloe Torres were honored as new junior class members. All were recognized during a ceremony on Friday, September 30th. Redeemer's Junior National Honor Society also welcomed four new members, Sarah Bonney, Ava Clayton, Seth Clayton, and Violet Thornton. National Honor Society members commit to leadership and service projects that benefit the school and area communities.

Redeemer faculty attended the annual Lutheran Education Association Convocation in early October. Over 3000 Lutheran educators gathered in Milwaukee to meet and learn together. Highlights included special speaker Scott Hamilton and a concert by Jennie Williamson with AriSon Records.

The fall athletic season is still in high gear, with playoffs and regional competitions coming later this month. We look forward to sharing results in the next newsletter!

Redeemer's Robotic Rams high school robotics team will be headed to Grove City College for the annual competition on October 21st & 22nd.

Looking ahead to next month—more athletics news, robotics competition highlights, and a spotlight on another member of the RLS family!

On the RLS calendar: RLS sings at Oakmont Hometown Christmas, Saturday, November 19th



Top Left: Anika Vanwyk receives Camp Cadet honors

Top Right: NHS inductees

Bottom Left: NJHS inductees

SCHOOL NEWS

RLS CONTINUED

RLS Teacher Spotlight: Amanda Sanguigni, Kindergarten Associate Teacher

Hometown: Pittsburgh, PA

Education:

Westminster College - Bachelors of Art Education and Special Education

Point Park University - Masters of Art Curriculum and Instruction

Interesting work experiences: During my field experiences, I learned American Sign Language and am almost board certified.

Family: Recently, I was engaged over Labor Day of 2022. I have a younger sister named Elana who is looking for PA schools for the upcoming school year 2023. Additionally, I have a dog named Gracie.

Hobbies: I like to take walks, collect snow globes, and make candles.

Other curious facts about me: I used to model in middle school and high school with my sister at a company in Butler, PA.

On my decision to become a teacher: I want to make a difference in the lives of children knowing one day they will teach. I remind myself each day that working with students, we have the potential to make a lasting impression.

On Redeemer Lutheran School: I feel closer each day with my religion and beliefs. I have the ability to share my thoughts with students and staff daily.



RLS Faculty at LEA Convocation



GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

South Hills

The rain did not stop church and preschool families from attending the Preschool Fall Festival on October 1. Event planners quickly altered their plans for the day early in the morning and moved the event inside. Games were set up in classrooms and families travelled through the facility to each station. A great time was had by all and we look forward to it again next year!

Good Shepherd opened its doors this Fall to the Bhutanese Community Association of Pittsburgh for an after-school program held weekly on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. We are blessed with a facility to offer space to programs benefitting our community.

On November 19 at 12:00 p.m., Good Shepherd's LWML is hosting its annual Four Seasons Luncheon. Tables will be decorated with a theme for one of the four seasons. The event will include a 50/50 drawing and a basket raffle. Cost to attend is \$10. Everyone is invited to attend! If you have questions, please contact the church office at 412-884-3232.



Left: A couple of the games in a classroom.

Right: Our grillmaster braving the rain.



MT. CALVARY LUTHERAN

West View

Back in June, Pastor Scott Kuntz traveled to Papillon, Nebraska, to consider a call to Lamb of God Evangelical Lutheran Church and Academy. He did not accept the call, but he visited the church again the weekend of October 16 for the installation of his friend who did take the position. Before leaving, Pastor Kuntz prepared a sermon that Elder David McElroy presented to the congregation at Mt. Calvary during the regular Sunday service.

The mantra in the fall at Mt. Calvary is, if it's October, it must be time to provide cookies for the local Meals on Wheels! Members and friends brought out the cookie sheets and heated up the ovens, and fresh batches appeared at the church each Sunday morning, to be delivered to the organization on Monday.

Later in the month, on October 23, the Hoover family again generously provided an Oktoberfest feast for the congregation in the church hall. Pictures and details will be available next month.

The Outreach Group never runs out of ideas for ways to touch the community. This year's project is a "freemarket/Santa's store," where people who are having financial difficulties can come and select Christmas gifts at no charge - or can make a donation if they like. Not all of the details are in place yet, but it will take place during a weekend in December. Members of the congregation have already started to bring in new or gently used items to be included for the market.

NEWS FROM AREA CONGREGATIONS

REDEEMER LUTHERAN

Oakmont

Redeemer Oakmont is bringing back more of its traditional Bible Classes for different groups. Mr. Tews with Mr. Driscoll has started back up the youth group; currently attendees are mostly of confirmation class age.

Pastor Westgate has started to conduct the Second Sunday Supper & Study, which consists of a potluck supper followed by a video study, often from Lutheran Hour Ministries' Men's Network, held on the second Sunday of the month, most months. Zoom Bible Classes for the women (Woman to Woman) and for everybody continue, along with the regular Sunday morning Bible Class during the Sunday School hour.



NEWS FROM AREA CONGREGATIONS

BETHEL AND ZION LUTHERAN

Glenshaw and Lawrenceville

Oh, the lazy days of summer... not this summer! I am pleased to report that things were and are alive and well at Bethel and Zion Lutheran Churches. Out of the gate we started our 'Bible on the Deck' Summer Bible Study series. They were such a great time of learning and fellowship along with, food and drink out on the decks of some of our congregant's homes, even mine. In fact, we just concluded this summer's series with the onset of the cooler weather, and I know I am going to miss it. On Sunday June 26, we started our LWML Mission's Coffee Café at Bethel. Each Sunday at 8:00 a.m. out on the porch of the church, a coffee cart with gourmet coffees of all kinds, and teas along with treats are offered as well as great pre-service fellowship. All of the free will offerings go to the missions of our Bethel Zion LWML chapter and our blessing people in Venezuela, Columbia and Uganda Africa.

Our Joyful Noise Bell Choir and new Java Jam Praise Team rehearsed throughout the summer to prepare for the upcoming services and liturgical seasons.

Our Prayer Warriors ministry which is at 3:00 p.m. every Tuesday at Zion continues to touch and bless people all around the world. We pray together with people around the world simultaneously for the needs of others, our country and the rest of the world. It is amazing to see how God is moving in people's lives with incredible miracles, healings, and glorious answers to prayer! As another of our community outreach programs, we scheduled our Red Cross Blood Drives in July, but due to the heat we had to reschedule for November 11th at Bethel and November 14th at Zion. Please come by and give the gift of life. You can call the Red Cross at (412)-263-3100, or schedule online under the Red Cross website. You can also call Bethel's Church office at 412-486-5777 to set up an appointment. Please also note that we will be hosting these blood drives 2 times a year. Be sure to look for us as the place to give the precious gift of life to those in need.

On Sunday July 17th we held the 'Blessings of the Animals' at Bethel. It was a drive-through with a few furry family members that came by, but the winds and sheets of rain put a damper on this outreach to our community. We will hopefully get this going again for both Zion and Bethel in the coming new year.

Wednesday, July 20 was the first meeting of our Bethel Zion ladies book club. This group is filled with fast readers and brilliant analysis with rich discussions, of what they are reading.

On Sunday July 18th the Lawrenceville Historical Society presented a fascinating program regarding the Music of Lawrenceville, at Zion. This event was received very well!

We again scheduled an Italian Dinner for the Lawrenceville community but due to the intense summer heat, we rescheduled it to September 24th. The dinner was a wonderful success bringing people from the surrounding community to our church. The Heinz family even stopped by after the Pitt Game with friends to enjoy Rich Owens' great sauces and other culinary delights. And our own Betty Rall brought over the 'girls' from her apartment complex. At the end, a Deacon from Our Lady of the Angels, Catholic Church, crossed the street and enjoyed a meal after their services.

End of summer brought to our churches a combined prayer and praise service called: "Raise the Praise Picnic." Roasted Pork, folks. As it was 9/11 we invited the surrounding fire dept.'s, EMTs and police departments. The picnic was out in front of Bethel on the lawn and the Assentation Lutheran Church's praise team came over to sing praise songs along with our own Java Jam praise group. As the cars drove by and people walked over, they heard songs of praise to our Lord and enjoyed the aroma of some really great food. All were welcome.

NEWS FROM AREA CONGREGATIONS

BETHEL AND ZION LUTHERAN CONTINUED

October brought many Oktoberfest's and Sauerkraut Dinners to both churches. The money earned went to our Bethel Rehder Family Mission to the Deaf in Colombia and the Lawrenceville Historical Society. On Sunday October 16, speaker and representative of Jews for Jesus ministries, David Garret delivered a most fascinating and informative presentation on the history and purpose of the Jews for Jesus ministry. David Garret currently serves as the chair of the Missions Committee of West Portal Lutheran Church in San Francisco, CA. Since 1981, Dave and his wife Kathleen have been serving with the ministry of Jews for Jesus. In addition, he served on the Board of Directors of Lutheran Bible Translators for nine years and on his Synod's Jewish Ministry Task Force.

This event took place at Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church, located at 301 Scott Avenue, Glenshaw PA 15116. There was a 'continental' breakfast and bible study at 9:00 a.m., followed by our service at 10:00 a.m. and then David Garret's presentation and Q&A session. A lunch was served after. Truly a great mission.

Our Girl Scout group is gearing up to decorate 'Shoe Boxes' for Operation Christmas Child along with our LWML, which will be delivered the Week of the 14th of November. They will be able to track where each box goes and who the blessing of each box goes to. And speaking of LWML, these ladies have been on a mission for our missions. They have raised money for our Lutheran Deaf Mission in Colombia, the poor and disenfranchised, in Venezuela and Henry Obadawa's Lutheran church and school in Uganda Africa. I am looking forward to see what else they have in store for their fundraisers coming up for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Later in November, Jonathan Breight will be presenting his "**Evening of Praise**" - Nov.19th and 20th with the groups, Katya's String quartet, Bethel and Christ Lutheran handbell choirs, organ recitals, The Pittsburgh Lutheran Chorus and Java Jam. The 19th will be at Christ Lutheran Church, 400 Barclay Ave., Forest Hills with cocktails before and dinner after and the 20th will be at Zion Lutheran Church, 237-37th St., Lawrenceville with dinner after the program.

For Reservations call 412-271-7173. It is Free and All Are Welcome!

KEEP THIS DATE: DEC. 3rd FOR "THE GATHERING"

Mark your calendars for **December 3, 2022** for a one day seminar on "Spiritual Conversations in a Digital Age." Open to everyone, this must attend event will help equip all lay Christians to effectively and comfortably share their faith with others in this ever changing world.

When: Saturday December 3, 2022
8:00 am to 4:30 pm

Where: Christ Lutheran Church
400 Barclay Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15221

Special Thanks to Rev. Breight and Christ Lutheran Church for providing the location!

Cost: There is no fee.

RSVP to: <http://lhm.org/scda-pitt> or 412-486-5777 ASAP

ZION LUTHERAN

Lawrenceville



Monday, November 14th, 2022
1:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
237 37th Street
Pittsburg, PA 15201

For an appointment, please visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org) and enter the code word
Zion Evangelical
Or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Give Something that Means Something®

1-800-RED CROSS | [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org) | Download the Blood Donor App

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This photo was taken on October 23rd at Zion in Lawrenceville sauerkraut supper. Elaine and Hayes Gerhardt live in State College and took a drive to Pittsburgh for dinner because they saw the notice in the Pittsburgh Lutheran. They are members of Good Shepherd in State College.



UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Bethel and Zion Sponsor Seminar at Christ Lutheran

Join us for a free, one day seminar on “Spiritual Conversations in a Digital World” to help equip all Christians to share their faith effectively and comfortably with others. With original research from the Barna Group, representatives from Lutheran Hour Ministries will offer fresh insights and best practices for fruitful everyday life changing conversations.

Saturday, December 3, 2022

8:00 am to 4:30 pm

Christ Lutheran Church, 400 Barclay Avenue Pittsburgh 15221

Call 412-486-5777 for reservations.



ARC Blood Drives at Bethel and Zion (Lawrenceville)

Did you know about 62% of the U.S. population is eligible to give blood? But, only about 3% does. By making an appointment to help save lives, donors can pump up the blood supply and keep it from falling to shortage levels. [The American Red Cross will sponsor Blood Drives at Bethel Ev. Lutheran Church, 301 Scott Avenue, Glenshaw \(15116\) on Friday, Nov. 11 and at Zion Ev. Lutheran Church, 237-37th Street, Pittsburgh \(15201\) on Monday, Nov. 14. Both Blood Drives are scheduled from noon until 6:00 p.m.](#)

Donors are asked to schedule an appointment by calling 412-486-5777. The Red Cross follows a high standard of safety and infection control. The Red Cross will continue to socially distance. While donors are no longer required to wear a face mask, individuals may choose to continue to wear a mask for any reason. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age, weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood.



“Evening of Praise”

Saturday, November 19, 4:00 p.m.

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
400 Barclay Avenue, Forest Hills

Sunday, November 20, 4:00 p.m.

ZION ^{EV.} LUTHERAN CHURCH
237-37th Street, Lawrenceville

Featuring
A string quartet, handbell choirs, organ recitals
Pittsburgh Lutheran Chorus, Java Jam
& *A Catered Dinner*

Call 412/271-7173 for reservations.

Concordia Oktoberfest 2022

A steady and cold rain did not stop over eight hundred guests from enjoying Concordia's annual Oktoberfest!

Those who came found warmth and comfort in delicious German dishes, prepared in-house by our talented food service team, including spätzle, sauerbraten, Bavarian style pork roast, kielbasa, sauerkraut, bratwurst and more.

The Mikey Dee Polka Band brought the crowd to the dance floor with polka favorites and John Huss Evangelical Lutheran Church hosted a successful bake sale. Kid enjoyed a craft table hosted by Good Samaritan Hospice Youth Bereavement Care, pumpkin decorating, face stenciling, temporary tattoos, pony rides, bouncy house fun, creating giant bubbles and learning to sign their names courtesy of our friends from Pittsburgh Lutheran Deaf Ministry. The event concluded with a spectacular fireworks display by Pyrotecnico.

Bottom Right: Ladies of John Huss congregation in Arnold who hosted a bake sale fundraiser in the Haven I Lobby.

Top Right: Concordia Board members Jim Limbaugh (St. Luke), Peter Bodnar and Gail Holzer (Redeemer) gather with Chaplain Jack Hartman.

Left: Connor Hagey (Redeemer), Director of Retirement Living, Haven I Resident Care Coordinator Loraine Van Tine (St. Luke) and Andria Rhodes from the Human Resources Department greet all Oktoberfest guests in style.



Nominees for Board of Directors at Concordia Lutheran Ministries Announced

Member church delegates have been notified [that Concordia Lutheran Ministries Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 13, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. at Concordia Haven I, 112 Marwood Rd., Cabot.](#)

Registration begins at 2:30 p.m. Dinner will be served following the meeting at approximately 4:45 p.m.

The main order of business for the day is the election of five members to the Board of Directors. Nominees are incumbents Jennifer Ciccone, Russell Lucas, and Katie Straszheim – Ascension and Rev. Dr. Edward Grimenstein – Zion, Bridgeville, and Jim Wolf - Peace; as well as Len Bloom – St. Luke; Rev. Joshua Obermann – Calvary, John Toperzer Jr – Concordia and Robert Wilshire – Redeemer. Len Bloom has served on the Concordia parent board in the past. Delegates will elect five persons to three-year terms. By-laws dictate that all voting must be made in person.

Each member congregation is entitled to three votes – the called pastor plus two delegates. Gail Holzer, CLM director is chair of the Nominating Committee. Russell Lucas, also a current director as well as MaryAnn Bornemann – Grace and Rev. Barry Keurulainen are committee participants. Both have served on the Board of Directors in recent years.

Concordia leadership looks forward to hosting our member church delegates each year on the second Sunday of November. Please contact Director of Church Relations Shirley Freyer at 412-480-9933 with any questions.



Adopt a Concordia Resident at Christmas

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

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

Finally, monetary contributions are always appreciated and need to be sent to CLM Foundation, 134 Marwood Road, Cabot, PA 16023.

If your congregation or individual members are interested in “adopting a resident,” please call: CABOT- (Donations are needed by Dec. 3) Jaime White (personal care): 724-352-1571 ext. 8302

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

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

THE HOLIDAY CHOIR PRESENTS

A FESTIVAL OF LESSON & CAROLS



ALL LESSONS ARE BASED ON SCRIPTURALLY RECORDED INCIDENTS.

PRESENTED BY THE PITTSBURGH LUTHERAN CHORUS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27

First Floor, Great Room

Concordia of Monroeville

4363 Northern Pike, Monroeville 15146


2:30 PM



JOIN US FOR CONCORDIA'S NINTH ANNUAL LIVE NATIVITY

Sunday, December 11
148 Marwood Rd., Cabot, PA 16023
(Entrance #5, Haven II)
Performances at 4:30, 5:15 and 6 p.m.

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



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

