



THE PITTSBURGH LUTHERAN

VOL 93, NO 7, September 2023

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PALM DEVOTION

by The Reverend Dr. Douglas H. Spittel, PALM President

“Back to School”

*“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,
and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.”
– Proverbs 9:10*

The fear of the *Lord*
is the beginning
of *wisdom*.

September is the time when students return to school. Different school districts begin at different times, some even beginning in August, but by the day after Labor Day, September greets all students back to the classroom from grade school to graduate school. We send our children to school, and many of us continue to trade school or university after high school to gain knowledge and understanding of our world. Education is meant to serve our various vocations or callings from God, so we may serve our neighbors with the knowledge and skills we learn. We are blessed with many choices for education, from schools operated by the government, private non-profit organizations, or the Church to home-schooling by parents or some combination thereof. The knowledge and skills that these nurseries of understanding impart are crucial to our personal development and the welfare of society at large.

However, even the best education from the brightest teachers and professors becomes meaningless if not rooted in the Faith. More than simply digesting information and data, one must apply what is learned to a lifetime of service and relationships. Knowledge and understanding must be formed and informed by wisdom. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

The arts and sciences, language and mathematics, are all crucial and necessary disciplines in one’s academic endeavors. However, these studies are disjointed and lack unified meaning without the context of holy wisdom. The fear of the Lord, that is, abiding in the merciful presence of Jesus Christ, allows the student to grow in the nurturing environment of the Faith. It is in the presence of Jesus in His holy Word and Sacraments where forgiveness, life, and salvation are found. Our Lord gathers His people into His presence, where we find ourselves in a community of believers who build one another up in the Faith and nurture and protect one another from the false teachings of the devil.

Holy wisdom forms us in the Faith as we grow in the fellowship of the Church with our brothers and sisters. We speak to one another with the Words of God in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Dear Christian, the invitation to go “back to school” is not simply an invitation to return to the books. It is your life-long invitation from Jesus Himself to go to Church, hear His Word, receive His life-giving Sacraments, and live in the household of Faith with your brethren. While learning information and skills is crucial, the knowledge of the Holy One brings everything into focus, and the context of life with Jesus in the Church brings wisdom and meaning to our work and lives.

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.” – Colossians 3:16

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

September

1. Concordia at Villa St. Joseph Community Day, Concordia at Villa St. Joseph, Baden, Pa, 2:00p.m. to 4:00p.m.
7. Pittsburgh Lutheran choral rehearsal begins, Zion, Lawrenceville every Thursday at 6:30 p.m.
- 10 and 11. Concordia Open House, Graceful Aging Wellness Center, Ligonier, Pa, 1:00 p.m. to #:00 p.m.
17. Sixth Annual History Event, "Artists of Lawrenceville" Zion Lutheran, Lawrenceville, 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
17. PALM Delegate Meeting at First Trinity, Shadyside, 2:30 p.m.
20. Concordia at Ridgewood Place 20th Anniversary, 1460 Renton Road, Plum, 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
29. "Power of the Purse" bash, The Mansion, Butler, Pa, 6:00 p.m.



The Pittsburgh Lutheran

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Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries 2023 Annual Delegate Meeting

Important News and Business for Our Missions and Congregations

17 September 2023

Registration—2:30 PM

Meeting Begins—3:00 PM

First Trinity Evangelical-Lutheran Church—Shadyside

First Floor—McKinney Hall

**Each Member Congregation is asked to send
1 Pastoral and 2 Lay Delegates**



Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries

Let us do good to all, especially to
those who are of the household of faith.
- Galatians 6:10

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An Annual Report Booklet and Delegate Packet will arrive at each parish office by mid-August.

NEW MESSENGERS SHARE GOD'S WORD

PALM is blessed in this region by the amount of missions that we serve far and wide. This summer, we were blessed to welcome two new church workers to the area:

On June 11th, Seminarian Zachary Wessel was installed as Vicar at All Saints Lutheran Church and Student Center in Slippery Rock, PA.

On July 2nd, Candidate Benjamin N. Janssen was ordained and installed as the first resident Pastor of Holy Cross Lutheran Chapel, Hazelwood, Pittsburgh. One hundred fifty people - clergy and laypeople alike - attended this wonderful occasion!



May God bless the work of these missions and the men He has called to serve them!





CAMPUS MINISTRY

SRU CAMPUS MINISTRY

by Augusta R. Mennell, Campus Ministry Director

Effective Outreach

What are the most effective ways for All Saints Campus Ministry to share the Gospel with college students? Rev. Klemet I. Preus has written a book called What They Need to Hear: Sharing Christ With Family and Friends (CPH, 2013). This book is filled with effective ideas for campus ministry. These practical ideas work well with the student meals and social events that campus ministry holds for students. (Pictured right: All Saints member Rosemary Rigney loves her college students Skylar and Eli.)



Rev. Preus wrote this book to help his father-in-law regain his faith. The book is a series of letters to his father-in-law, who appeared to be close to death, and who felt he had lost his faith because he no longer believed in miracles. Rev. Preus loved his father-in-law and was honored to have the opportunity to help him with his spiritual problem. To do this he wrote ninety letters to his father-in-law, letters which are helpful for campus ministry. Free student meals and events like hiking are great, but the ideas Rev. Preus presents in his book makes sharing the Gospel much more effective.

For one thing, Rev. Preus suggests that we slow down and concentrate on sharing with one person, and not be in a rush to reach out to several students at the same time: “It’s better to speak to one person ten times than ten people one time.” That’s just what he did. He wrote many, many letters to just one person, his beloved father-in-law, who had agreed to read the letters. This is good advice for campus ministry, too. We are more effective when we treasure even one student who comes in to talk.

Another principle that Rev. Preus encourages is really listening. He listened to what was bothering his father-in-law so much that it cost him his faith. Rev. Preus suggests that it is not effective to ignore what really bothers people with a faith problem. The pastor realized he had to confront the issue of miracles, and therefore wrote several letters explaining the Christian view concerning miracles. Only when he was sure that his father-in-law understood miracles did Rev. Preus move on to other faith issues. So, when a student has struggles with baptism, the Lord’s Supper, or argues that “God is not fair”, we should not ignore his/her questions, or slide by them. Rev. Preus suggests that it is much more effective to deal directly with the issues causing the student’s struggle for faith.

Another of Rev. Preus’s teaching is that trust is crucial in order to effectively share the Gospel. Even our own children need to trust in and be able to listen to our answers to their doubts. Rev. Preus’ father-in-law trusted him enough to read the letters and to come back to faith through them. Students who come to All Saints for the meals, worship, Bible studies, will grow in trust. The members of All Saints show by their actions that they can be trusted with sharing the Gospel.

Many members from the past practiced the principles presented in What They Need to Hear: Sharing Christ With Family and Friends. Andy Heasley was one of them. He and his wife interacted very easily with college students. It didn’t matter that the couple were in their eighties. It mattered that they made a point of knowing their students. They opened their senior apartment to invite them to come in for quiet study time. They invited the students to come in for the special desserts they made, desserts like extra special puddings. Even after Lou’s unexpected death, Andy included the students in his life. One student felt he had become a father to her.

Another older member from the past was Fern Fitzpatrick, who was known for driving students to Grove City for pizza at her expense. She too, invited the students to her apartment in the senior citizen’s complex in town. She loved to listen to her “kids” and to tell them about her boys, all of whom were pastors, and her daughter. In fact, one son, Rev. Bob Fitzpatrick, was the Mission Executive who brought Fern to All Saints. She listened with compassion to her students, who had their struggles with college life. Today All Saints members and campus ministry look forward to sharing lives with students using Rev. Preus’ ideas for effective Gospel outreach.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN SCHOOL



Redeemer has been hard at work preparing the new high school campus for the upcoming school year! Students, families, and Redeemer faculty have been laboring tirelessly as furniture movers, renovation specialists, and interior decorators in order to get the building ship-shape. LCMS community members enjoyed a special open house to tour the building and learn more about the school's vision and ministry to families in the area.

In addition to the high school campus project, faculty and staff have also been diligently preparing for the new year. The copier is humming, the laminator rarely has a chance to cool down, and the gym and the field are alive with the sounds of fall athletic practices!

Redeemer will open its doors on August 23rd for the first day of the 2023-2024 school year; middle and high school students will be heading to their annual team building retreat for the first few days. We look forward to sharing highlights in the next newsletter! Please lift up the faculty and staff of Redeemer as they seek to serve the Lord in providing quality Christ-centered education to their students.

1st day of high school girls' volleyball practice



Move-in day for the new high school campus.



"Two Guys and a Truck"-- some of our helpful volunteer moving men!



SCHOOL NEWS

ST. LUKE LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Cabot

At St. Luke Lutheran School we are excited to begin our 158th school year with 74 Preschool and Pre-K students, and 145 students in grades K-8. As Psalm 127:3 tells us, “Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from Him.” We thank God for the opportunity to nurture these precious gifts entrusted to our care.

This school year’s theme will be CONNECTED: John 15:5 says, “I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.” The children will be learning about how we are CONNECTED to The Father, The Son, The Holy Spirit, The Church and The Commission.

We are also welcoming three new teachers this year: 1st Grade—Miss Haylie Rupnow; 3rd Grade—Mrs. Brianna Noon, and Physical Education—Mrs. Kelly Sickenberger. Along with them, Mrs. Angela Turner will step in as our new principal and Mrs. Denise Groseclose, our new administrative assistant.

There are many new and exciting blessings from God at St. Luke Lutheran School for the 2023-2024 school year. We thank and praise Him for His faithful care!



NEWS FROM AREA CONGREGATIONS

ASCENSION LUTHERAN

McCandless

Ascension Lutheran Church's Annual Pumpkin Fest & Flea Market

Saturday, October 14, 2023, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

For the ninth 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.

Join us for our **FREE** seminar

RUN HARD. Rest Well.

Saturday,
September 16th
9:30-11:30am

**We know how to run hard.
Do you know how to rest well?**

Is your schedule overloaded?
Are you frustrated that your your rest isn't truly restful?

Come hear speaker, Stacey Dumbacher,
Director of Programs of Run Hard Rest Well, walk us
through how we can create a daily rhythm that is biblical,
transformative, and sustainable.

**Ascension Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall, Entrance in back
8225 Peebles Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15237**

Questions? Contact us at secretary@ascensionpgh.com

Run Hard.  Rest Well.

Sponsored by Ascension Lutheran Church
& First Trinity Evangelical-Lutheran Church

NEWS FROM AREA CONGREGATIONS

CHRIST LUTHERAN

Forest Hills

So, the **80th** 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 **80** plus golfers. So, we need **YOU**. Proceeds go toward tuition for students at Redeemer Lutheran School.

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, September 30, 2023**. 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 to the school, we will again be having sponsorship holes at different levels: **HOLE IN ONE LEVEL IS \$500 AND ABOVE, EAGLE LEVEL IS \$100 - \$499 and a BIRDIE LEVEL IS ANY AMOUNT UNDER \$100**. We will also put your name / company name on a sign and place it on different holes around the course.

Please 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.



ZION LUTHERAN

Bridgeville

Zion Lutheran had a wonderful turn out for VBS. The children raised over \$900 for Foster Love Project, a local organization that helps kids entering foster care by providing clothes, hygiene products, and other essentials when entering care.

Zion will be celebrating their 125th Anniversary this September with a church festival.

NEWS FROM AREA CONGREGATIONS

MT. CALVARY LUTHERAN

West View

Two events in particular kept Mt. Calvary in West View busy during the summer. In July, after stepping away for three years, Vacation Bible School returned the week of July 24 - 28. The kids enjoyed becoming "Rainforest Explorers" and learning how Jesus guides, directs, and loves us.

Each night before the program, children and parents were offered a dinner that varied between pizza, chicken tenders, hot dogs, mac & cheese, etc., plus all of the accompaniments. When the evening got underway, Sidney the Sloth introduced the program's activities, which included Bible stories, Bible challenges, music, crafts, and snacks.

All of this took place in a "rainforest setting," as the Hoover family (Tom, Mechele, Jon), with help from the Outreach Group, spent weeks transforming the VBS area by designing a "bamboo" hut from empty paper towel rolls; crafting flowering, leafy vines by twisting brown paper and hanging it from the ceiling; and devoting hours to hand-painting backdrops. The week closed with the children performing a musical show for family members and friends Friday evening.



Then a week later, the annual church picnic took place after the service on August 6, in the Sunday School auditorium. The event included a catered lunch enhanced by numerous delicious dishes from the members and friends in attendance. The theme was "Calendar Girl," and the Outreach Group started by using calendar pages as placemats. After that, decorations for various holidays adorned the tables - depicting New Year's Eve and Christmas, and everything in between.

Once again, Pastor Kuntz and Nikkie solicited dozens of gifts from local (and not-so-local) establishments for the raffle, and others contributed items as well. People were invited to guess the weight of a watermelon (Liam Kuntz suggested 79 pounds; he was NOT the winner!), and the number of pieces of candy in a plastic jar - a total of 900+. Many thanks to George Yagatich for putting that together and - yes - counting all of it!

Between the raffle and prizes from games, everyone went home with some type of gift, and more importantly, with a feeling of satisfaction from the wonderful food and fellowship.

Left: The Hoover family designed the rainforest background for Mt. Calvary's VBS.

Middle: The Outreach Group created a hut for use in the Bible Challenge area

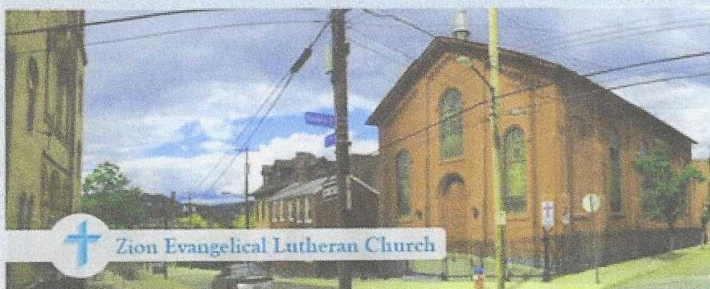
Right: Adults helped the kids with their sand art creations.



ZION LUTHERAN

Lawrenceville

6th Annual History Event “Artists of Lawrenceville” September 17, 2023 ~ 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. - Melanie Groves, lecturer in Museum Studies at the University of Pittsburgh will be discussing and highlighting Romare Bearden, an African-American Artist who lived in Lawrenceville. Bearden, a painter, depicted and celebrated everyday African-American life.

2:30 p.m. - Ron Donoughe, full-time professional artist, will be engaging the audience in the life and art of Henry Bursztynowicz. Bursztynowicz, a sculptor, was a native of Lawrenceville and was a faculty member of the University of Missouri and Pittsburgh Center for the Arts.

3:30 p.m. - Gary Grimes, a local art historian who has lived in Pittsburgh since 1976, will be speaking on Lawrenceville's two leading artists of the nineteenth century, Olive Turney and Clarence Johns. Turney, a painter, eventually became a teacher and principal of the Pittsburgh School of Design. Johns was also a painter, whose notable works include "Taubal Cain" and "Ruins in Paris".

Free to the public

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

PITTSBURGH LUTHERAN CHORUS REHEARSAL BEGINS

Love to sing? Join the Pittsburgh Lutheran Chorus as we begin to rehearse for our Lessons and Carols presentations at Concordia Lutheran Ministries communities during the Advent and Christmas Season. We meet every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. beginning Sept. 7 at Zion, 237-37th Street, Lawrenceville.



Concordia at Bethlen Open House

Concordia at Bethlen will host open house events for its retirement living cottages from 1 to 3 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 10, and Monday, Sept. 11, at its Graceful Aging Wellness Center, located at 135 Kalassay Dr., Ligonier, PA 15658. Each event will start with a brief educational seminar, titled “Discover the Concordia Retirement Living Difference.”

Attendees can enjoy free light appetizers and happy hour, tour cottages and learn about the benefits of Concordia’s dedication to financial stability, focus on worry-free living and enthusiasm for a welcoming community atmosphere. Walk-ins are welcome, but registration is preferred by Wednesday, Sept. 6. To RSVP or learn more, call Admissions Coordinator Tracy Peltz-Palko at 724-238-2235, ext. 217.



Caregiver Support Group

The Caregiver Support Group on the Cabot campus meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 2 p.m. Call Stefanie Dietrich for more information at 724-352-1571, ext. 8271.



TOPS - Take Off Pounds Sensibly

Meetings every Thursday at the Cabot campus. Weigh-ins at 4:30, meeting at 5 p.m. Open to all staff, residents and community. Call or email Sara Beth Swain for details at 724-352-1571, ext. 8045 or sswain@concordiavn.org

Concordia Delegate Chosen for Good Neighbor Award

Sheila Petite, Member of Faith Lutheran Church in East Liberty received the 2023 Sister Susan Welsh Good Neighbor Award at the McAuley Ministries board meeting on July 31.

The Sister Susan Welsh Good Neighbor Award recognizes a resident of the Hill District, Uptown, or West Oakland who exemplifies the ideals of a “good neighbor” – compassionate; friendly; helpful; a willing volunteer; an organizer of neighborhood events; willing to devote time, talents, and resources to make his or her neighborhood a better place to live. The award is named in honor of Sister Susan Welsh, RSM, former president and CEO of Pittsburgh Mercy, and a founding and current board member of the McAuley Ministries Foundation.

She was nominated for being a concerned and caring neighbor as she volunteers at the Hill District’s Sunny Community Garden and has a strong commitment to freeing the Hill District of rampant drug problems and cultivating a vibrant social atmosphere that brings neighbors together and strengthens the bonds within the community.

The honoree of the Sister Susan Welsh Good Neighbor Award receives a \$5,000 check.

Sheila is secretary for her congregation and a delegate with her husband, Judge Oscar Petite for Concordia Lutheran Ministries.

*Good
Neighbor
Award*

Concordia's 142nd Annual Festival a Summer Success!

Concordia at Cabot welcomed over 850 residents, families, staff, and community members on campus for a perfect summer day on Sunday, July 30. All enjoyed fellowship, great food, swinging music, a worship service, and free kids' activities thanks to our dedicated team.

The kitchen served delicious picnic-themed meals all day, and kids' activities and mini fishing derby at the pond behind the Lund Care Center were favorites. The Pittsburgh Doo Wop Big Band had everyone smiling and tapping their toes, and over 45 classic cars and tractors were on campus for a car cruise. Special thanks to our local Knoch High School Boys Soccer Team members, who volunteered and helped direct traffic!



Rev. Dr. Edward Grimenstein, Concordia Parent Board member and pastor at Concordia member church Zion Lutheran in Bridgeville, was the guest preacher for our traditional worship service, and he delivered a moving message about Concordia's history as an orphanage. The Pittsburgh Lutheran Chorus, comprised of singers from Concordia's member churches, opened and closed the service.

At the end of such a great day, Concordia President, and CEO Keith Frndak thanked our volunteers, community, staff, and board members for their continued support, and he asked for prayers as Concordia continues to grow to meet the needs of our residents, families, and communities.



Oktoberfest 2023

Saturday, October 7, 4 - 8 p.m.
Haven I



For your Enjoyment: The Mikey Dee Polka Band

For your Appetite: German-Themed Menu, Bake Sale

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

For your Curiosity: Haven I Open House

Fireworks at 7:45 p.m.

Flu Shots (4-6 p.m.)

For more information call 724-352-8268

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

Concordia at Ridgewood Place

Celebrating 20 Years

of service to the community!

Join Concordia at Ridgewood Place residents, families and staff for this free event, featuring a car cruise, live music from The Highlife Band, complimentary refreshments and tours of our community. Food trucks will also be onsite.

**Wednesday, September 20
3-6 p.m.**



For more information, call Administrator Ben Skillen at 412-798-1855.
To learn more about our community, visit www.ConcordiaRidgewoodPlace.org.



Power of the Purse

A purse bash to benefit Good Samaritan
Hospice Youth Bereavement Care

Friday, September 29, 2023
6 p.m.

The Mansion, Butler, PA

141 Mansion Lane, Butler, PA 16002

\$45 per admission ticket

Each ticket includes chances to win one of 10 designer handbags

Additional drawings for:

- **Spotlight Designer Bags worth \$2,000+**
- **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
pursegala.com to reserve your tickets.