



THE PITTSBURGH LUTHERAN

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PALM DEVOTION

by Rev. Dr. Douglas H. Spittel

Matthew 9:35-38 - ³⁵Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. ³⁶But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. ³⁷Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. ³⁸Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

It isn't hard to imagine Jesus looking at our cities and villages in the Pittsburgh region and being moved with the same compassion that He had in Galilee. Pittsburgh is blessed with a vibrant, economically stable, socially diverse metropolitan area. Yet, so many people are weighed down with the changes and chances of this life. Be it the onslaught of the information stream in social media and the news cycle or the concerns of health, employment, and finances, our neighbors struggle in a world that has no lasting answers, living in a state of unending crisis.

While government and community agencies try to keep up with social welfare programs, the one thing that they do not and cannot provide is the one thing that is most needful - hope in Jesus Christ. Many people have lost their way and we now have a generation for whom many have never even been inside of a church. Families struggle with health crises, crushing debt, pornography and opiate addiction among a myriad of other issues. The worldly philosophy of "don't worry, be happy" just doesn't bear the weight of the anxiety of life and certainly not the despair of sin.

The people of Pittsburgh are hungry. Not for a morsel of food or a little more wealth. They are hungry for meaningful and transcendent answers to the big questions about sin and suffering, life and death, good and evil. They are hungry for the Gospel. They are "*weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.*"



PALM DEVOTION

The LCMS congregations in the Pittsburgh Area that make up PALM are blessed to have those answers. Our people and our pastors have the eternally relevant Gospel of Jesus Christ, God come in our flesh to suffer our grief and sorrow and to die our death for us. Jesus has overcome death and the grave. Jesus forgives all our sins. We have hope abundant and hope to share. The people of Pittsburgh desire our prayers and our counsel. We have seen it on our university campuses, we have seen it on the streets of Hazelwood. People will walk right up to a pastor or vicar in uniform and ask for prayers and blessings. Jesus works through us to pray for our neighbors and give them a helping hand. Jesus sends us and brings people to us to be their shoulder to cry on as well as their friends who help them bear their suffering and pain. PALM has the God-given task to reach out to every neighborhood and municipality in our region. PALM is not simply an organization or a board of directors. PALM is you, the pastors and people of the LCMS congregations of the Pittsburgh Area.

Jesus says, *“pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”* Jesus fulfills His prayer here in Pittsburgh with His people who are gathered around His Word and Sacrament. Join us in praying for our neighbors that they may hear the Gospel, believe, and be saved. Join us and *“sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear”* (1 Peter 3:15). Join us by volunteering at your local congregation. Join us by supporting our mission outreaches at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Clarksburg, WV and at Holy Cross Lutheran Mission in the Hazelwood neighborhood of the City of Pittsburgh. Join us by engaging with your LCMS circuit to suggest new areas to begin mission work.

We have welcomed the first new congregation to our region in forty years at St. John’s and we are well on the way to welcoming another at Holy Cross. Our Lord Jesus Christ is doing great things to bring His forgiveness and hope to the people of Pittsburgh. Let’s continue to work with the momentum and establish even more outreaches. A mission in every neighborhood! The Church proclaiming Christ throughout Pittsburgh! Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries is Jesus Christ working



through you for our neighbors. Thanks be to God!

*Photos: LCMS Communications/
Erik M. Lunsford*

Mark your Calendar

November

2. Movie & Bonfire, Reformation celebration, Zion, Bridgeville, 4:45 p.m.
3. "Lifestyle" Concordia Haven Apartments, Cabot, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
3. Veteran's Day Celebration, Calvary Lutheran, Murrysville, 1:00 p.m.
4. Open House, Concordia Haven Apartments, Cabot, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
6. Lutheran Homeschool Families, First Trinity, Shadyside, 9:30 a.m.
7. The Sixth Annual Concordia Purse Gala, The Hyundai Club at PNC Park, 6:30 p.m.
9. The 44th Annual Christian Art Show, Calvary Murrysville, 9:00 am to 4:00pm
9. Bake Sale & Basket Raffle Fundraiser, Calvary, Murrysville, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.
10. CLM Annual Meeting, Haven Dining room, Cabot, 3:00 p.m. Dinner at 5:00 p.m.
10. The 44th Annual Christian Art Show, Calvary Murrysville, Noon to 4:00pm.
11. Veteran's Day Service, Minersville Cemetery, time TBD
17. Open House, Concordia of the South Hills, Mt. Lebanon, 1:00p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
17. Open House, Highpointe at Rebecca, Allison Park, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
17. Praise Concert and Dinner, Christ Lutheran, Forest Hills, 4:00 p.m.
18. Open House Highpointe at Rebecca, Allison Park, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
18. Open House, Concordia of the South Hills, Mt. Lebanon, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
22. Movie Night, A River Runs Through It, Concordia, Brentwood, 6:30 p.m.
27. Thanksgiving Eve Vespers, Concordia, Brentwood, 7:00 p.m.
27. The Tri-Parish Group Thanksgiving Eve Service, Bethel, Glenshaw, 7:00 p.m.



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Mark your Calendar

December

- 4. Lutheran Homeschool Families, First Trinity, Shadyside, 9:30 a.m.
- 4. Tri Parish mid-week Advent Services, St. John, Clarksburg, 7:00 p.m. with dinner at 6:00 p.m.
- 11. Tri Parish mid-week Advent Services, Zion Lawrenceville, 7:00 p.m. with dinner at 6:00 p.m.
- 15. Concordia Lutheran Ministries Seventh Annual Live Nativity, Haven II, Cabot, 4:30 p.m., 5:15 p.m. and 6 p.m.
- 18. Tri Parish mid-week Advent Services, Bethel, Glenshaw, 7:00 p.m. with dinner at 6:00 p.m.

PALM NEWS

Sunday, September 15, was the date for this year's PALM Delegate Meeting at First Trinity. Many of our congregations were represented and heard about the new and exciting mission work going on here in the Pittsburgh area and in Clarksburg.

It was decided that this year's Reformation Service offering would go to St. John's Clarksburg, to help them prepare for a missionary pastor to come to serve there. New PALM Board members include Pastor Westgate (Lutheran Schools Director), Rick Crain (English District Representative), Pastor Spittel (Functional Director), and Pastor McCanless (Mission Director). Pastor Spittel will now serve as President and Pastor Westgate as Secretary. Justin Spittel remains Treasurer.

Many thanks to our departing Board members: Pastor Grimenstein, Jesse Carter, and John Logsdon.

The Future of Campus Ministry

by Augusta R. Mennell, Campus Ministry Director

When we ask what is the future of campus ministry, we are really wondering if there should be or will be campus ministry in ten years. But that is like asking if we will have Sunday School or LWML in the future. We wouldn't have a future without them. The future of campus ministry is to stay on campus no matter what the challenges are. Why? Because campus ministry will always be needed.

Coming to college can be daunting for students, especially for those who are shy. It is reassuring to freshmen when we reach out to them when they first come to college. It was especially satisfying to reach out to Daisy (not her real name), a shy American freshman we had met at one of Slippery Rock University's summer orientations. When campus ministry called her this semester to invite her to our student meals and to Sunday morning worship, she was really pleased. She told us that she is Lutheran but had attended church infrequently. She added that she had been confirmed, but had learned very little of the Bible. She was not blaming anyone. She just said that for the challenges she now faces at

college, she believes she needs to know more of the Bible. How great is that!

Daisy now comes once a week for Bible study. We're beginning with Luke so she knows exactly who Jesus is. During one class she asked why some people are atheists. She just wondered how this could be since the Bible tells us who God is. She appreciated learning about the free will given to us. We are using the Concordia Bible History and the Book of Luke in The People's Bible Commentary for our study. The present and the future of campus ministry is teaching the Bible so that students like Daisy will know why they believe what they believe.

Campus ministry at All Saints is trying something new. We are trying a regularly scheduled event on the campus of Grove City College. It is called "Lunch with Luther." Grove City professor Kelsey Madsen and GCC student Elise Wiggins, both members of All Saints, are working with campus pastor Reverend Larry K. Loree, Jr. to form this group. Reverend Loree is preparing passages from Luther's writings. He will present this information for discussion to interested students while eating lunch in one of the schools dining facilities. The discussion will target Lutherans, but all students will be welcome. Campus ministry is excited about the opportunity to expand greater knowledge of what Lutherans believe.



LOCAL MISSION

Mileposters News

Our blind stoker, riding with her original captain, has turned another 18 miles in support of our campaign for Campus Ministry at First Trinity Lutheran in Oakland. At this writing, the total is 603.

Another recent ride was made on the North Bend Rail Trail in West Virginia, which has many tunnels.

On September 14, the group leader, once again on the original Mileposters tandem alone, rode 20 miles in 1 hour and 39 minutes, all stops included, 12.1 miles per hour, ten minutes faster than two weeks previous, his personal best, on a second round trip from Buena Vista, PA to Cedar Creek County Park in Westmoreland County.



The Raleigh Companion tandem, which was recently added to the fleet, was out for a ride on October 5, pictured by the fish pond at the Branchport Boat Club on the Riverfront Trail. Both captain and stoker were delighted at the performance of the bike, which has trigger shifters and wide-range gearing to deal with hilly trails.

LOCAL MISSION

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN

Clarksburg

Sunday, October 6, was a great day as at least a dozen congregations, from as far north as Oil City and as far east as Hancock descended on Clarksburg, WV to celebrate the reception of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church as a member congregation of the English District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

Also present at the celebration was Pastor Mark Steiner, an advancement



officer at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Pastor Bob Zagore, Executive Director of National Missions for the LCMS, Deaconess Pam Neilsen, an LCMS communications officer, and Erik Lunsford, Synod photographer. Pastor Ben Eder, English District Eastern Region Vice President and pastor of Pilgrim Kenmore (Buffalo) preached and led the rite of receiving the congregation.

The Divine Service commemorated St. John, Apostle and Evangelist, for whom the congregation is named, in token of the church that planted this congregation, St. John's in the Cove, Accident, MD. Pastor Westgate served as celebrant, Pastor Zagore as deacon, and Pastor Oester as lector/sub deacon. A choir from First Trinity, led by Kantor Jonathan Hoyt, also participated in the service. Dr. Pamela Dodds, St. John's organist, led our singing from the organ.



Everyone enjoyed a wonderful meal afterwards in the parish undercroft. Pictured are vested pastors present at the celebration as well as PALM Board members in attendance. We rejoiced to see around 100 people in the church for the celebration, which raised over \$15,000 for the congregation as she prepares for a missionary pastor to come to reach out with God's Word and Luther's Doctrine Pure to a large section of West Virginia which has no other LCMS congregation. For this purpose, please continue to keep this congregation in your prayers and offerings. St. John's will also be the recipient of this year's Reformation offering. You can see more pictures from this celebration on the Synod Facebook page and in future synodical publications.



Photos:
LCMS Communications/
Erik M. Lunsford

LOCAL MISSION

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN MISSION

Hazelwood

On Saturday, October 5, Holy Cross Lutheran Mission in the Hazelwood neighborhood of Pittsburgh was blessed to receive prayers and encouragement from several honored guests: The Rev. Jameson Hardy, Bishop of the English District LCMS; The Rev. Robert Zagore, Director of the Office of National Missions in St. Louis; Deaconess Pam Nielsen, Associate Executive Director of LCMS Communications; and Mr. Eric Lunsford, the Synod Photographer.

The morning began with a driving tour of the Hazelwood neighborhood led by Rev. Douglas Spittel. The guests were shown Hazelwood Green which is currently under development by the city of Pittsburgh, the former St. Ann's Church and the former YMCA building on Chatsworth Ave., and they were also shown the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd just off of Second Ave. These three buildings are possible future locations of Holy Cross Lutheran Mission. The guests were driven to St. Paul's Lutheran Church (ELCA) where they met some of the members of St. Paul's who operate a thriving

ing food and clothing distribution in their church basement (street level). These compassionate people are faithful attendees of Holy Cross Mission's Wednesday Prayer and Bible Class. After a brief visit at St. Paul's, the delegation from Synod, Vicar Kern, and Deaconess Hanna Kern walked through Hazelwood to the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh in Hazelwood. This is the regular meeting place for Holy Cross Mission. During the walk, Rev. Zagore noted the abundance of children in the neighborhood. Hazelwood is above average in the city of Pittsburgh for children under the age of 18. Many of these children live in single parent households and are not currently members of any church. Many churches in the Hazelwood neighborhood have been forced to close their doors in recent years, and it seems as though even more will follow suit very soon. The Hazelwood neighborhood is a perfect example of our Lord's words in Matthew chapter 9, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

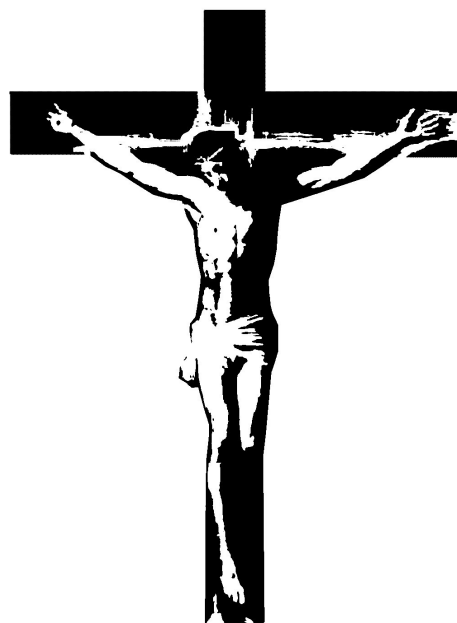


LOCAL MISSION

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN MISSION (continued)

Hazelwood

The representatives from Synod and Bishop Hardy had the opportunity to have a devotion and pray with the members of Holy Cross Mission. Afterwards, a fruitful conversation took place. It was determined by all that the most pressing need of Holy Cross Mission is to have a physical building in Hazelwood to call home. This would allow daily prayer and weekly Sunday worship services to occur. Sunday school classes would be offered and works of mercy would be coordinated from this location. Rev. Spittel and Vicar Kern have begun the process of seeking out the future Holy Cross Lutheran Chapel, however your financial support is needed. Enough churches have closed their doors in Hazelwood. It is time to open one. Wouldn't it be great if that church was Holy Cross Lutheran?



Photos: LCMS Communications/Erik M. Lunsford



Save the Seminary Campaign

Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church

(a partner church of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)

www.siberianlutheranmissions.org/

www.facebook.com/siberianlutheranmissions

At the request of President Matthew Harrison and the LCMS Church Relations Office, the Siberian Lutheran Mission Society has been asked to build an endowment capable of rendering the Russian Seminary financially self-sufficient. The goal is to raise \$7 Million over the next five years (2019-2023).

The Siberian Lutheran Mission Society is working to help support our Siberian Lutheran brethren. We raise funds to support the Pastoral Office in the Siberian Lutheran congregations. We also gather funds to purchase Communion kits, Altar ware, Bibles, VBS materials, and so forth.

We are also engaged in Mercy work in Siberia. People need the Word of God. They also have physical needs and cares. Your offerings help the Pastors care for their flocks in body and soul.

Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church/

Lutheran Theological Seminary Documentary

Watch the videos below at: www.siberianlutheranmissions.org/videos

[Part 1: The Beginning](#) – Learn about the early days of the Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church.

[Part 2: The Seminary](#) – Learn about the beginnings of Lutheran Theological Seminary in Novosibirsk.

[Part 3: The Mission – Siberia](#) – Follow the lives of three of the earliest graduates of the Theological Seminary of Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church as they enter their congregations and missions in Siberia

[Part 4: The Other Half of the Truth](#) – In 2007, the Russian economy was booming due to the price of oil. Many Russians were prospering. However, that was only one half of the truth.



UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Calvary Lutheran – Murrysville

Sunday, November 3 is the date for this year's Veteran's Day Celebration. Our program begins at 1:00 p.m. with representation from our local American Legion Color Guard, guest speakers, music from our Calvary Early Learning Center (CELC), and our Praise Choir. After TAPS and laying a wreath at our Veterans Memorial everyone is welcome for lunch in our Fellowship Hall.

CHRISTIAN ART SHOW & BAKE SALE - BASKET RFFLE FUNDRAISER November 9 & 10 at Calvary, Old Wm Penn Hwy & School Road, Murrysville, 10:00am to 4pm Saturday and 12 Noon to 4:00 pm Sunday in the lower level Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be available at the Gallery Cafe. A Bake Sale and Basket Raffle Fundraiser will be held on Saturday only, 9:00am to 4:00 pm in the entry narthex.

On *Sunday evening, December 1, at 7:00 p.m.*, we welcome everyone to join us for our **Blue Christmas Service**. This is a service of remembrance and hope. This is a service of candlelight, quiet music and hymns to sooth, refresh, and hopefully heal a hurting soul. Please join us for this beautiful service with light refreshments and fellowship following.

Christ Lutheran – Forest Hills

You're invited to an evening of praise that will be held November 17 at Christ Lutheran in Forest Hills. The concert will feature music from The Barclay String Quartet, Organist, Doug Skalka, and The Christ Lutheran Handbell Choir.

The free concert will begin at 4:00 p.m. with a catered dinner following. Cost of the dinner is \$15. Please RSVP by November 11 if you are planning to attend the dinner. Email assistant@christlutheranfh.org or call 412-271-7173.

Concordia Lutheran Ministries

The Concordia Lutheran Ministries Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, Nov. 10 at 3 p.m. in the Haven 1 Dining Room, entrance 2A, 112 Marwood Rd., Cabot. Registration will begin at 2:30 p.m. and dinner will be served following the meeting at 5 p.m. The main agenda item is the election of six members to the Board of Directors. Each member congregation is entitled to three votes - one pastor plus two delegates. Thirty churches are members. Nominees include: incumbent - Rande Casaday, Peace, McMurray; those who have served on the Board of Directors in the past - Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy, Bishop/President English District, LC-MS; Russell Lucas, Ascension, McCandless Twp.; Rev. David Weeks, pastor, Calvary, Murrysville and Jim Wolf, Peace, McMurray and new on the slate - Rev. Dr. Edward Grimenstein, pastor, Zion, Bridgeville; Jennifer Ciccone and Katie Straszheim, Ascension, McCandless Twp. and Laura Hoff, Calvary, Murrysville.

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

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Concordia Lutheran Ministries (continued)

music, hot beverages and refreshments will be provided indoors as well as a gift for children 12 and under. This will be a “walk-through” nativity, so guests are encouraged to dress warmly. Parking will be available at entrance 6 on Marwood Rd. For more information, call Connor Hagey at 724-352-1571, ext. 8343.

The Sixth Annual Purse Gala to benefit Camp Erin Pittsburgh (a ministry of Concordia’s Good Samaritan Hospice) is scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 7 at The Hyundai Club at PNC Park. Presenting Sponsor is New York Life and Heather Abraham from KDKA will be our mistress of ceremonies. The event begins at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$100 per person for a buffet dinner. Twenty designer bags as well as a silent auction will be featured. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Frank Amato, Gala Chairman at 724-845-7338 or go online at www.PurseGala.com.

First Trinity Lutheran – Shadyside

Lutheran Homeschoolers. Come meet on Wednesday, November 6, at 9:30 a.m. for Matins at First Trinity Lutheran, Shadyside. Then stick around for an art or science enrichment project and some social time. Children of all ages are welcome, as well as families with preschool children who are considering homeschooling. We hope you can join us. For more information, contact Anna Mussmann at annabookreader@gmail.com or text 412-365-5040.

Tri Parish – Bethel (Glenshaw), St. John (Clarksburg) and Zion (Lawrenceville)

The Tri-Parish Group, Bethel, St. John and Zion (Lawrenceville) will join together for a Thanksgiving Eve Service at 7:00 p.m. on Nov. 27 at Bethel. Both Pastors Litke and Hahn will officiate. The congregations will hold mid-week Advent Services beginning Wednesday, Dec. 4 at St. John. Zion will host the Dec. 11 and the final service on Dec. 18 will be at Bethel. All services are scheduled at 7:00 p.m. with dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Zion – Bridgeville

Movie and Bonfire – Join us for Zion’s Reformation Celebration on Saturday, November 2, at 4:45 p.m. There will be a potluck dinner and with a showing of the movie “Luther” (2003) followed by a bonfire. Childcare will be provided. For more information contact secretary@zxcb.org.

MINERSVILLE CEMETERY by Rev. Brian Westgate

The annual Veterans Day service at Minersville Cemetery will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Veterans Day, Monday, November 11. It will be conducted by Vicar Timothy Kern from First Trinity Church and PALM. We hope you will be able to attend. Minersville is located at the corner of Shawnee & Osipee in Pittsburgh's Hill District.

NEWS FROM AREA CONGREGATIONS

ASCENSION LUTHERAN

McCandless

Ascension Lutheran Church's Pumpkin Fest / Flea Market (hosted by Ascension's Outreach/Evangelism Board) was held on October 5, 2019 and was a wonderful success with many people of the community attending as well as Ascension's members. There were homemade apple and pumpkin pies, homemade chili and cornbread, hot dogs, tacos, homemade candies and baked goods, pumpkins, crafts made by Ascension's ladies, and vendors selling crafts/collectibles. The event was very much enjoyed by all.

CALVARY LUTHERAN

Murrysville

October, November, and December are historically our busiest times at Calvary. October 13 saw Calvary again hosting the annual CROP Hunger Walk in the area. This is always a successful event both nationally and locally raising funds by raising awareness. Hungry people in developing countries typically walk as much as 6 miles a day for food, water, and fuel, and to take their goods to market. We walk to be in solidarity with their struggle for existence. We walk because they walk.

October 20, we celebrated our annual Octoberfest which always lends itself to wonderful fellowship while enjoying great food and fun. Always an event that our congregation and extended families enjoy.

October 27, we hosted Trades of Hope. Trades of Hopes supports women artisans from around the world who create beautiful fair-trade products (jewelry, scarves, handbags, journals, home décor). Trades of Hope help these women improve

CALVARY LUTHERAN (continued)

Murrysville

their lives and escape from the slums, sweatshops, sex trafficking/slavery and extreme poverty through the power of sustainable business opportunity. This event kicks off early Christmas shopping opportunities for our congregation and our community.

The first two weeks of November are again very busy with great community events. Sunday, November 3 is the date for this year's Veteran's Day Celebration. This is a day we at Calvary honor and celebrate the Veterans in our congregation as well as our community. Our program begins at 1:00 p.m. with representation from our local American Legion Color Guard, guest speakers, music from our Calvary Early Learning Center (CELC), and our Praise Choir. After TAPS and laying a wreath at our Veterans Memorial everyone is welcome for lunch in our Fellowship Hall. We welcome everyone in the community to join us for this very important celebration.

This year is Calvary's 44th Annual Christian Art Show. The Art Show runs Saturday and Sunday, November 9 and 10. On Saturday Calvary will also have its fundraising Bake Sale to benefit someone in the congregation or community in need. Those attending these events can also enjoy lunch at Calvary's Café.



Art Show times: Saturday, November 9, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and Sunday, November 10, 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Café will be open during the times of the Art Show. Bake Sale time Saturday, November 9, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

CALVARY LUTHERAN (continued)

Murrysville

Come and enjoy lunch while viewing original artwork from area Christian artists using their God-given talents to express their Christian faith and life. Take home a tasty treat.

December 1st begins our traditional Christmas season at Calvary. After Sunday services, our congregation joins in fellowship while decorating for Christmas. The Narthex shines with our ***Calvary Family Christmas Tree*** decorated with ornaments gathered through the years from our congregation family. The Sanctuary displays our Manger, reverently waiting for the presence of Baby Jesus on Christmas Day.

While many enjoy the busy festive Christmas season, there are those who are grieving, lonely, sad, or not feeling particularly festive. They may just need a time of quiet during all the hurried activities of visiting with family and friends, children's Christmas plays, and hundreds of other social events.

On ***Sunday evening, December 1, at 7:00 p.m.***,

we welcome everyone to join us for our ***Blue Christmas Service***. This is a service of remembrance and hope. A quiet, reflective service for



those of us who need respite from the 'noise' that can be overwhelming. This is a service of candle-light, quiet music and hymns to sooth, refresh, and hopefully heal a hurting soul. Please join us for this beautiful service with light refreshments and fellowship following.

CHRIST LUTHERAN

Forest Hills

You're invited to an evening of praise that will be held November 17 at Christ Lutheran in Forest Hills. The concert will feature music from The Barclay String Quartet, Organist, Doug Skalka, and The Christ Lutheran Handbell Choir.

The free concert will begin at 4:00 p.m. with a catered dinner following. Cost of the dinner is \$15. Please RSVP by November 11 if you are planning to attend the dinner. Email

assistant@christlutheranfhh.org or call 412-271-7173.

CONCORDIA LUTHERAN

Brentwood

Concordia and Good Shepherd's youth enjoyed a hayride at Simmons Farm in McMurray on Saturday, October 19. This was a first for both groups, following up on our joint bowling night back in May. We enjoyed the fellowship, bonfire, smores, and all the activities of the farm that night, and are looking forward to our next outing together.

Concordia's next movie night will be Friday, November 22 at 6:30 p.m., as we watch the 1992 classic, "A River runs Through It." Shareable snacks will be enjoyed, as we examine the themes of the film afterward in a Christian and Lutheran light. Visitors are welcome - to find out more details, call the church at (412) 881-3005.

Our annual stewardship luncheon will follow the Divine Service on Sunday, November 10. During our potluck luncheon that day, our stewardship theme for 2019-2020 will be revealed.

CONCORDIA LUTHERAN (continued)

Brentwood

We'll also review our successes of the past year, and hear how this theme will shape and inform our stewardship efforts this coming year.

Our traditional Thanksgiving Eve Vespers will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 27. All are welcome to attend.

FIRST TRINITY

Shadyside

Greetings to the Lutheran homeschool families in Pittsburgh! Our family is educating our children at home, and it's a little lonely knowing no other local Lutheran homeschoolers.

We would like to start a once-a-month meet-up. The plan is to attend Matins at First Trinity Lutheran together, then stick around for an art or science enrichment project and some social time. Children of all ages are welcome, as well as families with preschool children who are considering homeschooling. We will begin Wednesday, November 6, at 9:30 a.m. with a plan to meet on the first Wednesday of each month.

We hope you can join us. For more information, contact Anna Mussmann at annabookreader@gmail.com or text 412-365-5040.

MT. CALVARY

Westview

After trying their hand at a variety of crafts, Mt. Calvary's Outreach Group settled on designing little gift bags to pass out to the folks receiving Meals on Wheels for Christmas. The ladies set up an assembly line to cut and fold the card stock for the bags, then creatively decorated them with colorful stickers and ribbons. The bags will be filled with treats and delivered to Meals on Wheels, to be passed out in December. Also during the month of October, members of the congregation donated cookies for Meals on Wheels.

At the end of the month, volunteers stationed themselves at the church for Halloween, passing out candy to trick-or-treaters and allowing them to choose craft items made during VBS. Coffee and hot chocolate were also available for the accompanying adults.



Wynn Yocum of Mt. Calvary's Outreach Group designs gift bags for people receiving Meals on Wheels.

ST LUKE LUTHERAN

Cabot and Butler

SERVANT DAY / HOUSE BUILD

St. Luke partnered with Concordia Community Support Services, Center for Community Resources/Butler County, Crossroads Mission, Ira Woods Grant Foundation, Lezzer Lumber, and Thrivent Financial for Lutheran to host a community wide Servant Day on September 21.

There was a flurry of activity in the parking lot as over 90 walls were constructed for one house and two tiny houses for Center for Community Resources/Butler. Weleski Transfer generously gave us the use of a tractor trailer for the project. Lumber was delivered and sorted on Friday. The months of coordination and countless hours of preparation paid off as the walls were framed and volunteers worked seamlessly with each other. The houses will be completed in another phase, but will stay in the local area.

While the activity in the parking lot was the most visible to passers-by, there was an equal amount of activity taking place within St. Luke as well. There were groups of people in every area of the church, participating in a myriad of service projects. By the end of the day, we had:



- 100 stocking hats made for Bundle Up Butler
- 105 newborn kits assembled for Lifeline/Butler and Alpha & Omega/Slippery Rock
- 42 fleece blankets tied for Ronald McDonald House/Pittsburgh
- 300 greeting cards were made to be given to military families through Military Connec-Pittsburgh
- 150 Bibles – special verses were underlined for Light of Life Mission/Pittsburgh
- Many knitted and crocheted baby blankets were started for area hospitals
- 535 packages of dry soup mix prepared for Lighthouse Foundation/Butler
- Dresses were cut out and kits prepared for completion of Dress-A-Girl-Around-The-World dresses

Most people would tell you that they were blessed more than those they were trying to bless with their service. People participated by serving others, whether it was by babysitting volunteer’s children, serving breakfast and lunch to hungry workers, coordinating for months before the event, or coming and helping on the many, many projects available.



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Bridgeville

Eighth Annual “Adopt a Grandparent” - During the Holiday season, I enjoy brightening the lives of residents in local assisted living and nursing home facilities in Allegheny County. Many of these people have few, if any, visitors and receive little, if anything during the Holidays. Last year, through the generosity of local businesses and friends, I helped deliver almost 1000 gifts to residents of John J Kane Regional Hospital, Scott Township, Washington Commons, Gracious Living, Marian Manor, Victorian Place, Washington Hospice, and shut-ins at Zion Lutheran Church and Good Shepherd Church.

This year I hope to help deliver 1000 gifts again. By partnering with me, your \$15 will provide each of the residents a fragrance-free hand cream and help them to have a very Merry Christmas. These items are specifically requested by caregivers for the benefits the residents receive. The lotions will soothe their hands and bring joy, as well, by the simple “touch therapy” of applying them. They will be delivered in December.

Please consider what a blessing this is for the men and women in these facilities who once lived and worked in our local communities. Let them know they are remembered. THANK YOU!

Make our checks payable to Ginny Granke-Kimberland, or if you have any questions about how you, your school or business can become a sponsor, please contact:

Ginny Granke-Kimberland, 1610 Glenn Street, McDonald, PA 15057 412-427-9013.

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Glenshaw

Al’s Bike Drive for Toys for Tots for Christmas 2019

When Al Todd and his family, active members of Bethel Lutheran Church in Glenshaw for 20 years, found out that the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program was in need of bicycles for needy children for the upcoming Christmas, Al took action to raise enough money to purchase 33 bikes for them. Al was told at that time that donors generally didn’t donate bicycles and that the Marines, if given cash to purchase toys, are limited in the amount they can spend on each toy, making a new bicycle an impossibility. That was 12 years ago. Since then, thousands of new bikes have been donated through the nonprofit organization he founded after that initial purchase. Last Christmas, Al’s Bike Drive was able to purchase 1,073 new bicycles for Toys for Tots. The organization, run by volunteers, has become the largest and virtually sole provider of new bikes for Toys for Tots in southwestern Pennsylvania.

Al has been a representative of Thrivent Financial for the past 25 years and is actively involved in charitable events in the Pittsburgh area. His biggest passion, however, is providing bikes to needy children and teens in our area.

Al’s Bike Drive has been working with Walmart in Gibsonia for the past 5 years to acquire and assemble such a massive quantity of bicycles. Each year, volunteers gather on the first Thursday of December to load bikes onto vehicles. Those vehicles then form a police escorted caravan and haul the bikes to Wildwood Country Club where they are formally presented to representatives

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Glenshaw

from the Marine Corp Toys for Tots program. Volunteers are then treated to a luncheon sponsored by The Thrivent Community - Three Rivers. The date of this event for this year is December 5th. Volunteers will meet in a roped off area of the Walmart parking lot at 9:30am.

For Christmas 2019, our Marines have requested almost 1,000 bikes as well as 400 helmets. It takes a large amount of monetary donations and volunteers to make this wish a reality for them. If you would like to provide this gift to a needy child this Christmas, your tax exempt donation can be made electronically at alsbikedrive.com. Alternatively, checks can be mailed to Al's Bike Drive, 1736 Ferguson Road, Ste. 200, Allison Park, PA 15101. Volunteers can also register to help transport bikes and attend the luncheon by visiting alsbikedrive.com, by calling 412-229-7783, or emailing them at alsbikedrive@gmail.com.

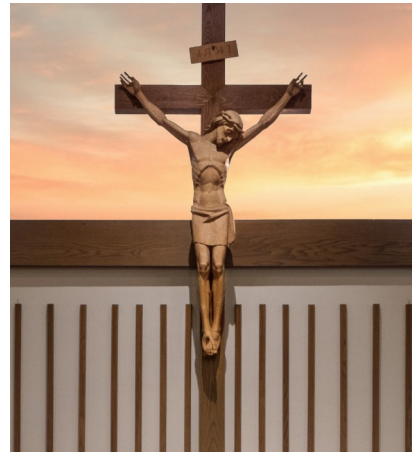
Al's Bike Drive wishes everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas!

ZION LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

Bridgeville

Happy Fall. When I sit down to write the first newsletter article of the year, I always struggle with how do I want to start the year? Should I capture fun photos of the first few days, or take a "looking ahead to the year" approach? This year is neither.

I'm sure most of us have heard the phrase "Kids say the DARNDDEST things". Well, that's exactly what we experienced when we had our first Chapel with Pastor. As the children walked into the sanctuary to take their seat on the steps, one of our students looked at the cross and said "Whoa...what happened to that guy?!"



At first, we all chuckled to ourselves thinking how "funny" his comment was. But in hindsight, his comment was not funny at all, in fact, it was quite sad. He clearly had no idea who Jesus was, or at the very least had never been in a church. He had no idea that "that guy" died on the cross in our place, that "that guy" died to take away our sins, and that "that guy" is the Son of God who reigns eternally in heaven.

ZION LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL (continued)

Bridgeville

Here's the beautiful thing, we now have the privilege of sharing the Gospel with, not only this student, but with all our students at Zion Lutheran Preschool. It's what we are here to do, and why we have daily "Jesus time" and weekly chapel lessons with Pastor. We are so blessed this year to have 183 students. That means 183 little children who will get to hear all about Jesus, maybe for the first time ... 183 new little disciples who will now have the knowledge to share the good news with their family and friends. Our goal: that students look at the cross and say "Whoa....that guy Jesus died on the cross for me. Jesus loves me!"

ST. LUKE LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Cabot

PAINT THE PLOW

St. Luke recently participated in a "Paint the Plow" competition. Students are required to submit an application along with drawings to PennDOT. After the application is approved, PennDOT delivers a plow to the school and students paint a snowplow blade with original artwork representing their school. The plows will be seen during use in the winter and in the community to enhance public awareness and promote safety. This year's theme was "Don't Rush in Ice and Slush." Four of our eighth grade students, led by our gifted Art teacher, Sue Burtner, designed and painted a penguin themed plow. The design was submitted in June and the plow was delivered in September for painting. It was definitely a first for our students, but one they are eager to repeat.

ST. LUKE LUTHERAN SCHOOL (continued)

Cabot

A panel of judges will vote on the plows and there will also be a "Fan Favorite" voted on through Facebook that is open to the public. You can read more about the project by following the link below. Keep checking PennDOT's website for information to vote for your favorite plow.

<https://www.penndot.gov/RegionalOffices/district-9/Pages/Paint-the-Plow.aspx>



REDEEMER LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Oakmont/Penn Hills

Friday, September 27, was our annual bring a friend day for preschool - 4th grade students. We welcomed over 100 guests into our Penn Hills campus to spend the day with our students. The day started with chapel and then friends visited music, snack, science, writing and reading centers. The theme was Ahoy! Sail Away with Jesus. Thank you to everyone that attended and made this day special.

The Redeemer Lutheran High School National Honor Society inducted three new students into their 2019-2020 membership. Juniors Callie Boyer, Charis Carroll, Mia Kefalos, and Kalee Thornton were honored as new members during a ceremony on Friday, October 4. National Honor Society members commit to leadership and service projects that benefit the school and area communities.



The 2019-2020 RLS National Honor Society Chapter

The same evening, Redeemer held the first annual "An Evening at LeMont" fundraiser event at The Lemont on Mount Washington in Pittsburgh. Guests (125) had a wonderful evening of food and fellowship while supporting Redeemer. Thank you to all who attended, and especially to all those who made the evening so special.

Redeemer faculty once again took part in the annual Lutheran Educators Association convocation, held this year in St. Louis. Teachers enjoyed insightful seminars, uplifting speakers, and encouraging music. We are thankful for this opportunity for our teachers to be supported and strengthened.



RLS faculty on their way home from LEA Convocation

The fall athletic season has nearly concluded here at Redeemer. Our middle school girls' volleyball team and coed soccer team both qualified for the playoffs this year, with our soccer team losing in the first round. It was an exciting first year of coaching for RLS parents Jason and Loren Brown. We are thankful to have them lead and encourage our students. As of this writing, our middle school girls are in the midst of playoff competition. We will report the results in November. Our high school girls' volleyball team participated in the playoffs for the first time this year; playoffs were held on Monday, October 14, with the team advancing to the 3rd round.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN SCHOOL (continued)

Oakmont/Penn Hills

Junior Kalee Thornton was named to the all-conference team, an exciting achievement. Our high school cross country team is training for regionals at California University of PA on October 24. We look forward to sharing the results next month.

Annual Veterans Day Ceremony, Monday, November 9, 10:00 a.m., Redeemer Lutheran Church (open to the community)

Preschool-6th grade sings at Oakmont Hometown Christmas, Saturday, November 23.

We shared last month that our high school robotics team had begun working on their model for the BEST competition. On Saturday, October 5, the team was able to take their robot and test it at the DuBois Mall for the “Mall Day” Expo. They are now working at a feverish pace to prepare for the two-day competition on October 18 and 19 at Penn State DuBois.

On the RLS calendar for next month:

Redeemer High School Preview Night and College/Career Fair, Thursday, November 7, 6:30 p.m. (HS preview night open to all prospective HS students, College/Career Fair open to the community).



HS Girls volleyball team at their first playoff tournament

Concordia Adopt A Resident for Christmas Project Announced

Each December, many of the locations in the Concordia Lutheran Ministries family participate in a program called "Adopt-A-Res-ident." Skilled nursing and personal care residents provide the activities staff with a wish list. Then, employees, community members, churches, businesses and even independent living residents "adopt" a resident (or in some cases many residents) to make sure they have a gift to open for Christmas. If interested in participating in the program, call the facility of your choice below to "adopt" a resident. For those who prefer to send a general gift, the activities staff can suggest some newly purchased items that residents typically use. Items should be wrapped and labeled with either the resident's name or, if it is a general gift, what the gift is, and can be dropped off at the appropriate facility.

Here are a few gift ideas:

- Sweat suits
- Door wreaths
- Stamps and stationary
- Digital clocks with large numbers
- Sugar-free candy
- Hair salon gift certificates
- Magnifying glass
- Slippers or slipper socks
- Throws or blankets
- Sports memorabilia

The participating locations are:

Concordia at Cabot

Call Brandy Muth at 724-352-1571, ext. 8241 (for skilled nursing residents) or Jaime White at ext. 8302 (for personal care residents). Deadline for gifts is Dec. 16.

Concordia of Cranberry Call Katelin Dietz or Beth Schultz at 724-779-4300. Deadline for gifts is Dec. 11

Concordia of Fox Chapel Call Kelly Ellena at 412-767-5808. Deadline for gifts is Dec. 16

Concordia of Franklin Park Call Veronica Guerrini at 724-935-1075. Deadline for gifts is Dec. 1

Concordia at the Orchard Call Jodi Macko at 724-285-4490. Deadline for gifts is Dec. 13

Concordia of the South Hills Call Heather Tokarcik 412-294-1357. Deadline for gifts is Dec. 14

Concordia at Ridgewood Place (Plum Borough) Call Cheryl Sopcak at 412-798-1855. Deadline for gifts is Dec. 10

Concordia of Wexford Call Michelle Moan at 724-935-1266. Deadline for gifts is Dec. 1.

Make sure you contact the facility before the deadline! Monetary contributions are always appreciated and can be sent to Larissa Yates, Development Manager, Concordia Lutheran Ministries Foundation, 134 Marwood Road, Cabot, PA 16023.

Oktoberfest 2019

To say this year's Oktoberfest was *verwunderlich* (amazing) would be an understatement! On October 5, approximately 1,600 residents, families, friends and community members came out to the Cabot campus to enjoy the annual festivities this year. The weather could not have been more perfect as mild temperatures and plenty of sunshine carried through the entire event until the evening's fireworks display.

Oktoberfest 2019

About 450 kids enjoyed the free activities – including pumpkin painting, pony rides, a bouncy castle, balloon artists and hayrides. The authentic German food, prepared by our chefs and food service staff was köstlich (delicious) and a fan favorite as usual.



Thanks to everyone who attended, the staff who planned and helped with the event and the volunteers who donated their time and talents to make this year another Oktoberfest to remember!

The Mikey Dee Polka Band entertained the crowd with lively polka classics all evening. And the perfect fall day was wrapped-up with a spectacular fireworks display by Pyrotecnico! Special thanks to our friends who generously sponsored a portion of the fireworks display: Eccolab, Get It Done Mailing Service, Inc., Jan-Dee Janitorial

Supplies,
McCutcheon
Enterprises,
State Industrial
Products and
Trimark SS
Kemp.



Connor Hagey, Director of Retirement Services at Concordia at Cabot and member of Redeemer and Loraine Vantine, Haven I Resident Care Coordinator and member of St Luke's.