



THE PITTSBURGH LUTHERAN

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PALM DEVOTION

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

“Christmas Submission”

“God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.’ Therefore, submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” James 4:6-7

Think back to when you were a child. It’s Christmas morning and you have been eagerly anticipating the decorations, the tree, and especially the presents. You rise unusually early and rush downstairs where your groggy parents are waiting. You had so many things on your Christmas list, but you don’t know what is in the neatly wrapped boxes. Your enthusiasm would have you tear into the paper to discover the hidden treasure, but your parents, attempting to bring some order to the house, have you sit down and wait for Dad to hand out the presents one by one.



You can’t contain yourself. Mom gets a necklace, your brother a baseball glove. But what about that big box at the bottom of the pile? Is that your name on the tag peeking out from underneath? Oh, if Dad would only hurry up, or at least skip to that present! But, instead, you must wait until a seeming mountain of gifts are removed and that one box is revealed. Finally, the present is brought to you. You don’t remember asking for something so large on your list. What could it possibly be? You sit expectantly as your dad brings the present to you and places it in your outstretched arms.

That, dear friend, is the essence of submission. We have been indoctrinated by the world to only think of capitulation and subjugation when we hear the word, “submission.” But true submission is not a forced thing. Our God does not desire capitulation, nor does He enslave us. “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart— these, O God, You will not despise.” (Psalm 51:17) The Word of the Lord uses the Law to show us our sin and our need for salvation. The Word of the Lord also brings to us a promise of forgiveness, life, and salvation. We repent when the Law turns our hearts to confess our sin and cry out for God’s mercy. We submit to God in the quiet waiting for Him to bring us the gift that He promises through Jesus Christ. God promises forgiveness, life, and salvation to us and we expect for Him to give it. With joy our arms and hearts are open to receive His Christmas gift. We did not ask for it, we certainly do not deserve it, but there it is .. the gift of forgiveness wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger - wrapped in bread and wine and set forth on the altar.

We receive Jesus as the gift that surpasses all others. In Him is our life for He is the One who takes away our sin, who died for us on the cross, and who mercifully and without condition forgives us. This is true submission - receiving the Gift of God in humility and joy.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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.

4. [Concordia Lutheran Ministries presents Festival of Lesson and Carols](#), Concordia at Rebecca Residence Chapel, 3746 Cedar Ridge Road, and Highpointe at Rebecca Chapel, 1871 Highpointe Lane, 2:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

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

17. Concordia Lutheran Ministries presents Festival of Lesson and Carols, Concordia of the South Hills Harmony Room, 1300 Bower Hill Road, 2:30 p.m.

19. RLS Christmas Program, Penn Hills Senior High School, 7:00 p.m.

January

7. Concordia Lutheran Ministries presents Festival of Lesson and Carols, Concordia at Cabot, Lund Care Center Chapel 134 Marwood Road and Oertel Care Center Chapel 613 North Pike Road, 2:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.



The Pittsburgh Lutheran

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PALM Devotion Continued

And lest we think this submission is but a warm feeling at the foot of a decorated tree or altar, the Lord presents us with this joyful submission in our everyday lives. St. Paul calls us to joyful submission when he writes, "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God." (Ephesians 5:15-21) The gift of salvation spills out into our relationships that are renewed in Christ. Instead of rivals and contenders, Jesus' forgiveness shows our neighbors to be our brothers and sisters. Husband and wife, brother and sister, neighbor, friend, acquaintance, co-worker, fellow student – all are gifts from our Lord to be received with joy and thanksgiving. Even when sin strains our relationships, the Lord calls us to remember that those relationships are intended for our mutual benefit and consolation. We receive each other every day just as we receive our Lord Jesus – in thanksgiving and submission.

Christmas is the feast on which we celebrate and remember, that is, submit to, the great gift that our Lord gives us in Jesus. We live in that submission every day as we receive His forgiveness in Word and Sacrament and His fellowship in one another.

On behalf of myself and the Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries Board of Directors, Merry Christmas!



Reformation Festival Service

by: *Rev. Brian Westgate*



The annual Reformation festival service was held at 3:00 p.m. on Reformation Sunday, October 30, 2022, at First Trinity in Shadyside. Led by Pastor Spittel at the organ and by Kantor Hoyt at the organ, Pastors Greenway and Hahn served as lectors. One hundred and ten were in attendance, and \$878.72 was collected through the offering for Revive @ Penn State, the campus ministry of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in State College.

Our preacher was Pastor John Pingel, newly installed president of the Eastern District and former pastor of Mount Olive, Beaver Falls. In his sermon, President Pingel reminded us that we can do all sorts of things in life, but there's one thing we cannot do: save ourselves. Jesus alone can save us. He also was presenter for Pittsburgh Pastoral Conference the next morning, and talked about the flavor he wants to give his time of service to us as Eastern District President.



Savior Of The Nations Come

by *Vicar David L. Wenndt*

When Ambrose of Milan first wrote this classic Advent hymn in the fourth century, Advent had a very different look than we know it to have today. In fact, one could argue that as a society we've forgotten what Advent is. Christmas, with all its joys and nostalgia, has bled earlier and earlier into the year. People used to complain that Thanksgiving was overwhelmed by the Christmas season. Now, you can find Christmas decorations on sale in mid-October. By the time Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas, most of the world, even the non-Christian world, is deep into the "Christmas" spirit and season.

And yet, despite that bleeding of Christmas to an earlier and earlier start, the very meaning of Christmas is more and more lost. We as a society have goodies and trinkets, gadgets and gizmos to keep our attention fixed; and to many the point of Christmas is to get more of these things. Or maybe people will say that the point of Christmas is family. To gather together, just like we did as kids, together as a family. More and more we ignore Jesus, and we ignore church. This year Christmas falls on a Sunday. How many of us will skip church on Sunday morning because "we were just there last night" or "Christmas is about families"?

But Christ came for us, in the flesh, to be our Savior. Jesus is coming again to bring His children home to Him. Christmas is not just about gifts or family; it's about how our Heavenly Father cared for His family and gave the greatest gift, His Son Jesus, to humankind to suffer and die for our guilt. Advent, this pre-Christmas season of preparation, is not preparing us for Christmas by putting up lights and decorations; nor about gift preparation by shopping; not even that grand family time with meal preparation. Advent is preparing for the return of our King. The Savior of the nations came in Bethlehem to save us. And is coming again to bring us home.

Let us prepare ourselves; not with fancy light displays, not with endless trips to the mall, nor with the preparation of the perfect meal; but let us repent, be turned to Christ. Join in the choir of the saints both here below and above and worship our King; that's right, go to church. Read God's word. Spend this season of preparation focused on God. The Savior of the nations is coming. Let us prepare ourselves accordingly.

CAMPUS MINISTRY

SRU CAMPUS MINISTRY

by Augusta R. Mennell, Campus Ministry Director

Why does campus ministry hold events to attract students?

The college students were having so much fun that they did not want to quit. That's what happened at the Second Annual Field Day at the Range Event at the Grove City Sportsmen's Club this October.

Grove City College and Slippery Rock University students had met at 1:00 p.m. intending to stay until 5:00 p.m. But that is not what happened. They did not want to leave! They wanted to continue trap-shooting, obviously their favorite shooting activity. Although it was dusk, the gun flashes of happy shooters lit up the sky until 7:00 p.m.

What a day! The event was so popular that a third is being scheduled for next spring. The event was special because the students had a chance to enjoy being together, and were getting to talk to campus pastor, Rev. Jacob Deal, and with church members Peter Rigney and Ed Geidner, who had done all the work preparing and cleaning up the spent shells. And of course the pizza lunch brought by Mrs. Rosemary Rigney was a hit. The lunch was big enough to be shared with a group of Grove City College students who had wanted to participate but could not due to previous commitments.

If you think that it was only the students who didn't want to stop you'd be very wrong! Pastor, Ed, and Peter struggled to call it a day.

Now comes the real question: why should All Saints campus ministry put so much effort into an organized event like the range event as well as staging our monthly student meals? Why not just post an invitation on the church sign or on the web inviting college students to worship and to Bible class? As you can guess, bringing students to church is a gradual process which begins with being able to establish a time to show them that they are welcome, safe, and cared about-that no one will pressure them to join the church. This is best done at events, meals, transportation to wherever is needed. As deceased All Saints member Frank Yerkins used to say about church meetings, "Feed them and they will come."

The students who spent the long afternoon at the range were not looking to become gun experts. They did appreciate the patient instructions teaching gun safety so they could feel comfortable with shooting. Really it was fun. One student was elated to shoot his over and under shot-gun which had been a special gift from his father. Another student amazed herself and her boyfriend by being a great shot. Everyone laughingly adjured her boyfriend to take note of that fact. Two others had never touched a gun in their lives. Their hands trembled when they first did so. They left feeling glad to be confident and no longer afraid of guns. This range event helped the students to bond with All Saints.

Second Annual Field Day at the Range
Event with Campus Pastor Rev. Jacob
Deal on October 29, 2022



SRU CAMPUS MINISTRY CONTINUED

It is very tempting to want big numbers at events, but a visit from a student who recently attended a small event at All Saints reminded me that just having one student to ask questions is wonderful. This student had come to talk after the free student meal. She talked, but was distant and guarded. And then she asked to stop by-again several times just to talk and to see if I'd taken a photo of her at the meal, a photo she could have. She liked the one I gave her. And then she stayed to tell me about her goals and her past experiences. She said she needs someone who will point her to God because she cannot see that she is a worthwhile person. She believes she is not smart, nor attractive, nor good. An adult has told her that she is worthless. What an opportunity to assure her from the Bible that she is worthwhile. She is a Christian who attends a church of another denomination, but she'll come here to have encouragement. She will be at our next meal and will bring her friends.

All Saints campus ministry realizes it is the Holy Spirit who opens hearts to faith. We do not take credit for God's work. However, we have found that events like the range trip are times we can share our Christian faith. We are confident that God can heal wounds as troubling as poor self-worth because with Christ everything is possible. It is our joy to share God's love through events with college students.



Trap shooting is a favorite activity for the All Saints Student Fellowship

HOUSES OF WORSHIP SERIES

Houses of Worship By Shirley Freyer

St. Luke Lutheran Church and School

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

stluke@stlukecabot.org

Rev. Benjamin C. Berteau, Lead Pastor

Rev. Jared C. Townley, Associate Pastor

Rev. Brian C. Bocian, Associate Pastor

Kelly Carney, School Principal



"...to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." - Ephesians 4:12- 13

St. Luke School traces its beginning to the home of its first resident pastor, Rev. Hahn in 1866 – almost 20 years after the church’s founding. A year later, seven acres and thirty-four perches (16.5 feet) of land were purchased for \$681 to erect the first school building. It was not until 1890 that a one-room school was dedicated and where worship was held while the third church was being constructed.

In September 1956, the school included grades 1 to 4 until a kindergarten program was added in 1962, and 13 years later a pre-school program began. In 1986, new classrooms and an activity center were completed and only eight years later the old school was renovated again. Finally, the third addition, a new educational wing that included eight additional classrooms, was dedicated in 2002 and all students could be housed under one roof in the main facility.

Longest tenured is Brenda Fett, a 4th grade teacher who was called directly from Concordia College in Seward, Nebraska. A member of St. Luke, she also serves as Director of Mission Outreach. “I oversee all the mission projects of the church and school,” she explained. She is also director of the summer camps and Vacation Bible School.

“I have had the honor and privilege to serve at St. Luke Lutheran Church and School for 40 years. I was called in 1982 to teach the combined grades of third and fourth,” said Brenda. “Over the years much growth has taken place at St. Luke, and we are now a single grade classroom,” she continued.

She emphasized that this school, first and foremost, offers a solid Christian education that is grounded in the Word of God. “I love being a part of St. Luke,” she exclaimed. “It reaches out to the local community and the world with a mission heart.” She believes that both church and school are deeply rooted in Scripture and focus on spreading the message of the Gospel to those both near and far.

Making disciples is not a one-time thing; it is a life-long process, wrote current Principal Kelly Carney on the school website. That is the mandate of Jesus - prepare God's people for works of service and become mature in the fullness of Christ, she added.

“Even though we will never fully achieve that on this side of heaven, what a blessing it is, as the body of Christ, to carry out His purpose with His children,” she said. “Here at St. Luke School, it is our goal to provide a Truly Higher Education, one that counts for eternity.”

A member of St. Luke Lutheran Church for the last 11 years, Kelly taught in Lutheran schools in Indiana, Virginia, and North Carolina after studying at Concordia College, Bronxville, N.Y. “My husband’s job relocated us to Pennsylvania.” Bill works for quality system at Wabtec and just finished six years serving as the president at St. Luke. Their daughters, Hannah and Kayla are both in college – one at Penn State and the other at Appalachian State. Son Matthew is a senior at Knoch High School. “We moved specifically to Saxonburg so that our three children would continue attending a Lutheran School,” she clarified.

HOUSES OF WORSHIP SERIES

Soon after arriving at St. Luke, Kelly became active volunteering in the school, subbing, teaching part-time, until 2018 when she was named principal following Mark Wilt's retirement. "My father is a retired principal of Lutheran schools and all three of my siblings and some of their spouses are teachers or principals in Lutheran Schools," she shared.

The small, caring, "family-like" Christian environment, as well as the high academic achievement of St. Luke students and the dedication of the teachers, attracts parents to this school, she believes. Brenda also attributes its success to smaller classroom size, and excellence in academia, along with extra-curricular activities.

"We partner with families in teaching core Christian values, woven into the safe, loving environment of St. Luke," Kelly said.

Speaking of families, Judge Abernathy is a teacher with a St. Luke legacy. Her father, Dusan Ambrose, attended St. Luke Lutheran School and was confirmed in 8th grade as a member of the church. She became a baptized member when she was 11 days old. Her three brothers and three sisters attended St. Luke Lutheran School. A 1998 graduate of Concordia College Bronxville with a degree in Elementary and Lutheran Education, she and her husband Joshua married in 2000 and she found herself back at St. Luke teaching part-time in 2004 after her oldest son was born. Now a freshman at Grove City College, Ashby, and his roommate, both St. Luke graduates in the year of its 150th anniversary, look forward to their graduation in 2026 when Grove City College will celebrate its 150th anniversary. Judge and Joshua's other three children currently attend St. Luke as she continues her career as a full-time 2nd grade teacher, having earned her master's in special education from Slippery Rock University in 2015.

"When our students leave our doors, they are prepared academically, socially, and spiritually to further their education," Judge said. "Our school is known for sending out students with a strong knowledge and faith base."

As a teacher and a parent, she, like Kelly, understands that parents are looking for a school that is an extension of home, where Christ is the center of every aspect of life. "Parents also know that we are committed to seeing each child grow to use the gifts God has blessed them with to their fullest potential," Judge noted. From the excellent music program to school-wide weekly worship services in chapel, the repetition of the Mission Statement that students' education encompasses the whole child – mind, body, and spirit – is underlined.

First grade teacher Angela Turner is another St. Luke graduate who returned to St. Luke 11 years ago. "I attended St. Luke from K - 8th grade, graduated from Knoch High School in 1996," said Angela. After earning an education degree from Westminster College in 2000, followed by a master's from Edinboro to become a reading specialist, she taught for Moniteau School District as an instructional support teacher for five years and part-time for a kindergarten tutoring program for five years. In addition, she has led the women's Sunday School class for many years.

Why, after the experience at public schools, was she drawn back to this school? She expounded with these words, "I love being able to teach the word of God to children each and every day. All of my teaching is centered on Christ and His love for us. It is part of the student's daily education. Being able to create deeper relationships with the families and supporting them through the good and bad times is a very special part of my job.





“The staff is dedicated and called by God to be there. They go above and beyond to support not only the children, but the families as well. The curriculum sets higher standards for the students which prepares them for a smooth transition into the local high schools. Religion class gives the opportunity for the students to learn and strengthen their moral compass to aid in positive decision-making beyond the walls of St. Luke,” Angela highlighted.

The high standards are not limited to academics. It is normal to see children from 3 years old to 13 skip down the halls. Students feel joyful and safe spending their days at St. Luke.

“We are blessed with a wonderful staff that supports and prays for each other, and a principal and pastors to guide us and support us as teachers.” And again, that family emphasis is stressed. “We are a family at St. Luke – not only the staff, but also the families that we serve.”

And who better to tell the story of this century-and-a-half-year-old school, but current students as well as those who remain as part of the church family.

Amelia in 9th grade said, “St. Luke has always been a safe 'home' to me. I have always felt welcome here with Mrs. Carney and Mr. Don at the door ready to greet me each day. With the helpful staff and safe environment, I could get a great education ...”

Twelfth grader Annabelle stated, “Being a student at St. Luke always meant having a family. There is the comfort of always knowing there were people constantly praying and supporting you through everything and anything.”

A new second grade student, when asked what he like about this school, said, “I get to learn about God. I have good friends and a good teacher.”

Ashby Abernathy said that what he would tell parents considering St. Luke school is, “ The small classroom environment creates a personal learning endeavor.”

HOUSES OF WORSHIP SERIES

Aleah Young is working remotely for SAIC, a company out of Washington, D.C. SAIC works to protect the assets of the government's retirement plan. She graduated from college in three years with a B.A. in Homeland Security and a minor in Spanish. She and her parents became members when she entered St. Luke's preschool. "My parents came from two different religious backgrounds. One was raised in the Catholic faith, the other Presbyterian. Some family members told us about this church. It is like a second home. I personally loved my time at St. Luke school. The teachers and pastors instilled kindness and faith while also teaching how to work hard and be successful academically. I hope to send my kids to St. Luke one day. It produces wonderful human beings." She went through four years of public high school, and while there are certainly kind people there, Aleah noted, "You do not see the same passion or kindness you see at St. Luke. St. Luke School has built a strong foundation over the years, where kids and parents get excited for the annual Art and Science Fair or the Christmas plays everyone makes time to see, and of course the coveted seventh and eighth grade trips," she remembered. "St. Luke has rich traditions, wonderful alumni, and an even better staff supporting it all," said Leah, who enjoys worship weekly there.

"Going to school at St. Luke from preschool through eighth grade taught me invaluable life lessons and shaped me into the person I am today," said Emily Bitting-Jha, the staff writer in the Public Relations Department at Concordia Lutheran Ministries. "My classmates became my lifelong friends, my interests became my career, and my faith became studied and stronger. The support and warmth I felt at St. Luke truly set me up for success in my education, my personal life, and my spiritual life. It is an experience I will always treasure and recommend," she states candidly. Emily's mom and dad chose membership at St. Luke because of the school and its proximity to their home when they moved to Cabot. They are succinct in the reasons that attracted them: It is affordable education; student/teacher ratio was desirable; and the church members highly recommended the school. The focus on supporting Christian values away from home from excellent role models made the final decision.

St. Luke counts six directors on the school board. Len Bloom has served in that capacity for the past few years. His work with the board as well as the graduation of his granddaughter "has opened my eyes to the value of a Christian education." He realized the value of what he calls a very dedicated staff. Having been involved for about 10 years with the mentoring program for confirmation students who are entering eighth grade, he was very impressed with their biblical knowledge and spiritual maturity. "St. Luke also provides opportunities for young families who need financial assistance with tuition. Our church is very generous in its support of all the programs at the school, and Concordia Lutheran Ministries also provides much-needed assistance through the Angel Tears Program," he disclosed.

Marni and Eric Rettig have been members of the church since 2001. Their daughter graduated from eighth grade last year and is in her first year of high school now at a public school. Their son is currently in fourth grade. Also, a board member, Marni, too, values the individual attention and small-class sizes, and the way that lends itself to having a tailored education for their children. Twenty teachers are accessible for the 217 students enrolled this year. Whether it is through emails back and forth, individual conferences, or quick exchanges in the hallway, there is a true partnership with the school and teachers.

These teachers know our kids, their areas of strengths and weaknesses and spend the time to ensure that they teach to enhance their strengths and find ways to help overcome weaknesses," Marni said. Knowing the school was firmly rooted in faith and incorporated faith daily into their children's lives, they would be exposing them to solid Christian role models and an environment that focused on loving each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. And the safety issue was again repeated in her comments. "St. Luke is a safe school where the expectation is that teachers lead from a Christian heart and students grow to be leaders with patience and respect for others and to serve others. As church members, we also knew that the fidelity to good biblical teaching made the school an easy choice for us. We wanted our children to have a solid foundation in the Lord so that as they walked through the hurdles of life, they would know they were never alone, the Lord would be with them."

The education is rigorous. "Our daughter passed the Keystones exams in eighth grade, giving her a clear advantage as she transitioned to the public-school setting. The inner strength I see develop in the students is remarkable," Marni articulated.



HOUSES OF WORSHIP SERIES

Every student is known in the school and valued for their unique and God-given gifts. Students are taught to be leaders. Beginning in kindergarten, each class rotates and leads Friday chapel services. Students are in front of the entire school sharing God's word and in the process, they are learning valuable lessons such as how to speak in front of a group. They are not lost in the crowd; they are valued as children of God. "When you surround children with that kind of love mixed with a solid education, they blossom into young adults who reflect an inner strength and courage that only the Lord can give," she concluded.

Lead Pastor, Rev. Ben Berteau described the assets in a compelling statement: "Our school ministry is in the DNA of who we are. In the same way that our LCMS forebears quickly built a church and then a school as they settled in Perry County, Missouri, we still believe in the critical importance of teaching our children the faith in our Day School," he described.

"Though math, reading, writing and the subjects of school are important tools for life in God's world, St. Luke is focused even more on *Making and Maturing Disciples for Ministry and Mission*. The same mission statement that guides our church guides our school as well. We often emphasize that our teachers are not teachers who minister, but *ministers who teach!* We are blessed and grateful for a faculty and staff committed to God's word and excellence in the classroom, and our pastoral team loves the daily interaction we get with students," said Pastor Ben.

Principal Carney expressed similar thoughts concerning teaching and serving at St. Luke. She believes everything is made to order. "St. Luke specifically has a congregation and pastoral staff that are extremely supportive of the school. The staff and teachers are strongly committed to Christian education. Our families value the partnership with the school. It is truly a wonderful Christian community."

And teacher Turner agreed. "The pastors, principal, and teachers are here to grow the Kingdom of God, one child, one family, one day, at a time."



SCHOOL NEWS

REDEEMER LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Oakmont / Penn Hills

The temps and the snowflakes are falling... 2022 is nearly over! As the seasons change, the events and special moments continue at Redeemer.

Our athletic teams wrapped up their seasons in late October, with middle school soccer and high school girls' volleyball advancing to the playoffs once again! The high school girls' volleyball team recognized seniors Grace Bondy, Adrianna Rossi, and Ryanna Zigarovich during a special ceremony before the final match. Junior Emenet Richardson was chosen for all-league and co-MVP in volleyball as well! The cross-country team continued to post PR times at their final meets, representing Redeemer with honor. We are proud of all of our athletes and thankful to all the coaches and parents that make the athletic seasons possible.

Our high school robotics team once again participated in the Wolverine BEST Robotics competition sponsored by Grove City College. The two-day event involves presentations in marketing, engineering/design, and robot performance. The team received recognition for the engineering notebook and robot design. Congratulations to the Robotic Rams and coach Mrs. Schumacher for their hard work again this year.

The annual Bring a Friend Day event is back! Students in preschool through 4th grade invited grownup friends to share the morning with them. Centering around the theme "Fishers of Men," activities included music, art, snack, science, writing, and a Bible lesson. It was a wonderful opportunity for special family members and friends to celebrate Jesus and be guests at Redeemer.

Our middle and high school students participated in Redeemer's fourth annual "Hopecoming Week" during the final week of October. Students gave a donation of \$1 per day to participate in different themes, including Decades, Class Color, and Soccer Mom/BBQ Dad. High school grades created mini floats for a parade, with the elementary and middle school students voting on the best float. The end of the week culminated with the annual high school Reformation Bowl touch football game and the middle school Catechism kickball game. Each grade earned points for participation and spirit, with the winning junior class receiving a trophy. All proceeds from the week are going to support the Hazelwood Project.

On Friday, November 11th, Redeemer held the annual Veterans Day event. Due to the rainy weather, the ceremony was moved indoors at Redeemer Church. Students presented poems and special readings, and Pastor Jack Hartman shared some encouraging words.

Students used donated items from school and church families to assemble Christmas gift bags to send to troops that are currently deployed. Lunch was provided for veterans and active-duty military following the program. As always, we are grateful for this opportunity to support and encourage those that are bravely defending our country and our freedom. We encourage everyone to view the video on our Facebook page.

Prayers for a blessed holiday season for everyone as we close out 2022; we look forward to catching up in the New Year.

SCHOOL NEWS

RLS CONTINUED

RLS Teacher Spotlight

Rachel D'Abruzzo, Music Education

Hometown:

I am from Pittsburgh and was born and raised here. I grew up in Monroeville and graduated from Gateway High School.

Education:

I attended Duquesne University for both my Bachelors and Masters with cello being my instrument of concentration and piano being my secondary for both of my music degrees.

Both of my former cello professors perform in the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra.



Interesting Work Experiences:

When I am not teaching, I am performing with different symphonies or performing for various events. I recently performed for the opening of an art gallery as well as finished a recording for an upcoming CD. I had the pleasure of recording with colleagues from Cleveland Institute of Music and St. Vincent College. We are looking forward to its upcoming release. Music has also given me the opportunity to travel. In 2018, I was in Archidoso, Italy, performing in a music festival and the following year, I performed in the Aruba Symphony Festival in Oranjestad, Aruba. Both were incredible and unforgettable experiences.

Family:

I enjoy spending time with my dad, stepmom and black lab named Dolce. We enjoy getting together for family dinners.

Hobbies:

Some of the things I enjoy are cooking, hiking, and spending time with my friends.

Other Curious Facts About Me:

In High School I played on the tennis and basketball teams. I also got to play with the Pittsburgh Symphony in their side-by-side concert and perform at Heinz Hall. My grandmother was my first piano teacher, and my aunt was a professional harpist. Both were church musicians as well.

On My Decision to Become a Teacher:

When God gives you a gift it is up to us to give it away. The fact that I get to give music away every day is such a blessing.

Redeemer Lutheran School:

I love the fact that I can pray with my colleagues and students, and I get to share the two things I love the most, God and music. Music reminds us that God is in existence.

Upcoming events:

Monday, December 19th, 7:00 PM RLS Christmas Program at Penn Hills Senior High School

SCHOOL NEWS

RLS CONTINUED

Masquerade Ball fun



Volleyball Senior Night



Assembling gift bags for deployed troops



Bring a Friend Day memories



Emenet Richardson, volleyball all-league co-MVP



ZION LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

Bridgeville

We are off and rolling in another school year. This year we have 185 students ranging in ages from 2 to 5. Honestly, it was a bumpy start. Lots of separation issues, unlike anything we've seen in recent years. Several "bathroom" accidents, and lots of children who need special services....and extra love, which we happily provide. Lucky for us, we have an excellent group of teachers and teachers assistants who are well educated, patient, loving and just awesome!

Please continue to keep our staff and our students in your prayers. God has sent us so many little children to care for and teach the love of Jesus Christ.

Ever wonder who our excellent teachers are?

Bottom row: (left to right) Barb Oechslein, Lori Reich, Kim Eagan, Krista Kroesen, Meghan Merigo, Kelly Pfeffer, Jennifer Smith, Meg Hasak

Middle row: Carmela Skrip, Christy Anderson, Dana Holden, Peggy Glasser, Terri Cline, Patty Vlah, Kellie Stock

Top row: Carrie Brezler, Tracey Harris, Kari Gresh, Jamie Scarmazzi



BETHEL LUTHERAN

Glenshaw

Bethel Lutheran, Glenshaw, had its first blood drive for the Red Cross in November. Over 30 people came and donated blood. There was also a blood drive at Zion Lutheran in Lawrenceville. This event was a big success and we plan to hold a blood drive quarterly.

MT. CALVARY LUTHERAN

West View

October was the kickoff for a season of activity at Mt. Calvary in West View that will last through the rest of the year. It started with the congregation providing cookies for the local Meals on Wheels, then followed with the Hoover family hosting Oktoberfest in the church hall.



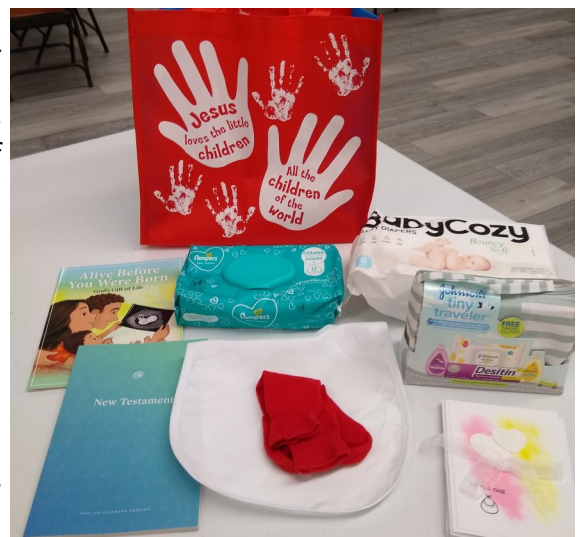
Tom, Mechele, and Jon Hoover have worked out the perfect system for putting together a fabulous feast that people look forward to as soon as the leaves start to turn color. As in the past, this year's menu featured "the best wursts," pork, hot dogs, sauerkraut, German potato salad, spaetzle, green beans, and much, much more. With help from other members of the church, they also decorated the dining area with the colors and designs of a typical Oktoberfest setting. We can't thank the Hoovers enough for all of the effort and love they devote to this special blessing they offer to the congregation each year.

The Outreach Group was also busy putting together little Halloween gift bags for the people on Meals on Wheels, and when they finished with that, they completed 50 "Jesus Loves the Little Children" tote bags for the Genesis center. Each bag contained baby items such as toiletries, diapers, onesies, socks, cards, etc., along with a Bible and a baby book titled, *Alive Before You Were Born*. The contents were purchased from donations and with funds from card sales and other projects, and the bags are being distributed the first week of December.

Coming up in the middle the of month - Friday to Sunday, December 9 to 11 - the Outreach Group is planning a freemarket/Santa's store for people in the community. Those who are having financial difficulties can come to the church hall and select Christmas gifts for loved ones at no charge or for a donation if they like. There will also be an area where children can "shop" for their parents. Members of the congregation have been donating new or gently used items of all kinds for the market. Volunteers will be on hand to oversee the event, and members of Girl Scout Brownie Troop 52841, who hold their meetings at Mt. Calvary, will also be assisting.

The church Christmas party is taking place December 4 in the church hall after the service, and December 18 will feature the Family Christmas Program during the service. More details on them next month.

And of course Christmas services will round out the month, with Christmas Eve at 6 p.m., and Christmas Day at the regular Sunday time of 10:15.



UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

BETHEL AND ZION LUTHERAN AND CHRIST LUTHERAN

Glenshaw and Lawrenceville and Forest Hills

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. Bright 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



Gain confidence and learn strategies for how to have more meaningful spiritual conversations with others. Our engaging presenters will guide you through research-based insights and give you tools that will help you more comfortably engage in Spiritual Conversations.

Saturday, December 3, 2022

Christ Lutheran Church
400 Barclay Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15221

10:00am - 4:00pm ET

Registration / continental breakfast opens at 8:00am
Lunch at noon, provided by the workshop hosts

Please register online at lhm.org/scda-pitt by 3:00pm
ET December 1, 2022

PRESENTER



Ashley Bayless
Director of Production
Lutheran Hour Ministries

LHM.ORG/SCDA-PITT

#EAGERTOSHARE

Concordia Lutheran Ministries Elects Five Board Members

Keith E. Frndak, President and CEO, Concordia Lutheran Ministries announced the election of five board members yesterday at the annual delegate meeting. Currently, 17 board members comprise the governing body and represent 28 LCMS congregations in the western Pennsylvania area. Installed by Rev. Jack Hartman, director of chaplaincy services, the newly elected members follow. Each will serve a three-year term.

Left to right: Rob Wilshire, Rev. Ed. Grimenstein, Jennifer Ciccone and Jim Wolf.



Jennifer Ciccone of Gibsonia

Vice President/Chief HR Officer for Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc., Ciccone graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with an M.B.A. Current member of the Pastoral Review Committee, past president and member of the Board of Stewardship and Evangelism at Ascension Lutheran Church in McCandless Twp., she served on the CLM parent board for the past three years where she was chair of the Personnel & chaplaincy Committee and the Executive Committee. She and her husband Carl have two children, Adriana, and Connor.

Rev. Dr. Edward Grimenstein of Bridgeville

Pastor of Zion Lutheran Church in Bridgeville since 2017, Rev. Grimenstein was Associate Executive Director for the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod Office of International Missions prior to his arrival at Zion as well as a chaplain in the U.S. Army. He earned his M.Div. at Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, a Master of Arts from Kansas State University, and a Th.D. from the University of Toronto. Married to Tevia for 25 years the couple has eight children ranging in ages from five to 24 years old. Currently he served on the CLM parent board for the past three years and the CLM of Pittsburgh board for five years.

R. Russell Lucas of Wexford

Lucas, a partner at Andrews & Price LLC, has served on the Concordia Board of Directors for 11 years. Former congregational president of Ascension Lutheran Church in McCandless Twp., he was a member of the Board of Directors for Redeemer Lutheran School. He graduated from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. He has four daughters.

Rob Wilshire of Plum Borough

Tax Director for Giant Eagle, Rob earned an MBA from Duquesne University. He was a deacon at Redeemer Lutheran Church and School for 12 years and currently serves on its Budget and Finance Committee. He and his wife, Jean have three children and two grandchildren.

James Wolf of Presto

Retired International Banking Executive, Wolf is a current member of the LCMS Board for International Missions. He has served on the Concordia parent board for nine years and was current vice-chairman. Married to Mary for 49 years and blessed with two children and two granddaughters. Wolf earned his MBA in Finance and Marketing from St Louis University. He has served in many capacities at various Lutheran churches in the area and is a current member of Peace Lutheran Church.

Chief Financial Officer, Michael Falbo announced that Concordia Lutheran Ministries is the only Standard and Poors AA rated senior care organization in the United States. A special thank you for years of service as a director was extended to Rande Casaday, Peace who has served on the Concordia parent board for six years and Katie Straszheim, Ascension who has served three years.

Twenty-one churches were represented and a total of 54 delegates as well as management staff and guests were in attendance. Keith E. Frndak, President and CEO is looking forward to robust expansion and strong support of our mission of faithful caring.

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, 2:30 PM

Concordia of Monroeville Great Room ~ 4363 Northern Pike 15146

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2:30 PM & 4 PM

Concordia at Rebecca Residence Chapel ~ 3746 Cedar Ridge Road

Highpointe at Rebecca Chapel ~ 1871 Highpointe Lane 15101

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2:30 PM

Concordia of the South Hills Harmony Room ~ 1300 Bower Hill Road 15243

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 2 PM & 3:30 PM

Concordia at Cabot, Lund Care Center Chapel ~ 134 Marwood Road 16023

Oertel | Care Center Chapel ~ 613 North Pike Road 16023



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.

