



Epistle from

St. Timothy

Evangelical Lutheran Church

Transforming Lives by Connecting Communities

Let Justice Roll Down Like Waters

Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.
(Amos 5:24)

Be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves.
(James 1:22)

I write this reflection having spent the previous day in Harrisburg attending “Lutheran Day in the Capitol,” an event sponsored annually by Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania (LAMPa). The theme of this year’s event was “Let Justice Roll Down Like Waters” (Amos 5:24.) On the same day, the second verse printed above, “Be doers of the word...” (James 1:22) was the focus in Sojourners’ Verse & Voice email, along with a quote from Jane Addams: “Action indeed is the sole medium of expression for ethics.”

These three thoughts seem to fit together like pieces of a well-manufactured jigsaw puzzle, forming a picture of how the church and all who are attuned to God’s Spirit are called, in this representative democracy, to help bring about transformation in the public sphere. The words of Amos present God’s deep longing—one which God also places in our open hearts—for societies to embody righteousness, which means that systems of inequity and oppression are exchanged for justice, and the vulnerable ones in the land are treated with respect, compassion, dignity, and care. (Read Amos 5:7-24 for a fuller picture.) The words of James tell us that this longing must not remain hidden but must be acted upon, and Jane Addams reminds us that, apart from action, we cannot consider ourselves to be ethical.

Certainly, there are many ways in which we can and must act to fulfill God’s longing for righteousness and justice. We are called to compassionate, ethical action on an individual basis as we see persons who are in need or being oppressed

*Continued on page 3—see **SR. JANET***

St. Timothy Mission Statement

Nurtured and sustained by God’s love,
we are called and inspired to share His love with our neighbor,
to make God’s story known, and to help our neighbors near and far
...so that all may experience God’s love.

June Worship Calendar

Sunday School – 9 am in Fellowship Hall • Adult Forum – 9 a.m. in Lounge
Sunday Morning Worship – 10:30 a.m.

Date	Day	Special Events	Readings
June 3	Sunday 10:30 a.m.	2nd Sunday after Pentecost	Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Psalm 81:1-10; 2 Corinthians 4:5-12; Mark 2:23-3:6
June 10	Sunday 10:30 a.m.	3rd Sunday after Pentecost Outdoor Praise Worship Followed by Pot Luck Picnic Welcoming our friends from Hope United Church of Christ	Genesis 3:8-15; Psalm 130; 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1; Mark 3:20-35
June 17	Sunday 9:30 a.m.	4th Sunday after Pentecost Father's Day	Ezekiel 17:22-24; Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15; 2 Corinthians 5:6-17; Mark 4:26-34
June 24	Sunday 9:30 a.m.	5th Sunday after Pentecost	Job 38:1-11; Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32; 2 Corinthians 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41

NE PA SYNOD WEB SITE

www.godslove.org or www.nepsynod.org
for information about our synod

AS PASTORAL CARE NEEDS ARISE...

Please help Sister Janet provide timely pastoral care by informing her if you or another member of the congregation goes into the hospital or if you have any other pastoral care needs (in-home visit, spiritual counsel, baptism, funeral, wedding). You can reach her mobile phone at 570-401-5251 (please leave a message and she will get back to you) or by calling the church office at 610-435-6512 Ext. 200 and leaving a message with Cheryl.

Moving? New Email? Change Your Phone No.?

We constantly struggle in this mobile society we live in to keep up with everyone's current mailing and contact information. We are asking everyone to make sure the information we have is up-to-date by completing the form below and either mail it to the church secretary or drop it in the offering plate.

Name	
Address	
City	State Zip Code
Home Phone	<input type="checkbox"/> include in Directory <input type="checkbox"/> omit from Directory
Cell Phone (optional)	<input type="checkbox"/> include in Directory <input type="checkbox"/> omit from Directory
Work Phone (optional)	<input type="checkbox"/> include in Directory <input type="checkbox"/> omit from Directory
Email	<input type="checkbox"/> include in Directory <input type="checkbox"/> omit from Directory
Please send my copy of the newsletter to me via:	<input type="checkbox"/> Mail (Post Office) <input type="checkbox"/> Email

PLEASE PLACE COMPLETED FORM IN
OFFERING PLATE OR DROP IN THE MAIL.

ELCA WEB SITE

www.elca.org
for information about our national church

ST. TIMOTHY'S EMAIL

office@sttimothy.org

FIND MORE EMAIL ADDRESSES AT:
www.sttimothy.org



Find us on Facebook at
facebook.com/sttimothyallentownpa



Follow us on Twitter at
twitter.com/StTimAPa

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SR. JANET *(continued from page 1)*

in some way. Collectively also, we can and must engage in works of mercy which help to provide comfort, shelter, and nourishment for persons in vulnerable situations.

We also must work to change systems and societal attitudes which are fundamentally unjust and oppressive. What does it take to change unjust systems and attitudes? First, it takes an attitude of **self-examination**: Where/how am I engaging in or benefitting from the inequity in society? Am I willing, for the sake of those who are oppressed or poor, to forego that benefit? What attitude(s) in me need to be adjusted? Where might I be holding subtle prejudices that deny the equality and worth of others?

Second, changing systems and societal attitudes demands that I/we **act** according to the pattern of love, mercy, acceptance, and justice that we see in Jesus as we read the Gospels.

Third, transforming systems and attitudes requires us to **speak**. We must converse gently and clearly (speaking and listening respectfully) with others, letting our longing for God's compassionate justice be known. And, we must speak truth to power, advocating with elected leaders on behalf of those whose voices are barely heard.

My day in Harrisburg reminded me again of how important—and how uncomplicated—it is to engage in such advocacy. In addition to inspiring worship and motivating, informative presentations, the day afforded me the opportunity to visit the office of my state senator and to speak for about 20 minutes with one of his staff members, who took detailed notes. I was able to share concerns

raised in the LAMPa presentations about so-called “work requirements” which would be imposed (by House Bill 1659 and House Bill 2138) upon those who rely on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to buy food for their families or on Medical Assistance to access health care services. These bills have already gone to the Senate for consideration. I urged my senator to vote against these bills that would increase the vulnerability of needy citizens. I also was able to share my concerns for care of the environment, urging the senator to vote against the Regulatory Reform Package that would remove environmental protections and to support a Renewable Energies Bill which is being introduced. Additionally, I was able to hear and affirm the senator's work in the area of public education and to join in prayer for the legislature and their work and for the those in need. I share all of that to say, it took some time and effort, but it was not difficult or intimidating. **You** can do it, too—in person or via letters or phone calls—and I know that many of you already do.

Our elected leaders work for us, and most are willing to listen to what we have to say if we take the initiative. And, if enough of us speak up for the righteousness and justice, transformation will happen. Fortunately, our wider church provides us with resources for effective advocacy. I encourage you to check out the LAMPa website (www.lutheranadvocacy.org/) and to become/stay engaged in working to change the system—for God's sake.

Yours in service to Christ,
Sister Janet

Tuesday Prayer for Peace

Thank you to those who have been participating regularly in “Tuesday Prayer for Peace.” This weekly half-hour is focused on inviting God's peace to reign in our souls and in our world. Participants gather in the lounge and are seated in chairs encircling a table with lighted candles. Following a brief reading of Scripture and related meditation, participants remain in silent prayer/contemplation for the remainder of the half hour

before exchanging a greeting of peace and heading back out into the world.

Since beginning this practice back in February, we have been providing two opportunities (morning and evening) for prayers to gather. Since the evening time has been only lightly attended, beginning on June 5, “Tuesday Prayer for Peace” will be held only at 7:00 a.m. If you have not yet done so, please consider participating on Tuesday mornings.



Health Topic of the Month

by Charlotte Cruse



Summer Safety

It is summer time and the “living is easy.” After being cooped up indoors all winter, much time will be spent outdoors. Following a few easy steps will keep you and your family safe while enjoying the great outdoors.

Prevent Drowning

- Drowning can happen very quickly in any standing water, such as, a swimming pool, a pond, or even a ditch.
- A swimming pool should have a fence completely surrounding it with a gate that closes automatically.
- Adults should keep their eyes on children every second that they are near water; stay close enough to touch them immediately, if necessary.
- Do not ask children to baby-sit younger children around water. That is the responsibility of adults.
- Store large buckets and containers upside down so they cannot fill with water.

Prevent Falls

- Install bright lights around porches and walkways.
- Have handrails on stairs.
- Put ladders away after using them. Store ladders on their side in a shed or garage so children cannot climb on them.
- Keep steps clear of objects that someone could trip over.
- Fix chipped or broken steps and walkways as soon as possible.
- Use a safety gate to prevent falls from porches and decks, especially if young children are around.

- Cover the ground under playground equipment with a thick (9-12 inches) of mulch, wood chips or other safety materials.

Prevent Poisoning

- Chemicals, fuels (such as gasoline), car fluids (such as anti-freeze), pesticides (such as bug killers), and lawn and garden products (such as fertilizer) are all harmful products.
- Close the lid on all dangerous products and put them away after using. Store them in a safe place with a lock where children cannot see them or touch them.
- If someone ingests poison, call 1-800-222-1222. Keep the number by the phone or in your cell phone.

Prevent Burn Injuries

- Use gasoline only as a fuel for lawn mowers and other gas powered lawn equipment.
- Store gasoline in a container designed for gasoline in a shed or garage.
- Never bring gasoline indoors, even in small amounts. The vapors are dangerous inside a confined space.
- Fill lawn mowers and gasoline powered equipment outside.

Keep Children Safe

- Keep children indoors while mowing or using other dangerous outdoor equipment.
- Keep children away from grills when cooking.
- All garden tools and equipment should be kept where children cannot reach them.
- Store all sharp tools pointing down.

Adapted from Home Safety Council

When I Was in Prison...

"Then the king will say to those at his right hand, '...I was in prison and you visited me. ...as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'" (see Matthew 25: 31-40). Jesus calls us to minister to any and all people who are in need. Sometimes this seems more difficult than at other times. Perhaps it is especially easy to overlook those who are in prison—or who are families of those in prison, or who are victims of crime, or who are returning citizens following incarceration. All of them need support, hope, understanding, and help with healing.

Included in this issue of the **Epistle** ([pages 6-7](#)) is a two-page information sheet on "Healing Communities Training" provided by the Pennsylvania Council of Churches. A few weeks ago, Sister Janet engaged in this training with two other folks from the Lehigh Valley when the event was offered in Lebanon, PA. The three of them recommended that the training be offered here, and so it is. **Please read the information and prayerfully consider participating.**

Change a Child's Life with a Book!

When children we know want to read a book, they can bring one home from the school or public library, borrow one from a friend, or place an easy online order. However, children in the villages of Malawi, which is one of the most poverty-stricken areas in Africa, don't have these opportunities. Books are a rare and precious treasure. But together, we can bring the love of reading and the promise of a better life through education to these children.

Please donate whatever you can to this vital need before July 15, 2018. Dianne Kareha and John Deisinger are traveling there in August. They will be happy to take along one check from the church, and not have to worry about the added weight of books to transport. Checks can be made out to "St. Timothy Lutheran Church" with "Malawi books" in the memo line and placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church office (140 South Ott Street, Allentown, PA 18104).

Thank you very much for your kindness, thoughtfulness and generosity!

Offering of Letters— For Such a Time as This

Here is a relatively easy way to join in advocacy with legislators on behalf of the poor and the needy ones in our society. Please plan to remain an extra 20-30 minutes **following the 10:30 a.m. worship on Sunday, June 3**, when you will have the opportunity to sign and address three prepared postcards which we will send to your Representative in Congress and US Senators asking them to speak up for the poor and support a federal budget that includes compassionate justice for those struggling with hunger in the United States and around the world. We will gather in the lounge where brief instructions will be given and needed supplies will be available for your advocacy action.

Often the voices of the poorest members of the human family are unheard by the powerful. Therefore, it is vital that we, who have the power of the vote and the pen in a democratic society, join our voices with theirs so that God's vision of justice and mercy can begin to be realized in our world, locally and globally. The June 3rd event is organized in conjunction with *Bread for the World's* 2018 Offering of Letters. In prayerful compassion, please plan to participate. For more information on advocacy, pick up one of *Bread for the World's* "Advocacy 101" pamphlets available on the narthex table. Also check out the website www.bread.org.

Garage Sale Success

The April garage sale was a huge success. Approximately \$2,000 was raised for the Sixth Street Shelter. A big "Thank You" to everyone who helped set-up/clean-up, served as clerks, provided baked goods, served food and drinks and donated items.

Looking ahead to the sale next year, April 27, 2019, NO items will be accepted before March 1. If you find it necessary to clean-out your house prior to March 1, please make your own arrangements for disposing of the items. Also, please refrain from donating large pieces of furniture, clothing, and electronics.

Thank you and let's make the 2019 garage sale bigger and better than ever. The Property Committee.



HEALING COMMUNITIES TRAINING FOR CLERGY AND CONGREGATIONS

JUNE 23, 2018

9:00 AM—4:00 PM

**Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley
424 Center Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018**

Why Healing Communities is needed:

- 1 in 104 American adults are currently incarcerated
- 1 in 37 are under criminal justice system control

The odds are EVERY congregation has members affected by crime and the criminal justice system, whether as crime victims, offenders, or families.

Shame and stigma prevent people from talking about the resulting hurts and harms, or seeking help.

How can congregations create a culture of safety and support for those who need it?

Healing Communities* training offers answers.

The one-day Healing Communities training covers:

- Essential information and perspectives on the criminal justice system, current issues, and the impact of crime on victims, survivors, offenders and families
- Relevant questions for reflection and discussion within congregations
- Ideas and resources for pastors and faith leaders to engage congregants
- Tools, information and resources for congregation members
- Resources and dedicated time to develop a customized congregational action plan suited to the culture, demographics and core beliefs of YOUR congregation

**Healing communities is a proven, national model, developed by the Annie E. Casey Foundation with faith leaders from across the theological spectrum to engage congregations in restoration and healing of their own members who have been impacted by crime and the criminal justice system.*

The Pennsylvania Council of Churches offers this one-day training in the Healing Communities model for clergy and lay leaders.

INSTRUCTOR: The Rev. Sandra Strauss

Sandy is Director of Advocacy and Ecumenical Outreach for the Pennsylvania Council of Churches. Her responsibilities are to inform, educate, and empower people of faith on significant public issues, facilitate the work of common ministry and ecumenical relationships, manage external communications, and organize and manage Council events. She is ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (USA) (M.Div. Lancaster Theological Seminary), and also holds a Master of Arts in Public Policy Studies from Duke University. She can be reached at s.strauss@pachurches.org or 717-545-4761.



Pennsylvania Council of Churches
900 S. Arlington Avenue, Suite 211A
Harrisburg, PA 17109-5024

PCC Website: www.pachurches.org
Healing Communities Website:
www.healingcommunitiesusa.org



HEALING COMMUNITIES TRAINING FOR CLERGY AND CONGREGATIONS BETHLEHEM, JUNE 23, 2018

9:00 AM—4:00 PM

*RESTORATION AND HEALING FOR PEOPLE AFFECTED BY
CRIME AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM*

Location: Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley, 424 Center Ave., Bethlehem

Cost of Training: \$40.00 per person, \$105 for 3 from the same congregation; cost includes training materials

The Healing Communities model equips congregations to become a "Station of Hope" by providing training and support in building relationships of healing, redemption, and reconciliation with individuals and families impacted by the criminal justice system. Congregations are encouraged to send a group of at least three leaders/active members in order to effectively implement the model in their setting.

To register, send the registration form below along with your registration fee to Pennsylvania Council of Churches, 900 S. Arlington Avenue, Suite 211A, Harrisburg, PA 17109. For more information, contact Sandy Strauss at 717-545-4761 or s.strauss@pachurches.org.

Healing Communities Registration Form (form should be completed for each participant in a group)

Participant Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Church/Organization Name: _____

Church/Organization Primary Contact Person: _____

Individual Fee of \$40.00 enclosed **Group Fee of _____ enclosed**

Group Fee covers (name persons): _____

(If your payment is included in another registration, please provide name of registrant and check here)

Checks should be made payable to Pennsylvania Council of Churches and mailed along with this form:

Pennsylvania
Council
of Churches

Pennsylvania Council of Churches
ATTN: Healing Communities
900 S. Arlington Avenue, Suite 211A
Harrisburg, PA 17109-5024



God's Employment Agency

The children of the congregation presented a skit called "God's Employment Agency" on Children's Day, Sunday, May 6.

The skit began with an agent (Dr. Mark) of God's Employment Agency greeting the congregation and explaining that God had many jobs available and he was here to match people to the best job for them considering each person's God given skills and abilities.

The agent the interviewed each "candidate". He began with Tyler Keller who is 15 years old and in 9th grade at Emmaus High School. Tyler explained that his hobbies were playing football and baseball and lifting weights. He said he was good at voice impressions, math and video games. He said he would like to be a football player, an engineer or a pharmacist. The agent then gave Tyler a lab coat, football and a clip board as tools to help him attain his goals.



The agent the interviewed Aiden Bonser who is 9 years old and in 4th grade at Western Salisbury Elementary School. Aiden's hobbies include playing baseball and board games. He is good at reading books and playing basketball. He would like to be a national basketball player. He received a basketball jersey and basketball from the agent.



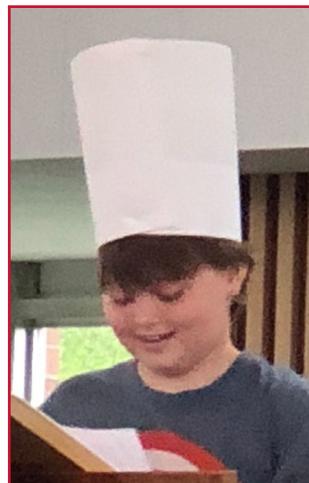
Alexis Rounds was next to be interviewed. She is 15 years old and in 9th grade at William Allen High School. Her hobbies are playing the 'cello, the tuba, the sousaphone, video games and bowling. Her skills include a lot of kindness, smarts, loyalty and strength. She would like to be a Disney imagineer, designing new attractions at Disney World.



The agent then interviewed Michaela Keller who is 16 years old and in 11th grade at Emmaus High School.



She likes reading and going for walks. Her skills include cooking, working with children, and taking care of animals. She would like to be a radiologist, and work with ultra sound equipment especially helping mothers having babies. The agent gave her a lab coat for her future work.



Next came Aiden Keller who is 10 years old and in 5th grade at Willow Lane Elementary School. His hobbies include football, baseball, basketball and video games. He says he is good at math and cooking, and would like to use those skills to be a chef. He received a chef's coat and toque from the agent.

Christian Zulu was the next to be interviewed. She is 12 years old and in 6th grade at Whitehall Middle School. Her hobbies include reading and running track. She is good at reading and writing and would like to be a pharmacist.



Rose Zulu was next. She is 9 years old and in 3rd grade at Steckel Elementary School. She likes to read. Her skills include helping people, making cookies and tying blankets. She wants to be a photographer and a teacher. The agent gave her a book, a camera, and, of course, an apple for the teacher!



The next to be interviewed was Ella Bonser who is 12. She is in 7th grade at Salisbury Middle School. She takes dance lessons, plays games and likes to sing in the chorus. Her skills include listening, baking and she is good at social studies. Her goal is to be a pediatrician. Ella received a lab coat and stethoscope from the agent.



Logan Keller was the last to be interviewed. He is 6 years old and in 1st grade at Willow Lane Elementary School. He likes to play baseball and football. Logan likes to smile and make people laugh. He said he wants to be in the army.



The children then sang a song for the congregation.



Following the song, the agent then said: "While we sing "Pass It On," the children will be passing baskets down the rows. In the baskets are blessing boxes they have made for you, with pictures of God's blessings inside, and a heart which stands for God's love from us to you. Please take a box for yourself. The left-over boxes will be on the refreshment table after church along with the goodies the children have brought to share. Feel free to take boxes for your friends or family members."

Fellowship with Hope

St. Timothy Lutheran Church and Hope United Church of Christ (on Flexer Ave.) continue in conversation, Christian fellowship, and discernment. Following several very positive small group meetings focused on specific aspects of a potential partnership (of some sort, still to be discerned), it was decided that it is time to widen the circle of discernment. The members of the two congregations need to get to know each other. Toward that end, Hope joined St. Timothy for worship on May 13, and St. Timothy joined Hope for worship (and a delicious brunch and casual conversation) on May 20. Events on both Sundays were well-attended by both congregations.

The next planned "coming together" will be on Sunday, June 10, when Hope will join St. Timothy for our 10:30 a.m. outdoor (Land of Promise) worship and the picnic afterward. Please mark the date in your calendar and plan to be a part of this sharing in the Spirit of Christ. Please also continue to pray that God's intentions may be served in both St. Timothy Lutheran and Hope UCC and the conversations we are having.

Congratulations Graduates!

The joy, prayers, and good wishes of the entire congregation are with those graduating from high schools and schools of higher education this spring! Especially, we extend our congratulations to these graduates whom we know:

Alexander Kenyon Christensen

Alex graduated from Bucknell University in Lewisburg, PA on Sunday, May 20, 2018 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Physics.

His words: Having just completed my undergraduate career at Bucknell University, I am now moving on to become a high school physics teacher in Kansas City, MO through Teach for America.

The goal of the program is to provide teachers to in-need cities and communities where we can teach underprivileged students and give them a better quality of education that they may not receive due to a lack of teachers. I will officially be moving to Kansas City in July.

I cannot thank the church enough for everything it has provided me during my life. I strive to pay forward all the kindness I have been shown by helping these students in need.



Joshua Oswald

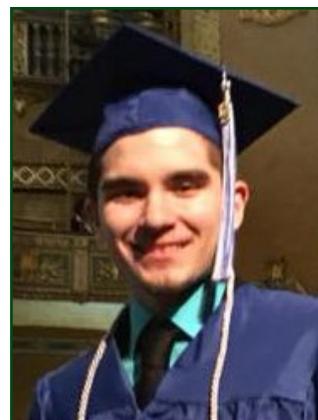
Josh graduated from Pennsylvania College of Technology in Williamsport, PA on Saturday, May 12, 2018 with an Associate of Applied Science degree in the FORD Technical Career Entry Program.

Josh has already begun his career at the Koch 33 Ford dealership as a certified service technician.

Pennsylvania College of Technology, known formally as Penn College or locally and by most alumni as "Penn Tech", is a public college, affiliated with The Pennsylvania State University.

Graduates, as you celebrate this milestone and move into the next phase of your life's journey, know you are God's and God is with you! Be blessed!

Note: If you are aware of any member or participant in St. Timothy Lutheran who is graduating from a course of learning this spring, please let us know so that we can acknowledge his/her success!



We pray weekly for our members at home. Every month we highlight a portion our list of homebound members so that you can send cards, and perhaps visit!

Here is this month's list (birthday in italics):

Sharon Clark, Good Shepherd Home, Raker #, 543 St. John St., Allentown, PA 18103 (*February 5*)

Barbara Fletcher, Lehigh Commons, Rm. 212, 1680 Spring Creek Rd., Macungie, PA 18062 (*December 22*)

June birthdays include:

Ms. Emily Flowers, Good Shepherd Home, Raker #204B, 543 St. John St., Allentown, PA 18103 (*June 3*)



The following are the highlights of the May 8 council meeting:

The Executive Committee and Treasurer, Mark Maehrer, will meet to discuss what should be done with the church's two savings accounts.

An ad hoc committee is needed to review memorial fund procedures, including the memorial fund brochure and envelope.

The "Bread for the World, Offering of Letters," relative to federal budget proposals, will be held immediately following worship on June 3.

Council approved proceeding with the installation of an ADA handicap ramp at the fellowship hall door.

The Property Committee was asked to look into digging up a portion of the parking lot to create an island with trees.

Committee job descriptions are being developed.

The church will receive \$30,000 from the Steven Hader, Sr. and Mary Anne Dedekind revocable trust.

The Recycling Corner

Have you ever wondered how to recycle some of the items around the house? How to be better stewards of God's earth and help others at the same time? Here are some of our ongoing projects:

ARTICLES	WHERE TO PUT THEM	PERSON IN CHARGE
Sheet blankets	Coatroom by upstairs restroom	Quilting committee
Soda cans	Coatroom by upstairs restroom	Nancy Fennell (for Scouts)
Men's socks in good condition	Coatroom by upstairs restroom	Nancy Fennell (Alliance Hall)
Toiletries (from hotels/motels)	Coatroom by upstairs restroom	Nancy Fennell (Alliance Hall)
Eyeglasses	Coatroom by upstairs restroom	Nancy Fennell (Center for Visually Handicapped)
Good used sneakers	Coatroom by upstairs restroom	Nancy Fennell (Alliance Hall)
Plastic bags	Coatroom by upstairs restroom	Nancy Fennell (Food Bank)
Styrofoam Peanuts	Coatroom by upstairs restroom	Nancy Fennell (recycled @ Mailbox)
Styrofoam medicine boxes and shipping packaging ONLY	Coatroom by upstairs restroom	Nancy Fennell (recycled @ Bethlehem Recycling)
<i>Styrofoam trays, cups, plates, egg cartons, food containers, etc. are no longer accepted. Please dispose of in your trash.</i>		
General Mills box tops for education;		
cash register receipts from Redner's & Fairgrounds Market;		
Campbell's labels	Appropriate boxes in narthex	Cheryl Christensen
Rubber Bands*	Coatroom by upstairs restroom	Nancy Fennell (*from newspapers)
Current Calendars	Cabinet in narthex	Anyone who can use them
Empty printer, fax machine or desktop copier cartridges	Coatroom by upstairs restroom	Nancy Fennell (recycled @ FundingFactory)
Old cell phones	Coatroom by upstairs restroom	Nancy Fennell (recycled @ FundingFactory)
Women's and Men's business attire and accessories... (for "The Perfect Fit"/"First Impressions for Men")		
(Must be Clean, Good Condition/gently used laundered/ironed)		
IN SEASON ONLY!!!	Coatroom by upstairs restroom	Gloria Hinrichs

Thanks for your help and cooperation with these projects!



MONTHLY CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS

JUNE 2018

Key: [F] = Fellowship Hall [L] = Lounge [P] = Pastor's Office [NV] = Nave
 [N] = Nursery [LB] = Library [YR] = Youth Room [LP] = Land of Promise

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 12-3 pm-Office Open 6:30-11 pm-Chess Club [L]	2 9 am-Property Committee Clean Up & Weed Event
3 Pentecost 2 9 am-Sunday School Field Trip to Sixth Street Shelter 10:30 am-Worship ~11:30 am-Blood Pressure Screening [L]	4 OFFICE CLOSED 7 pm-Boy Scouts [F]	5 <i>7 am-Prayer for Peace</i> [L] 9 am-12 pm-Quilters [L] 12-3 pm-Office Open 3 pm-Worship & Music Committee [L] 6:30 pm-Cub Scouts [L]	6 12-3 pm-Office Open 6:30-8:30 pm-Glorious Day Rehearsal [NV] 7 pm-Allentown Hiking Club [F]	7 12-3 pm-Office Open 12-3 pm-AARP Meeting [F] 7-9 pm-3D [F]	8 12-3 pm-Office Open 6:30-11 pm-Chess Club [L] Synod Assembly at Mohegan Sun Arena, Wilkes-Barre	9 9 am-Property Committee Clean Up & Weed Event RAIN DATE Synod Assembly at Mohegan Sun Arena, Wilkes-Barre
10 Pentecost 3 8 am-Mission Team @ St. Paul's 9 am-Sunday School [F] 10:30 am-Praise Worship [LP] Pot Luck Luncheon follows Worship	11 OFFICE CLOSED 9 am-Property Committee 7 pm-Boy Scouts & Picnic [F+LP]	12 <i>7 am-Prayer for Peace</i> [L] 12-3 pm-Office Open 6:30 pm-Cub Scouts [F] 7 pm-Congregation Council Meeting [L]	13 12-3 pm-Office Open 5 pm-Glorious Day Setup [LP] 6 pm-Glorious Day Rehearsal [LP] 7 pm-WOW Service featuring SWiM [LP] AARP in Parking Lot	14 12-3 pm-Office Open 2 pm-Daybreak Mission Team 6 pm-Scout Commissioners Meeting [F]	15 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30-11 pm-Chess Club [L] JULY/AUGUST NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	16 9 am-Outreach Committee [L]
17 Pentecost 4 Fathers' Day 6:30 am-Mission Team @ St. Paul's 9:30 am-Worship	18 OFFICE CLOSED 7 pm-Boy Scouts [F] 7 pm-Mental Health Support Group [L]	19 <i>7 am-Prayer for Peace</i> [L] 9 am-12 pm-Quilters [L] 12-3 pm-Office Open 6:30 pm-Cub Scouts [F]	20 12-3 pm-Office Open 6-7:30 pm-Glorious Day Rehearsal [L] 7 pm-WOW Service featuring Horizon Church Praise Band [LP]	21 12-3 pm-Office Open	22 12-3 pm-Office Open 6:30-11 pm-Chess Club [L]	23 9 am-3 pm-Cub Scout Event [F]
24 Pentecost 5 10:30 am-Worship	25 OFFICE CLOSED 7 pm-Boy Scouts [F]	26 <i>7 am-Prayer for Peace</i> [L] 12-3 pm-Office Open 6:30 pm-Cub Scouts [F]	27 12-3 pm-Office Open 7 pm-WOW Service featuring REZ Music Ministry [LP]	28 12-3 pm-Office Open	29 12-3 pm-Office Open 6:30-11 pm-Chess Club [L]	30

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Rally To End Racism



On Wednesday, April 4, the National Council of Churches led a rally in Washington DC to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. A small group from Hope, Cherryville, led by Pastor Brian Rajcok, joined the Lehigh Valley Council of Churches' bus trip down.

They left at 4:00 A.M. and arrived at the National Mall around 8:30. The official rally began at 9:00, but there had been a worship service going on since 8:00. They heard prayers from a variety of faith traditions, including a Zoroastrian priest. This portion ended with a Confession for the church's complicity in dealing with issues of racism.

The rally's M.C. was an African American pastor from Chicago. Speakers discussed a variety of issues including systematic racism, police brutality, white privilege, and mass incarceration. Some notable speakers included the current pastor of MLK's church, the Rev. Raphael G. Warnock; actor Danny Glover; Black Lives Matter leader, DeRay Mckesson; and Ben Cohen & Jerry Greenfield, who gave a moving speech on white privilege.

One powerful phrase from DeRay Mckesson stood out: that racism is able to adapt and manifest itself in different ways: from to slavery, to Jim Crow laws, to present day mass incarceration. Others reminded the crowd of what MLK called the triple evils of our society: poverty, racism, and militarism; and they called on the church to do more in confronting these evils.

Pr. Rajcok writes: "I left the rally feeling particularly drawn to educating myself and others about mass incarceration and doing my best to help deconstruct this current manifestation of systemic racism. I was honored to be present that day. It was a day I will never forget."

Confirmation Day at the Synod



On Sunday, April 22, over 90 youth and 42 adults gathered at The Lutheran Center for Confirmation Day at the Synod. Organizers Anja Stuckenberg, Inge Williams, and Seth Noggle were excited about the size of the response, with nearly twice the expected number attending. This year's theme was "One Church under one God."

Taking advantage of the wonderful spring weather, the event began with a time outside dedicated to getting acquainted. This was followed by the keynote presentation from Pr. Kurt Garbe, Associate of the Bishop. Pr. Garbe spoke about the four companion synods to our Northeastern PA Synod: Argentina and Uruguay, Saxony, Slovenia, and the South Central Diocese in Tanzania.

Confirmation Day at the Synod, (continued from the previous page)



Next the attendees rotated among five groups for a time of experiential learning. Four of the groups dealt with each of the four companion synods; and the fifth group was devotional, providing time for meditation and writing prayers. Then Bishop Zeiser presided at a Service of Holy Communion. The event ended with dinner, consisting of 300 empanadas with a side of rice and beans.

Think about bringing confirmation students from your congregation next year. Confirmation Day at the Synod provides a unique opportunity to celebrate our faith with many other young Lutherans!

Our Iceberg is Melting



On Sunday, April 15, the Pocono Mission District Assembly met at Trinity Lutheran Church in Bangor. A significant portion of the meeting focused on developing a vision for the future of the church and practicing how we can impact the people around us and reach out to others.

Pastor Niels Nielsen, Associate of the Bishop, shared *Our Iceberg is Melting*, a book by John Kotter. This parable takes place on an iceberg inhabited by penguins. They are filled with a sense of urgency because their iceberg is melting. The penguins decide change is needed, and they set out to find a new iceberg.

The assembly experimented with working together to find "a new iceberg," that is, a new way to be the church in the future. Two common ideas were: being more kid-friendly and being more open to new people. The Assembly then broke into discussion groups to share stories of compassion from their own faith communities.

Many of the stories were very moving and personal. There were stories of times of tribulation, when people were transformed by an act of kindness or compassion. There were stories of tough financial times, divorce, and illness. People shared how they were changed by the kindness given to them from their church and individuals.

The experience demonstrated how even the smallest acts of kindness and compassion can make a big difference, and how we need to tell these stories of faith to people outside the church.

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