



# THE PITTSBURGH LUTHERAN

VOL 89, NO 3 | April 2019

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## PALM Sunday Appeal

Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries (PALM) supports regional missions that unite local congregations of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod. PALM supports student, homeless, blind, deaf, and children’s ministries, and others. PALM also publishes every month *via* email *The Pittsburgh Lutheran*.

PALM looks forward to bringing a vicar to the Hazelwood neighborhood THIS YEAR to touch that community with the Good News of Jesus Christ through Holy Cross Mission and the Third Annual Hazelwood Community Day. We pray this is the beginning of a growing LCMS presence in that community.

We are appealing directly to the members of our congregations to help PALM establish a solid financial base in order to impact our region with the Gospel. Please consider a 1-time or recurring gift to support PALM. One half of all monies raised from this appeal will be directed toward Holy Cross Mission. The second half will help to establish an endowment fund to support future mission work in our region.

Donations may be directed to PALM through your congregation on Palm Sunday, April 14. Or they may be sent directly to PALM, with “PALM Sunday Appeal” in the memo line. THANK YOU!

PALM

535 N. Neville Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15213

**St. John's Clarksburg** - All of us at PALM are very excited that St. John's Clarksburg is the newest LCMS congregation in the Pittsburgh Region. In February the congregation became a member of the Pittsburgh Circuit of the English District, which now stretches from Slippery Rock in the north to Clarksburg in the south. Very soon the rite of receiving a congregation into the Synod will be scheduled, and when it is, your congregation will receive a letter from Pastor Westgate inviting you to attend that special service. We do hope you will be able to attend. It would be wonderful if every LCMS congregation in the region were represented at this service.

How can you help the work in Clarksburg? There are many ways: First, pray for the flock there and Pastor Oester's work among them. Pray the Holy Ghost to grant His Word success there. Then also support it. Pastor Westgate in the letter mentioned above will encourage congregations to take a special offering for the congregation on the day of the receiving service. Perhaps your Sunday School or your LWML could donate for the work too. You can send a check, currently to PALM, of any amount. Our hope is to have a pastor there in Summer 2020. Then we will be able to reach out to Clarksburg and to a large part of West Virginia with "God's Word and Luther's Doctrine pure."



## MINERSVILLE CEMETERY

*by Rev. Brian Westgate*

The Minersville Cemetery will be holding a Work Day on Saturday, April 13, from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. We will be doing general Spring clean-up of the cemetery along with some simple maintenance projects and the placing of row markers. We will provide tools and gloves.

We will also be providing lunch for all volunteers.

In case of a stormy weather forecast, we have set May 4 as our rain date. Please let us know if you will be able to help us. We will ask for a count of volunteers a week before the event so that we can be sure to have enough equipment and order enough food. The cemetery is located at: Minersville Cemetery - LCMS, 3031 Vancroft Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219

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## DEVOTION

*by Rev. Brian Westgate*

*“[Righteousness] will be counted to us who believe in Him Who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, Who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.”*  
– Romans 4:24-25.

These words could well be the theme of this month in the Church Year. Good Friday and Easter are coming fast. We will get to spend extra time in church, with services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, not just Palm Sunday and Easter.

These days are all very important. Palm Sunday gives us some of the words we sing before Communion: “Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest.” Our Lord was sent by His Father to save us, and He gives us that salvation when we receive His Body and Blood. Maundy Thursday is the day He gave us this Blessed Sacrament – for this blessed Supper that forgives sins and gives life and salvation, let us ever be most joyful. Good Friday is the day He died for us. There is no Easter without Good Friday. There is no salvation without Good Friday. Christians do well to hear the story of our Lord’s Passion and Death every year. Finally, Easter is the day He rose for us. He conquered death and the devil for us and declared our sins forgiven.

This is the most important time of year for our Christian faith. This is when our Lord won salvation for us. Give Him high and hearty thanks and praise!

## **Lutherans for Life Chapter #255**

St. John's Clarksburg isn't the only new PALM mission. Lutherans for Life Chapter #255 is the newest PALM mission. The new president of this chapter is Mrs. Linda Hagey from Redeemer Oakmont; she succeeds Mrs. Cindy Fenger from First Trinity. Also, from First Trinity, Mrs. Leigh Spittel is treasurer and Pastor Spittel is pastoral advisor. If you aren't acquainted with the work of Lutherans for Life, please do visit their website at <http://www.lutheransforlife.org> The following info is from <http://www.lutheransforlife.org/life-teams>:

### **What is a Life Chapter?**

Life Chapters of Lutherans For Life are volunteer organizations of pro-life Christians seeking to carry out the mission of Lutherans For Life: "Equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life."

Life Chapters provide an organization through which Lutheran Christians can unite to give a common witness within the Church and society to their concern for the value and dignity of all human life.

Life Chapters . . . Are educational and service-oriented frontline organizations working within the Lutheran Church. Life Chapters are not clubs or political action committees. Are independent of local congregations. Life Chapters are not directly affiliated with or restricted to certain congregations. Are inter-Lutheran - they are not directly affiliated with a specific Lutheran denomination and do not engage in worship or other ministries appropriate only to congregations. Are affiliated with National Lutherans For Life and with its state affiliates.

Life Chapters ...May have five, fifty, or even more members. May work in two, ten, or even more congregations. The primary focus is "education based on the Word of God" promoting the sanctity of human life. A secondary focus for many Life Chapters is service that promotes respect for life. Because they have direct contact with congregations and other Lutheran organizations and institutions, Life Chapters collectively carry out the bulk of the ministry of Lutherans For Life.

### **What do Life Chapters do?**

Each Life Chapter has its own character, interests, and areas of expertise. Thus, most Life Chapters engage in some projects that are unique to them and especially suited to their communities. Many Life Chapters engage in most of the following activities:

- ◆ Pray for the needs of their members and the millions of people facing life and death decisions or the aftermath of such decisions.
- ◆ Make "For Life" presentations to congregations, schools and church groups.
- ◆ Hold meetings, rallies, or forums with educational programs for their members and other interested persons.
- ◆ Distribute pro-life information.
- ◆ Participate in and/or support pro-life caring pregnancy outreach.
- ◆ Urge their church and government leaders to respect and protect all human life.

**Mark your Calendar**

**April**

**3-10 LENTEN SERVICES:**

- Ascension Lutheran, McCandless, meal and fellowship 5 p.m., service at 7:00 p.m.
- Calvary Lutheran Murrysville, meal at 6 p.m. and Meditation at 6:45 p.m.
- Concordia, Brentwood, 11:00 a.m.
- Christ Lutheran, Forest Hills, 5:45 p.m. dinner, 7:00 p.m. service.
- St. Luke, Cabot, "Convicted" Lenten Service and meal 6:00 p.m.
- Zion, Bridgeville "Behold the man", meal at 6 p.m. and Lenten Service at 7 p.m.
- Tri Parish Services, Bethel Lutheran in Glenshaw, St. Johns in Millvale, and Zion in Lawrenceville, 6:00 p.m. dinner, 7:00 p.m. service.

- 5, 6. Redeemer presents the musical "Mary Poppins", Redeemer Lutheran School, Penn Hills.
- 7. "The Benefits of Affordable Retirement Living" Concordia Haven I, Cabot, 1:00 p.m.
- 8. Open House, Concordia Haven I, Cabot, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- 9. Soprano Dr. Colleen Gray Concert, Haven I, Cabot 7:00 p.m.
- 13. Christ Lutheran Annual Easter Event, Forest Hills, 10 a.m. to noon.
- 13. Minersville Cemetery. PALM Workday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- 13. Easter Egg Hunt, Calvary Lutheran, 1 p.m.
- 13. Annual Seder Meal, Bethel, Glenshaw, 5:00 p.m.

**14. PALM SUNDAY SERVICES:**

- Calvary Lutheran, Murrysville, breakfast, 9 a.m.
- Concordia Lutheran, Brentwood, Divine Services at 10:30 a.m. with brunch following
- Zion Lutheran, Bridgeville, 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

**18. MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICES:**

- Ascension Lutheran, McCandless, service with Holy Communion, 7 p.m.
- Bethel Lutheran, Glenshaw, 7:00 p.m.
- Christ Lutheran, Forest Hills, 7:00 p.m.
- Calvary Lutheran, Murrysville, 7 p.m.
- Concordia Lutheran, Brentwood, Divine Service at 7:30 p.m.
- Zion Lutheran, Bridgeville, 7 p.m.

**19. GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE**

- Ascension Lutheran, McCandless, 7:00 p.m.
- Bethel, Glenshaw, 7:00 p.m.
- Christ Lutheran, Forest Hills, 7:00 p.m.
- Calvary Lutheran, Murrysville, 7:00 p.m.
- Concordia Lutheran, Brentwood, at 7:30 p.m.
- Zion Lutheran, Bridgeville, at 7:00 p.m.

**April**

20. Calvary Lutheran, Murrysville, 5:30 p.m.

**21. EASTER SUNDAY:**

- Ascension Lutheran, McCandless, 9:30 a.m. followed by Potluck Brunch
- Calvary Lutheran, Murrysville, 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
- Christ Lutheran, Forest Hills, 10:00 a.m.
- Concordia Lutheran, Brentwood, Divine Service at 10:30 a.m.
- Bethel Lutheran, Glenshaw, 10:15 a.m.
- Zion Lutheran, Bridgeville, 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

- 25. Good Samaritan Hospice six-week grief support group begins. Concordia Haven II, Cabot, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
- 28, 29. CSH Education Session and Open House Mt. Lebanon, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

**May**

- 4. The Best Evidence Against Evolution, Zion Lutheran, Bridgeville, 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.
- 10. RLS Mother's Day Event, Redeemer Lutheran School, Penn Hills, time TBA
- 11. Concordia Lutheran Ministries Fishing Derby, Saxony Farm Estate in Saxonburg, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- 31. Annual Bowling Night, Concordia Lutheran, at Princess Lanes, 7:00 p.m.

**June**

- 1. RLHS Graduation, Penn Hills, 10:00 a.m.
- 7. Redeemer Lutheran Church Oakmont Strawberry Festival, Penn Hills, Time TBA
- 13, 14. Concordia of the South Hills Annual Indoor Flea Market, Mt. Lebanon, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



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PITTSBURGH AREA LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

We will use Thrivent Choice outreach funding to:

PALM MISSION GRANTS

(Please see next page.)



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**Mileposters News**

Another four-way chess event (pictured) was held on March 3. Participants first read through Psalm 84, verse by verse.

One of them, an atheist, cheerfully read two of them, including the



last verse: "Lord of Armies, blessed is the man who trusts in you." Since all the participants were more experienced than last time, the game lasted an hour and 40 minutes, and was not finished. When time ran out, there were still three players in the game. There was a regular board on the side for those who were defeated early in the four-way game. A total of five participated.

March 10 was weigh-in time for 2019 stokers. Graduated weight is important on a tandem, triplet, quad, or more; the heaviest person must be the captain, next-heaviest the first stoker--behind the captain, and so on. The last stoker, at the back, is referred to as the tail gunner. Because of the particular configuration of the Mileposters quad, the tail gunner can weigh no more than 85 lb.

A generous supporter donated a tandem sculpture (pictured) to Mileposters. It portrays a full-size articulated tandem at speed.



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<http://www.palmpa.org>

## PITTSBURGH PASTORAL CONFERENCE

*by Rev. Brian Westgate*

Have you ever heard of the Pittsburgh Pastoral Conference? The LCMS used to have many regional pastoral conferences, and we're still up and running. Every year our congregations contribute so our pastors can attend a conference where a speaker presents any number of topics. We normally meet on the second Tuesday of September, January, March, and May, as well as the day after the Reformation service. We hear about any number of topics relevant to our lives as Christians in service to our congregations and our communities as we follow our Lord and Master Jesus Christ. Our officers currently are Pastor Art Litke, President; Pastor Bert Greenway, Vice-President; Pastor Douglas Spittel, Treasurer, and Pastor Brian Westgate, Secretary.

On Tuesday, March 11, we heard from Pastor Elliott Robertson, pastor of Martini Lutheran Church in Baltimore, right near the Inner Harbor and the stadiums. He also serves as president of the Wyneken Project, which bears some similarities to Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries and Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries. The Wyneken Project is named for Rev. F.C.D. Wyneken who served in Baltimore for five years at the mother church of LCMS Lutheranism in Baltimore. In later years he served as president of the Missouri Synod. He was a missionary in Baltimore, and wherever he went. He knew, as Pastor Robertson says today, that the theology of Dr. Luther is exactly what that city (and our city) needs.

We heard about the great need for pastors in Baltimore, and how the pastors there have been instrumental in keeping congregations alive, not fearful of having to close. These pastors strongly believe that where there's a church there's an opportunity for people to hear the pure Word of God, and they don't want to take those opportunities away, but rather support them and work to strengthen them with God's help. If a congregation asks

them to assist, they give them five things they must do if they are to assist. These things are all focused on the Means of Grace, for that is our Lord's answer to our prayer, "Thy kingdom come." What are they?

1. They must hold regular worship at a regular time with a regular minister.
2. The ministers must be visiting shut-ins and hospitalized (though not as frequently as a congregation's own pastor, to remind them they need to call a pastor).
3. They must robustly attend Bible Study.
4. They must do evangelism (tell people about Jesus, bring them to the Means of Grace).
5. They must give outside themselves.

What are they involved with? One congregation, Redeemer Irvington (west side of Baltimore City) now has a thriving ministry to African immigrants. Another congregation, Nazareth Highlandtown (eastern Baltimore City) now has a Spanish-speaking pastor to reach out to the many Hispanic immigrants in the area. They also support Lutheran Blind Outreach at St. Thomas Lutheran Church. Every year seminarians come for a week for a "Seminary Student Urban Immersion," which shows them what the ministry is like in an urban setting, called "The Baltimore Experience."

Some of our pastors here in the LCMS Pittsburgh region come from the Baltimore area. Perhaps you have connections to Baltimore. We encourage you to keep the work of the Wyneken Project in your prayers and your offerings. Check them out at [WynekenProject.org](http://WynekenProject.org).

"NOTE: Due to scheduling conflicts, the next meeting of the Pittsburgh Pastoral Conference will be Monday, May 6. Pastor Spittel will speak on the topic: "Reclaiming the Household: Household Traditions and the Christian Year." He is also giving this paper at the St. Mark's Conference at Our Saviour's Church in Baltimore on Tuesday, April 30. Our Saviour's, located just a couple blocks east of the site of Memorial Stadium, is another congregation that has been assisted by the pastors of the Wyneken Project. It is a magnificent building. The St. Mark's Conference concerns the confessional, sacramental, and liturgical life of the Church of the Augsburg Confession. Additional information can be found at the conference website:

<http://www.oursaviourbaltimore.org/conference>.





**“The more things change...”**

*by Augusta R. Mennell, Campus Ministry Director*

The student meals at All Saints Lutheran Church and Student Center have been changing through the years. The change is exciting to see because it makes us wonder what new twists it will take in the future.

Originally in 1985 the meals were called Rice Day Meals. International students at Slippery Rock University gathered around the old oak kitchen table to prepare the meals. Everyone enjoyed chopping vegetables, frying chicken, and cooking their favorite food: rice. Rice was such a favorite that the large yellow banner advertising the meal called it The Rice Day Meal.

Later on, All Saints Fellowship president, Sherry Henry, suggested that we show movies after the meals. At that time a number of students from the SRU Dance Department joined us for the meals, bringing many Americans in. As a result, we added pizza, baked cookies, and fried pumpkin seeds to the menu. We showed Christian movies like Fireproof, a big hit. As time went by movies lost their appeal because gradually students began to have easy access to movies on campus.

One day my husband told me that he would pray for someone to cook homemade meals for the student dinners because pizza had become ho-hum. It wasn't long after that that Jo Dublin, a native of South Korea, came in asking if I would like her to cook our student meals. Jo works on campus, loves students, and is an outstanding cook. To top it off she is a fervent Christian and absolutely would not take any money to pay for cooking the shrimp, her wonderful dumplings, and other goodies. She cooks for the Lord. That was in 2009. Answered prayer! Jo's cooking attracted many international and SRU American students and gradually became known as the Korean Meal.

Recently more and more Grove City College students have come to the meals, not so easy to do when you have to drive here from Grove City. Also, this year, senior adults from the community have been coming in. They enjoy the delicious meal, the companionship and interaction with those around them. At the same time, a growing number of SRU professors now are bringing their friends and families to the meals. At the last meal we had six professors (if you include my retired husband). Our wonderful problem is that so many attend that our All Saints Fellowship president, Akelah Hughes, has to consider carefully what furniture to put where in order to make enough room. We are increasingly aware of how small our undercroft is for entertaining 60-70 people.

Although the style of the student meals has changed throughout the years, the purpose has not. We have one purpose and that is to use these meals as a time to share the Gospel through friendship. With this in mind we invite everyone at the meals to feel welcome to come to All Saints worship, Bible classes, and just to drop in to talk. As an icebreaker, we often ask our guests where they go to church, letting them know we would be happy if they came to our services. A professor who brought his family said he had once been a Lutheran, but no longer believes or attends church. Another professor whose students raved about the meals, said he was so pleased with his and his wife's experience at the meal that he would personally tell more students to come. When asked if he had a church, he and his wife said they were atheists and preferred sleeping in on Sundays. They didn't say this with hostility. They seemed to appreciate our invitation to come in any way to hear what gives us so much joy.

## CAMPUS MINISTRY

### **“The more things change...” (continued)**

*by Augusta R. Mennell, Campus Ministry Director*

Our challenge is to encourage those who come to the meals to come more often. At our February meal, Moses Greenspan, a Grove City College senior, showed slides and told us about his summer in Ethiopia. What impressed me was that students were willing to come upstairs to the sanctuary to hear his talk, including five Japanese students who are not Christians. Akelah plans to ask students at the next meal what topics they would most appreciate hearing about: we are thinking about thirty-minute talks describing Christian marriage, clinical depression, obtaining visas, and financing college education.

No matter what style the meal takes it still is a blessing and a needed comfort. John (not his real name), an American student, came to my office recently for Bible study. He looked so down, so sad that I asked if he were well. He said that he had just found out that a dear Christian friend and mentor had taken his own life. This friend was a Christian senior adult he had deeply respected. John was brokenhearted. It is good to be here for students especially at times like this. He comes to the meals, where he found out that we care about him. He comes to the meals. He knows we care and, most important, that God cares.

If you are in the area, you are welcome to join us for a student meal. Our door is always open. The food and friendship are great. We will have a meal in March, April and May. Call 724-794-4334.



## ASCENSION LUTHERAN

*McCandless*

WEEKLY LENTEN SERVICES will continue at Ascension Lutheran Church (8225 Peebles Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237) on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. (April 3 and 10). All are welcome to join us prior to worship for a delicious meal and fellowship at our Lenten soup and salad suppers every Wednesday during Lent at 5:00 p.m. followed by our service at 7:00 p.m.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES at Ascension Lutheran Church are as follows:

Maundy Thursday Service with Holy

Communion April 18, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday Tenebrae Service – April 19, 2019  
at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday Service with Holy Communion

April 21, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. followed by a

Potluck Easter Brunch

## BETHEL LUTHERAN

*Glenshaw*

Bethel will be participating in the Tri-Parish Midweek Lenten Services that are held at Bethel in Glenshaw, St. Johns in Millvale and Zion in Lawrenceville. Each service will begin at 7:00 p.m. with a light dinner at 6:00 p.m.

The handbell choir will enhance the worship service at Bethel on Maundy Thursday at 7:00 p.m. and will ring in the celebration on Easter morning during the worship service at 10:15 a.m. The Annual "Stations of the Resurrections" will once again be performed at Concordia Lutheran Ministries' Rebecca residence and at Highpoint on Sunday April 28.

Bethel will hold their annual Seder Meal on SATURDAY, APRIL 13 at 5:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to share and learn about this ancient custom. Please call the church at 412-486-5777 and leave a message if you plan to attend, your name and how many will be attending.

## NEWS FROM AREA CONGREGATIONS

### CALVARY LUTHERAN

*Murrysville*

Calvary Murrysville will continue their Lenten journey with Wednesday evening meals at 6:00 p.m. followed by meditation at 6:45 p.m. Our Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday, April 13, at 1:00 p.m.; Palm Sunday Breakfast at 9:00 a.m.; Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services at 7:00 p.m.; and Easter weekend worship celebrations Saturday 5:30 p.m., Sunday 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

We are looking forward to celebrating the joy of Easter.

### CHRIST LUTHERAN

*Forest Hills*

Christ Lutheran's Women's Service Guild had their annual Winter Blues Luncheon at a local restaurant. The theme this year was 'Mardi Gras'.

#### Winter Blues Luncheon at Christ Lutheran



The church will have Wednesday Lenten services beginning at 7:00 p.m. with dinner being served beginning at 5:45 p.m.

We will also have our annual Easter Event for the children from the community and church on April 13 from 10:00 a.m. to Noon. There will be stories, crafts, music and an Easter egg hunt. All children from infants to age 12 are welcome.

Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services will be at 7:00pm. Easter service will be at 10:00 am.

### CONCORDIA LUTHERAN

*Brentwood*

Many thanks to Diane Gedman, who organized our 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration committee, and made sure we had a church cake to celebrate it with.

#### 95th Anniversary cake



President Wicher, and congregation President, George Schuster, cutting the cake



As Lent winds inexorably to Holy Week, our Holy Week schedule is as follows:

April 14 - Palm Sunday Divine Service at 10:30 a.m.  
Following that service, the ladies of the church, spearheaded by Sandy Murphy, will put on a Fellowship Brunch in the undercroft.

April 18 - Maundy Thursday Divine Service at 7:30 p.m.

April 19 - Good Friday Tenebrae Service at 7:30 p.m.

April 21 - Easter Divine Service at 10:30 a.m.

## NEWS FROM AREA CONGREGATIONS

### CONCORDIA LUTHERAN (continued)

*Brentwood*

Walther League Bowling Night planned for Friday, May 31. Well... maybe not QUITE a "Walther League" event, but along with the Youth of Concordia's Annual Bowling Night is being expanded, to include as many area LCMS youth as would LIKE to attend. We will meet at Princess Lanes in Caste Village, 540 Weyman Rd, Whitehall, PA 15236, at 7:00 p.m. for bowling, games, food and fellowship.

For those who would like to attend, the cost is \$4.50 per game, and the shoe rental fee is \$3.00. Video games, food, and drink is at your discretion, and offered on-site.



**Members fellowshipping in the Undercroft after the service**

If you plan to join us, please call Concordia Lutheran at (412) 881-3005 and let us know how many are in your party, just so we can tell Princess Lanes in order to reserve an appropriate number of lanes. We hope you'll join us for this fun night of fellowship, and - who knows?! Maybe a Walther League might even break out while we're there.



**Eastern District President Wicher leading the Adult Sunday School Class.**

### MT. CALVARY LUTHERAN

*West View*

The voice and bell choirs at Mt. Calvary in West View took a hiatus after the Christmas season but are ready to start up again for spring performances. While both groups have a lot of fun at practice, they also take the work very seriously. This photo of Dave McElroy shows how intense he can be with the bells.



### PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN

*Freedom*

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Freedom, PA will celebrate its 170th anniversary on October 20, 2019. There will be a potluck dinner following Sunday service. District President, Rev. Dr. Chris Wicher will speak on the history of the LCMS in our region. Contact the church office for details at 724-728-3881.

**REDEEMER LUTHERAN**

*Oakmont*

Redeemer Lutheran Church rejoices that Pastor Naumann has returned to the mission field.

God be praised for His great mercy and His gift of restored health.

In the pictures you can see him teaching again in a seminary classroom in the Dominican Republic. May God bless and keep Pastor and Deaconess Naumann as they resume their mission work in Latin America, and may He bless and keep all our missionaries there and grant His Word success.



The Singing Saints of St. Paul's Lutheran High School, Concordia, MO, conducted by Dr. Jerrode Baker Marsh, visited Redeemer on Wednesday, March 13. In the afternoon they performed a very interactive concert at Redeemer Lutheran School. Students got to ask the colorful choir members (each section was color-coded) questions, and a few got to join in playing drums or conducting, and all got to sing along. Everyone had a great time!

**REDEEMER LUTHERAN (continued)**

*Oakmont*



That evening, in place of the regular Lenten services, the Singing Saints performed their concert. It consisted of a richly varied repertoire, including spirituals, chorales, Latin and African pieces, and more. It was enjoyed by all. They were on a tour that took them through Fort Wayne and Pittsburgh to Niagara Falls and Rochester and return. Members from at least three other area LCMS congregations were present, and we thank them for coming. St. Paul's High School is the last LCMS boarding school in the country. The school and the choir boast students from several countries. Learn more at [SPLHS.org](http://SPLHS.org).



## NEWS FROM AREA CONGREGATIONS

### ST LUKE LUTHERAN

*Cabot*

Chaplain Eugene L. Reddel passed over into glory on November 15, 2018. Over 200 friends and family attended his memorial service at St. Luke on Saturday, March 2, 2019. More than twelve clergy came to honor Gene and celebrate the faith as well. Gene and his wife Miriam are members of St. Luke and most often attend the Saturday evening worship. During the memorial service, Miriam Reddel (and sons John and Paul) presented Vicar Brian Bocian with Gene's pastoral stoles. Brian will be able to use these upon his ordination a year and a half from now, Lord willing. What a unique honor and blessing to have such a tangible reminder of the legacy of faith that is ours in Christ Jesus.



*“Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; His greatness is unfathomable. One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.” Psalm 145:3-4*

### ZION LUTHERAN

*Bridgeville*

## THE BEST EVIDENCE AGAINST EVOLUTION

MAY 4, 2019

2:00-3:00PM

Q & A TO FOLLOW  
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS SERVED

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH  
3199 WASHINGTON PIKE  
BRIDGEVILLE, PA

### DR. JERRY BERGMAN

Join us as noted professor and author Dr. Bergman will explain how in some cases the evidence once presented for evolution is now some of the best evidence against evolution. Evidences to be reviewed and discussed in detail are: vestigial organs, homology, fossil record, natural selection, and convergent evolution.

As a Christian believer, always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have (1 Peter 3:15).



Zion is about 1 mile south of Exit 54 from Rt. 79 on Washington Pike and about ¼ mile north of the Giant Eagle on Washington Pike and has a large parking lot. For questions, call 412-221-4776 or visit [www.zleeb.org](http://www.zleeb.org)

**REDEEMER LUTHERAN SCHOOL**

*Oakmont/Penn Hills*

As always, February was Open House month at Redeemer. Our doors were open to interested families every Thursday morning, with our Penn Hills campus also holding two Thursday evening sessions. Visitors were able to take a stroll through our annual upper elementary Science Fair during the evening Open House on February 28th and view all the projects. Middle school students and their families also attended the special informational session focused on our high school programs; RLHS students shared details on Redeemer extracurricular activities. We appreciate all of the teachers involved in the preparation of these special evening events, as well as all of our volunteers for every Open House session! We continue to pray for those families that are considering new educational options for the fall, that they would follow the Lord's leading wherever He may guide them.

On February 14th, our 8th graders became thespians for a day, as they participated in the 2019 Shakespeare Scene and Monologue Contest at the O'Reilly Theater in Pittsburgh. Students performed a Shakespearean scene from memory onstage before their classmates, family members, and a panel of judges. As one might guess, it is a challenging experience, and our students performed very well! Thank you, as always, to Mr. Driscoll for arranging this annual experience, and to those at the O'Reilly Theater for organizing this event.

For Valentine's Day, RLHS National Honor Society members and high school students once again provided the opportunity for the Redeemer school family to purchase flower and candy grams! Students, parents and school staff sent encouraging notes with flowers and candy to friends, classmates and colleagues. A portion of the proceeds from the grams will be shared with mission projects in the Dominican Republic and Sri Lanka.

On Friday, February 15th, Redeemer hosted our biennial Mother & Son Hoedown. Preschool to 4th grade boys and their moms or mom "subs" (grandmother, aunt, family friend, etc.) took part in a wonderful night of boot-scootin' fun! Dances were led by a real square dance caller. Boys and their "moms" were also able to have their pictures taken in a fun photo session and enjoy some delicious snacks!



**Boot-scootin' fun at the Redeemer Father/Daughter Hoedown**

Our National Honor Society students visited Ronald McDonald House once again to provide lunch for the resident families. Senior Grace Wilshire organized the "Taco Friday" meal as part of her senior project, with the rest of the NHS membership taking part.

**National Honor Society students serve once again at Ronald McDonald House**



**REDEEMER LUTHERAN SCHOOL (continued)**

*Oakmont/Penn Hill*

Our high school students have been blessed with a newly renovated high school student lounge! Thanks to the generous grant from the LCMS English District, new furnishings and other items have been installed to create a quality space for RLHS students. We are grateful to the English District for this opportunity and to the high school faculty for overseeing the creation of this new space!



Our middle school basketball teams completed their seasons, with each team earning a playoff spot. The boys team lost to Rhema Christian in the first round, and the girls lost a very close and hard-fought game in the second round to Central Christian. Congratulations to both teams, and thanks to Mr. Driscoll and Mr. Loe-we for coaching; you made us all RAM proud! We look forward to next season. RLHS Senior Tyler Kefalos placed well enough during the regular bowling season to advance to the district competition on February 23rd. He then had the opportunity to advance and represent Redeemer at the western regional competition on March 9th! Go RAMS!

On Friday, February 22, our middle school Robotic Rams robotics team participated in the VEX IQ competition at North Allegheny High School in Wexford. They won the Excellence Award and the Skills Award and earned the chance to move on. They then placed 4th overall in the state competition at Keystone Oaks High School on March 9th, earning the Amaze Award and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Robot Skills. Congratulations to the entire middle school team and to Mrs. Schumacher on a job well done!

Upcoming events:

April 5th & 6th: Redeemer presents the musical “Mary Poppins,” tickets available to the public

May 10th: Mother’s Day Event

June 1st: RLHS Graduation

June 7th: Strawberry Festival

**ZION LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL**

*Bridgeville*

John 13:34 “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.”

Valentines Day is always a highly anticipated “party day” in the Preschool. It’s a time that

we get to show our friends the love that God shows to us daily. The children share Valentines greetings with expressions of love and kindness towards each other. Check out some of the amazing artwork and Valentine’s Day boxes the children created to collect their greetings!

One of our monthly Bible verses: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” Matthew 22:37





## **Concordia Medical Equipment Introduces an E-Commerce Website**

Concordia Medical Equipment, part of Concordia Lutheran Ministries launched a new e-commerce website that allows people to purchase medical equipment with the click of a button.

The website offers products that range from adaptive mobility equipment to daily living aids.

Concordia Medical Equipment CEO Brad Milliron, noted that the nature of commercial transactions is changing rapidly.

“Adaptive medical products have always been on the market,” Milliron said. “The way we provide information about those products must evolve to meet the needs of our consumers.”

The website is the first step in offering products to a wider demographic. Previously, Concordia Medical Equipment was primarily serving the needs of patients and residents within the organization. With the creation of the website, a broader range of people can be reached.

“The goal of the website is to provide affordable products to individuals who may not be able to receive coverage through their insurance,” Milliron said. “People want quality products, and that is what we provide.”

Concordia Lutheran Ministries acquired the two-year old APEX CPAP & Respiratory Services, Inc., a durable medical equipment (DME) company located in Saxonburg on January 31, 2008.

To learn more about Concordia Medical Equipment, and to view and purchase products - visit: [www.ConcordiaMedicalEquipment.com](http://www.ConcordiaMedicalEquipment.com). You can also call 724-352-1100 to speak to customer service.

## **Concordia Hosts Hometown Performer**

Concordia Haven is pleased to host internationally acclaimed soprano Dr. Colleen Gray on Tuesday, April 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the Haven I Dining Room, 112 Marwood Rd., Cabot.

Professor of Music at Slippery Rock University, Colleen Gray teaches voice, language diction, vocal pedagogy and opera performance. She holds a doctoral degree in vocal performance and literature from West Virginia University, a master's of music in vocal performance from Duquesne University, and a Bachelor of Science in music education degree from West Chester State College.

Dr. Gray also earned a performance certificate from the Accademia Vocale di Lucca, Italy, and completed an apprenticeship with the Pittsburgh Opera Center. Her awards include winning the Jewish Community Center Emerging Artists Competition, the West Chester State College Concerto Competition, the Pottstown Philadelphia Orchestra Competition and the Pittsburgh Concert Society Artist Competition.

Gray has performed extensively in Europe and the United States.

To make a reservation, please call Kassie Walker at 724-352-1571, ext. 8273 or visit on the Web at [www.concordialm.org/events-news/tamburitzanscabot16](http://www.concordialm.org/events-news/tamburitzanscabot16).

For information on retirement living at the Haven Apartments, contact Peggy Trettel at 724.352.571 ext. 8253 or visit [www.concordialm.org/services/retirement-living](http://www.concordialm.org/services/retirement-living).

## **Education Session and Open House Scheduled at Concordia of the South Hills**

Learn more about why Concordia is the best retirement value in the area at our Education Session and Open House on Sunday, April 28 and Monday, April 29 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. on our campus located at 1300 Bower Hill Road in Mt. Lebanon near St. Clair Hospital.

A brief education session on The Benefits of Affordable Retirement Living will be presented at 1:00 p.m. both Sunday and Monday followed by tours of model apartments.

Refreshments will be served in the Harmony Room in the common area of the community.

For more information online, visit the Coming Events section of the website at [www.ConcordiaLM.org](http://www.ConcordiaLM.org). To register or to schedule a private tour by phone, you are invited to call Director of Marketing Christie Wahlen at 412-294-1351.

## **The Carpenter Defeats Death**

*By Deaconess Pam Voorman, Concordia Lutheran Ministries*

*Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. - John 20:6-7*

My father was a carpenter. Growing up, the smell of fresh cut wood was as familiar to me as the smell of my mother's cooking. I cannot remember a time when my dad was not building something, from pieces of furniture to the white picket fence that surrounded our yard. The one consistent thread that ran through every project of his, was his care of his tools. After every use, each tool was inspected for damage, cleaned and carefully put in its proper place. And boy, did we hear it if we failed to return a tool to where it belonged!

I share that because in John's text above, we see a similar careful attention to detail. In the Gospels, Jesus is

## **The Carpenter Defeats Death (continued)**

*By Deaconess Pam Voorman, Concordia Lutheran Ministries*

referred to as 'the carpenter.' In Mark 6:2 *When the Sabbath came, He began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard Him were astonished. "Where did this man get these ideas?" they asked. "What is this wisdom He has been given? And how can He perform such miracles? Isn't this the carpenter, the son of Mary..."* And in Matthew 13:55 *"Isn't this the carpenter's son?"* As the oldest son of Joseph, Jesus would have apprenticed to his father's trade after his Bar Mitzvah. Until Jesus began his public ministry, he would have spent his days as a craftsman. Sigmund Brouwer, in his book "The Carpenter's Journey to the Cross and Beyond," tells us that in Jesus' time there was a unique signature used by carpenters to let the contractor know that a job was complete. When a craftsman finished a job and would wash up, he would take the towel used to dry himself and fold it in half, and then fold it in half again. The towel would then be placed on the finished project. This was the signal that the work was finished.

John 19:29-30 *A jar of sour wine was sitting there. So, they soaked a sponge in the wine, put it on a stalk of hyssop, and lifted it to His mouth. When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished." And bowing His head, He yielded up His spirit. On the cross, Jesus cries out "Teresitai!"* The payment for sin is complete, the redeeming work is finished. You and I no longer must suffer God's wrath for our sin, because Jesus' suffering and death on the cross has paid the price. It is finished. And to make sure that the message of redemption is fully understood, John tells us *"the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head ... was folded up by itself."* Jesus the carpenter, Jesus the Messiah, Jesus the Savior and Redeemer takes the cloth and folds it, laying it on the finished project. Death is defeated, the carpenter has told us so!

### **Concordia of the South Hills Schedules Annual Indoor Flea Market**

Retirement living residents at Concordia of the South Hills are hosting the Annual Indoor Flea Market on Thursday and Friday, June 13 and 14 from 8:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The sale will be held in the Harmony Room on the ground floor at the 1300 Bower Hill Road location in Mt. Lebanon.

This event, a benefit for the Concordia of the South Hills Caring Fund, is open to the public.

For more information contact Ina Silver, Director of Community Life at 412/294-1306.

Concordia of the South Hills is an upscale continuing care retirement community located on 19 acres of land carved out of the valleys in the South Hills of Pittsburgh. Built in 2002, this retirement neighborhood enjoys beautiful exteriors and interiors, a good reputation of quality, sizeable living units and an overall value of life care. The framework of apartments includes: 126 independent living apartments, 48 assisted living suites, 12 private memory care suites and 46 skilled nursing, short-term rehabilitation suites. Respite care and full rehabilitation therapies are also available. Concordia will celebrate its 10th year of ownership since the facility's acquisition in October of 2009.

### **Concordia's Good Samaritan Hospice Conducts Grief Support Sessions**

Good Samaritan Hospice, a mission of Concordia Lutheran Ministries conducts grief support groups for anyone who has suffered loss of a loved one. The six-week group begins on Thursday, April 25 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Concordia Haven II Education Room on the second floor through May 30. Concordia Haven II is located at 148 Marwood Rd., Entrance 5 in Cabot.

The session is open to the public and free to all attendees. Registration is required by April 22. For information or to register please contact Bereavement Coordinator Nicole Rosswog at 1-800-720-2557, ext. 4423.

### **Concordia Haven Apartments Presents the Benefits of Affordable Retirement Living**

"The Benefits of Affordable Retirement Living" will be explored in a brief education session on Sunday, April 7 at 1 p.m. followed by tours of the Haven I model apartment until 3 p.m. The public is also invited to an Open House from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Monday, April 8. The retirement living community is located at 112 Marwood Road in Cabot.

The public is invited to learn how Concordia can provide a lifestyle that's both affordable and worry-free. Our residents discovered that they could live at Concordia for the same or less than what they were paying in their current homes but with more support services.

For more information, visit the Coming Events section of the website at [www.ConcordiaLM.org](http://www.ConcordiaLM.org). To register or to schedule a private tour, you are invited to call Peggy Trettel at 724-352-5378.

### **Concordia at Villa St. Joseph Present Partners in Caring Award**

Nearly 150 supporters applauded the Sisters of St. Joseph as Congregational Moderator Sister Sharon Costello accepted the Partners in Caring Award from Concordia Lutheran Ministries President and CEO Keith Frndak last Friday, Feb. 22. at the annual Young at Heart Gala 2019.

Proceeds from the event benefit Concordia at Villa St. Joseph's (CVSJ) Life with Music Program and the benevolent care fund for residents who require financial assistance for continued care.

## Concordia at Villa St. Joseph Present Partners in Caring Award

The event began with a cocktail reception, a resident drum circle led by Concordia at Villa St. Joseph's music coordinator Jessica Patterson, silent and basket auctions and a wine pull as well as music provided by the Rich Zabinski Quartet. Following dinner, Administrator Rachelle Arnold and Jessica Patterson chatted about the importance of music at a skilled nursing community like Concordia and introduced Villa Voices and Chime Time performance by CVSJ residents.

Special thanks to Gold Sponsors – Concordia Visiting Nurses and Good Samaritan Hospice, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield/Allegheny Health Network; Silver Sponsors – Heritage Valley Health System and Mistick Construction; and Bronze Sponsors – Christian Business Men's Connection, Plunkett Motor Freight and Rome Monument as well as committee members, benefactors, patrons and friends.

Concordia at Villa St. Joseph, acquired in late April of 2018 is a CARF-accredited, 120-bed skilled nursing and short-term rehabilitation that holds a 5-star rating from Medicare.



**Pictured is President and CEO Keith Frndak presenting the Partners in Caring Award to Sister Sharon**  
**Also pictured at far left is**  
**Rachelle Arnold and Jessica Patterson.**

## Wedding at Highpointe

Highpointe at Rebecca, Concordia's newest retirement living community marked another milestone as it hosted a wedding for two residents who met at Highpointe: John Lengel and Pat Whitmer.

Both went through similar experiences. Their first spouses were cared for by Concordia's Good Samaritan Hospice. Pat's husband, Keith, passed away in February 2018, and John's wife, Ruth, died a few months later. John, a retired US Steel engineering manager who oversaw plants across the country, had stopped going to the Highpointe dining room for dinner, once his wife became ill and was hospitalized. After she died, he started going back to the dining room to make new friends and stay social.

"When you're single, you don't want to sit at a four-person table alone," John said. "So, I ended up at the same table of eight [with Pat]. We shared meals several nights in the dining room, and one night I told her I wanted to go out for dinner. And she said, 'Well, I'll go with you.' And I guess that was our first date. We didn't consider it that at the time, though."

What started as a friendship began to blossom into a romance, until the two were inseparable.

"We started calling and texting all the time," Pat explained. "Every day it was 'What are you doing? Where do you want to eat? Do you want to run errands?' We decided that instead of spending all this time wondering where the other one is, maybe we should just get married. I like to tell people I chased him until he caught me."

"People here at Highpointe were so excited and so happy for us when we told them we were getting married," Pat said.

On January 2, the couple officially tied the knot in Highpointe's dining room (the chapel couldn't fit all 150 guests). The ceremony was officiated by Concordia Chaplain Duane Voorman, who had also known

### Wedding at Highpointe (continued)

Pat's late husband Keith from visiting him in Concordia's Good Samaritan Hospice and John's late wife Ruth from calling on her during her stays at Concordia at Rebecca Residence.

"It was so nice," Pat said. "Highpointe and Concordia could not have done more. They have been gracious and helpful, and Julie [Spirnock, Resident Care Coordinator at Highpointe] was phenomenal as was the entire dining staff in planning the menu and catering the reception."

Instead of wedding gifts, guests were asked to make donations to Good Samaritan Hospice in memory of Keith and Ruth.

"I had a longer experience with Good Samaritan than John did, but I just felt that they were so, so good to us," Pat explained. "The people who work there were just amazing."

"It's also a tribute to our first spouses, in recognition of them and that we honor their memories," John said. "Pat is a member of Redeemer in Oakmont."

If you are interested in learning more about Highpointe at Rebecca and this encouraging community of residents, call 724-444-1521 or visit the Coming Events section of our website at [www.HighpointeRebecca.org](http://www.HighpointeRebecca.org).

