



THE PITTSBURGH LUTHERAN

VOL 90, NO 5, June 2020

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DUE TO THE COVID19 PANDEMIC THAT CLOSED MOST, IF NOT ALL CHURCH OFFICES, WE DID NOT RECEIVE OUR NORMAL RESPONSE FOR NEWS/ARTICLES. PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL CHURCH FOR UPDATES. WE PRAY THAT ALL OF YOU ARE SAFE AND HEALTHY.

PALM DEVOTION

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

A Time to Live

“Then Jesus said to [the Pharisees] again, “Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” – John 10:9-10

Summer in Pittsburgh is a time of warmth, a little more sunshine, green forests, and outdoor activities. Even in the midst of social distancing and closures due to the pandemic, people enjoy being able to open the windows of their homes and retreat to the parks. Plague, pestilence, and death do their best to cause us to cower in fear. But Jesus will have none of it.

The Pharisees were outraged by Jesus’ act of healing a blind man on the Sabbath. Some of them threw the false accusation at Jesus that He was not of God and was, rather, a sinner. Jesus counters their accusations by simply pointing to the healing of the blind man as evidence the He is, indeed, of God. In fact, he proclaims Himself as the only way both to the Father and to enter the life-giving protection of the Father’s sheep fold, the Church.



PALM DEVOTION (continued)

Jesus comes to us to heal us not simply of blindness, or viruses, or even cancers, but of death itself. Jesus laid down His life for us so that our sins may be forgiven. Jesus died so that we might live. Jesus is our Good Shepherd who guards the sheep herd, feeds and nurtures us with His forgiving Word and Sacraments, and leads us in the way of everlasting life. Jesus rose from the dead and death has no more dominion over Him ... or us!

Through good times and bad, in times of prosperity and in times of need, in sickness and in health, our Good Shepherd leads us in the warm, green, summer pastures of eternal life. Every day as we cry, "Lord, have mercy!" to Him, He lovingly responds, "I forgive you. Peace be with you." Even in our darkest hour, He is the Light that shows us that "This is the (eternal) day that the Lord has made." Now is the time of our rejoicing. Yes, even in suffering, Christians have reason for joy. Our joy transcends the highs and lows of daily life. Our hope looks beyond the answers that the world can provide about this or that issue. Our joy is in the Lord Jesus, the Healer and Shepherd of our souls. Our joy is rooted in Jesus, risen from the dead, and the Giver of life eternal through the forgiveness of our sins.

In Jesus - today - we have life, and we have it more abundantly.

ANNOUNCEMENT

LAYOUT EDITOR NEEDED

The Pittsburgh Lutheran is seeking a Layout Editor. This volunteer role requires approximately 5 hours per month working in Microsoft Publisher to layout and design articles and usually has 10 days to complete this task. All communication is done through email so there are no meetings to attend.

This person will work closely with TPL editors (and Zion members) Mary Lou Rilee and Nancy Koester.

Contact Mary Lou at [with any questions. \[Pittsburgh.lutheran.editor@gmail.com\]\(mailto:pittsburgh.lutheran.editor@gmail.com\)](mailto:pittsburgh.lutheran.editor@gmail.com)



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PALM Website
<http://www.palmpa.org>

Mark your Calendar

June

12-14. Camp Erin Pittsburgh (Bereavement Camp for kids 6-17), YMCA Camp Kon-O-Kwee Spencer www.camperinpittsburgh.org

13. Concordia Annual Kids Fishing Derby, Saxony Farm Estate, 8:00 a.m. (event has been postponed. New date TBA. Please contact CLM for updates)

July

13. Concordia 17th Annual Golf Classic, Treesdale Golf and Country Club, 8:00 a.m. **Event has been cancelled.**

13-16. Vacation Bible School, Ascension, McCandless, 5:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. (Subject to change, call Ascension's church office (412-364-4463) directly for updates.)

19. Annual Summer picnic at Wall Park, McCandles, Mt. Calvary, West View, 11:00a.m.

26. Concordia 139th Annual Summer Festival, Cabot Campus, 12:30 p.m. **Event has been cancelled.**

August

22. Concordia Fashion Luncheon, Butler Country Club, 10:00a.m.

September

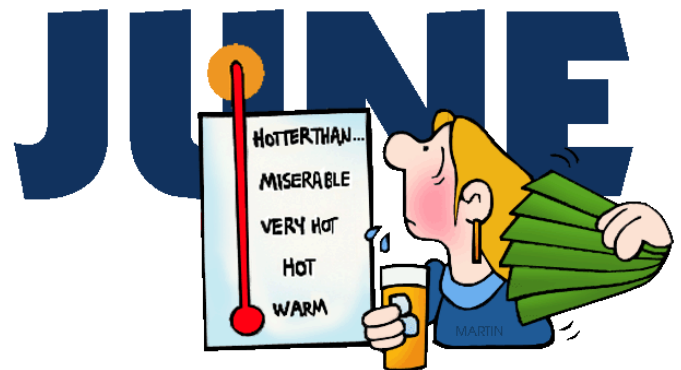
26. P.A.L.g.S. Golf outing, Victory Hills Golf Course, 9:00 a.m.

October

3. Concordia Oktoberfest, Cabot Campus, 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

TBA. Camp Erin Purse Gala, fall 2020

CALENDAR NOTE: DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THAT ANY OF THE SCHEDULED EVENTS MAY BE CANCELLED OR POSTPONED. PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL CHURCH FOR UPDATES.



An Angel Reached Out To Me

by Augusta R. Mennell, Campus Ministry Director

The coronavirus will be gone one day. College students will be back on campus to study. What will never be gone is the love that Ed and Jill Geidner, members of All Saints Lutheran Church and Student Center, give to their large “family” of international students. The students feel so close to the Geidner’s that they called Jill’s mother “Grandma.”

The story of Jill and Ed’s friendship with international students who attended Slippery Rock University is so inspiring that I asked Jill if she would write a few words about how this came about, and about how the relationship continues to this day. The letter Jill shares assures us that love and friendship for college students does matter: some received “forever families”, which is a special blessing because they often live so far from their biological families; some become believers in Jesus Christ. The following is Jill’s letter.

During this scary time with the coronavirus all around us and all around the world, an angel reached out to me. The angel’s name is Sheila.

About 20 years ago my husband and I went to a friendship dinner at church to meet and greet Slippery Rock college students from around the world who might need a friendship family to help them with little things they might need.

We were seated across from two sisters from Macau, Sheila and Lavena. We hit it off right away. At one point I asked them what faith they were and they replied that they didn’t have a faith. They didn’t really believe in any higher power, but she said, “But we love Christians. We love everyone.”

We became very close, not only with the sisters but their two brothers, Rhyme and Hoi, and a friend of theirs, a beautiful girl from Macau. The other girl from Macau texts me to make sure we are okay. She still texts or calls every Thanksgiving. She said that was her best meal ever. She tells me she misses mashed potatoes.

Our two original girls, Sheila and Lavena, love visiting our family and they asked me if it would be okay to call my mother “Grandma.” Of course my mom was thrilled.

Back to the beginning of this letter about the Angel. These three girls and at least one brother have become Christians, were baptized, and have a very strong faith in Christ.

One sister now lives in New Jersey with her husband (who is one of the two brothers) and their two sons. New Jersey is one of the hardest hit areas by the coronavirus. Yet she texted me to find out how we were and told me she loved us and wanted us safe. They asked if we had face-masks. She told me: “I am sending some to you and your families. She still has connections in China. She sent out 100 masks. Unbelievable! We shared with family and friends, church members and older people in stores. Because of this Angel, a lot of people are safer. She is definitely a disciple. We are blessed to have met them and thank God for that first night at the dinner.

An Angel Reached Out To Me (continued)

After receiving Jill's letter, I called Sheila, the friendship student. Sheila had mailed her the masks, which were sent from China. She is the Angel Jill referred to, and is married to Rhyme. It was obvious from the call that they still love Jill and Ed. They especially are glad to see their new grand boy on Facebook! They said they are Christians, and are involved with daily devotions and regular worship, while raising their teenage sons who love music.

Sheila and Rhyme clearly remember All Saints, where they were invited to a free student meal by Satoru, a student from Japan, who never stopped sharing his faith in Christ with them (he is now a pastor in Japan). Sheila and Rhyme were not Christians at that time. Yet the seeds of faith were planted by the love of Jill and Ed and Satoru. It is still thrilling that after so many years, the Gospel planted by this friendship family is alive. The Geidner's refer to their students as their "family". Their other "children" are Nana, Linda, Hoi, Lavena, Zuzana, Wendy, Denim, Beatrice, and Maria.

The virus will be gone in time, but such love given to students lives on, into eternity.



Akelah Hughes, All Saints Student Fellowship President, wearing a mask provided by the Geidner family, a member family of All Saints.

**Lutheran Student Fellowship &
International Student Ministry**
535 North Neville Street • Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213
The Reverend Eric R. Andr e, Campus Pastor
412-683-4121 • www.FirstTrinity.net



**YOUR CAMPUS MISSION
IN PITTSBURGH NEEDS YOU!!
MAY 2020**



Dear Friends,

With COVID-19, these are very challenging times for all of us, including you. Dr. Frederick Pfothenauer, president of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS) *during the Great Depression*, said to the Synod’s national convention in 1932: “The present economic conditions throughout the world induce us, if we do not keep our vision clear, to curtail our church activities. No doubt, money is more scarce than in previous years. All the more, we must keep before us the lesson of history: first, that the more evil the days, the greater the prospect of success in our Christian work; and secondly, that when children of God are eager to promote their Savior’s glory, the Lord supplies the necessary means and blesses them.” So, in the very depths of the Depression (1936) the LCMS, together with its partners, stepped forward in faith to begin mission work in Nigeria – work that grew into The Lutheran Church of Nigeria that has congregations all over that country today, and is now sending missionaries around the world.



CMU, Pitt, PPU, Duquesne, CCAC, & Chatham students enjoy weekly lunch together after Worship

For nearly 20 years, your full-time LCMS campus ministry/mission at First Trinity has been baptizing/teaching American & international students, and then sending them all around the world! Just two recent examples from this past school year: Osman, a **Muslim** from Turkey and a visiting researcher at the University of Pittsburgh (Pitt), joined us regularly for our weekly English as a Second Language (ESL) Bible Study and was very thankful to receive a Bible in his own language before returning to his native land; he will still be joining us, as we just resumed the Bible Study *online*. Shmuel, a **Jewish** freshman at Pitt from out west whom I met when I was “tabling” on campus, joined me and a group of over 40 students for a theatrical adaptation of C.S. Lewis’s *The Great Divorce*; later, he and I read and discussed the book together, and are now

about to start St. Augustine's conversion story, *The Confessions*. We have been meeting – in person and now online – a couple times a month since September.

Your mission bears fruit internationally and domestically. As a matter of fact, in just the past thirteen years -

- 16 of 16 adult baptisms (one of the highest rates in the District, among all International Student Ministry [ISM] sites, and among all Pittsburgh campus ministries of any denomination) and
- 50 of 69 adult confirmations/affirmations (including 4 students that we are anticipating will be confirmed later this spring or summer)

at First Trinity have been through the campus ministry.

How much of the offerings placed in the plates on Sunday morning at First Trinity do you think goes to the campus ministry? Unless it is specifically designated, the answer is 0%. Did you know the campus ministry has a budget (income and expenses) completely separate from First Trinity's parish budget? First Trinity does not directly fund the campus ministry. This mission, running on a lean budget, requires \$10,050 per month, or \$120,600 per year. Over the years we have received generous grants through Concordia Lutheran Ministries, the LCMS Office of National Mission, English District Mission Board, District Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML), and others, as well as partnership fundraising from groups like the Mileposters and many local congregations. However, the grant monies we have received most recently have been reduced, as more organizations apply and seek support. In addition, overall charitable giving in the U.S. is now at its lowest point since the Great Recession. Mark Hofman, executive direction of LCMS Mission Advancement has noted that "giving to religious organizations is declining the fastest, falling below 30 percent of total charitable giving for the first time," quoting figures gleaned from the most recent annual study released by The Giving Institute. *Your campus ministry has experienced this trend here in Pittsburgh on the local level. As such, among other things, we need to enlarge our donor base now and into the future, as well as seek more and larger gifts from current donors. I am supremely confident that we can and will do so. Would you please prayerfully consider becoming a regular donor or increasing your donations to your campus mission in Pittsburgh, now or in the future? - Can you (continue to) partner with us? Can you sacrifice in some area of your life and thus donate (more) to this mission? Of course, we do not want you to ignore the needs of your local parish; but, in addition, we are indeed boldly asking for an ongoing and increasing financial commitment to campus ministry: please make checks out to "First Trinity" with "campus mission" in the memo line and mail to the address above. You can also donate online: for no-fee, secure giving, go to the NEW giving portal at <http://www.firsttrinity.net/donate/> and choose "Campus Ministry" from the drop-down menu; for recurring giving options, just follow the directions to sign up. MOST IMPORTANTLY, PLEASE PRAY FOR US, AS I DO FOR YOU.*

If you have any questions, comments, or ideas, do not hesitate to contact us. **Thank you!**

In Christ, our Life,

Pastor Andr e

P.S. Next week, May 5th, has been designated as a new *Giving Tuesday*, specifically in response to non-profit needs during the pandemic. Can you commit or re-commit now to giving to your campus mission? Thank you!



"I arrived in Pittsburgh quite disillusioned with the Church. But the campus ministry supported me and was there for me since I first came to college. You showed me what it really means to have a church family and renewed the importance of fellowship to me."

~ Katie Small, recent graduate of CMU

LOCAL MISSION

Mileposters News

Puerto Rico, already hit hard by two hurricanes and several earthquakes, has now had to face the ravages of the coronavirus pandemic. Mileposters are again raising support for LCMS ministry on the island, and have gone 602 miles since January 1 for this effort, over seven times the mileage at this time last year, which was only 80.

Rides so far this year have mainly been between the Point and Buddtown, PA, at Milepost 34 on the Yough Trail, just past West Newton. The original Mileposters tandem is shown at the West Newton station, which is trail headquarters. The waterfall is near Buena Vista.

Plans are underway to begin hikes on the Pittsburgh city steps. The reported count of available locations ranges from 675 to over 800. There are several Web sites about the steps, and the best-known book commands a price of over \$100. Pittsburgh has more of these stairways than any other city in the world.



Rev. Charles Wokoma, LCMS Missionary to Nigeria THE SAINTS IN NIGERIA AMID COVID-19

"Thirteen students who are stuck as a result of the lockdown are living with me in my one bathroom house with no running water or power. The remaining 38 from other parts of the country are in the Seminary dorm but regularly visit my house for at least one meal per day since seminary funds are depleted and the Rector is in Lagos. I am the only one on ground here to care for them. I was able to buy a 100lb bag of rice about 2 weeks ago to feed the students. Right now the quarantine is lifted every other week for a few hours so people may purchase food." -- Rev. Charles Wokoma, LCMS Missionary, Nigeria

A 100 lb bag of rice is what Pastor Wokoma has right now. Can you imagine that? Can you imagine trying to feed yourself, 13 "permanent" guests, and 38 other students with this amount of food? To say that the situation in Nigeria is "dire" would not be overly dramatic. Because Covid 19 came at the same time of year as the season for Malaria, countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, like Nigeria, could literally face more deaths from starvation than Covid-19 and Malaria combined. The situation is serious. Recently, representatives from the United Nations World Food Program warned that the world could face "multiple famines of biblical proportions within a short few months."^[1]

Pastor Wokoma wrote recently - I can only imagine how you must feel as you seek patience and wisdom to persevere through this storm in your lives. ... Yet again, all is in God's hands and His ways are not our ways. My dearly beloved family of supporters, join me to take all of this to our Lord in prayer: "Thou, whose Almighty Word chaos and darkness heard, and took their flight; be Thou my beloved supporters' guardian and guide, and hear them when they call. Let not our slippery footsteps become an obstacle to our prayers. Hear us, we humbly pray, as the Coronavirus continues to threaten us, not only with its perilous spiritual temptation, but also with starvation. Lord, may there be light soon at the end of the tunnel! Thou, who didst come to bring - on Thy redeeming Wings- healing and sight, health to the sick in mind, sight to the blind, bearing the lamp of grace, in earth's darkest place, we fall on our knees. Hear us, lest this awful doom of Coronavirus persist, and discourage even Your faithful servants. Lord, in Your mercy: hear us! We pray this in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Prayers:

- Please continue to pray for my mission here in Africa and for the many additional difficulties we are now encountering each day.

- In the midst of this unsettling period, one of the students with me here at my house as a result of the lockdown, whose father (a pastor of LCN) passed away about three years ago, now lost his mother on April 27 from a heart attack. No funeral arrangements can be made until the lockdown is lifted, so this is emotionally difficult for him and all of us with him. Please pray for this student, and for all my students who are stuck here at the Seminary and cannot return to their homes due to the lockdown.

^[1] <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/coronavirus-famines-united-nations-warning/>



NEWS FROM AREA CONGREGATIONS

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BETHEL LUTHERAN

Glenshaw

Bethel has been filming the worship service during the week so then it can be edited and posted on the website for Sunday Morning. We are very blessed to have a parishioner, Al Todd III, who enjoys and is talented in this area of technology. We thank him, Shawn Hanna, Mike Purucker from St. John's and Nathan Kenna for working together to accomplish the presentations since we are unable to physically worship together. We also thank Ruth Miller for her God given talent of playing the organ for each service. We pray that this is only temporary and soon we can all once more come to church, the building, to worship. You can watch Bethel's Sunday worship services on Sundays at 10:15 a.m. by going to our website---bethelglenshaw.org or on YouTube or on Facebook.

Rev. Arthur Litke will be retiring at the end of June after preaching at Bethel for 24 years. He and his wife Marie, have purchased a home in Fort Wayne, Indiana where they will be spending their retirement years. Bethel will be having a retirement/farewell dinner on their behalf sometime this summer when social distancing isn't an issue.

Bethel will be moving forward with the 3-2-1 project with St. John's and Zion. We will join together



with 3 locations, 2 ministers and 1 church name. More information will be published as it develops.

CONCORDIA LUTHERAN

Brentwood

Walther League History RE-FRAMED, at Concordia

Last summer, Concordia received a gift of Pittsburgh Area Walther League memorabilia, amongst some other pictures and artifacts of LCMS history in Pittsburgh, from between 1912 and 1936. Prime among those pieces, are four large (40+ inches long) mural photographs, which were recently restored and framed for display.

Two of the pictures, are of the Pennsylvania District Walther League Gathering of 1936, of the grounds of the then new Concordia Lutheran Church (dedicated in 1927), in which several early, and later prominent members of the congregation, are pictured.

Another picture is of the 1930 Pennsylvania District Walther League gathering, held at First Trinity in Oakland. This picture is unique to Concordia, because our previous Pastor - Julius Gockel - had taken a call to Prince of Peace in Freedom in 1929, while our new Pastor - Walter Heintze - had just arrived. This is the only known picture of the two of them together - one we previously had had not possessed.

1930 1st Trinity Pennsylvania District Walther League gathering - Pr. Julius Gockel, Pastor of Concordia-Brentwood, 1926 - 1929; Pastor of Prince of Peace-Freedom, 1929 - 1932 (middle row, far left) Pastor Walter Heintze, Pastor of Concordia-Brentwood, 1929 - 1954 (middle row, far right)



NEWS FROM AREA CONGREGATIONS

CONCORDIA LUTHERAN (continued)

Brentwood

The last picture, is of the Fourth International Gathering of the Walther League, in Houston, TX, in July of 1936. Sadly, the Pennsylvania delegation is tucked in the far back left of the picture, but Mr. Richard Melzner, Sr., from whose collection these pictures came, was an advisor to our delegation, and is in that picture. His son, Dick Melzner, and grandson Dan Melzner, are still members of Concordia today.

A private donation made their professional framing and restoration possible; they'd been stored, rolled, in an attic for decades, and had already survived one housefire. Pastor McCanless notes, that while he's certain other congregations and Lutherans in Pittsburgh received prints of these pictures when originally made, the only place he's seen them before, is in the Parish Hall at First Trinity.

Mounted under ultraviolet resistant glass, they'll never be subject to sunlight fading again, as they will be displayed in the main hallway of Concordia's education building. Once the Corona Virus clears, plans are to build a special wooden framework along the north wall, on which to display them.

Worship services are available on our YouTube site, as well as a mid-week devotional every Wednesday morning at 11:00 a.m. Simply go to www.youtube.com, and type in "Concordia Pittsburgh," to see past services, and catch each Sunday's new service. Any announcements regarding our "re-opening" will go through our e-mail prayer chain to members, and that announcement will also be noted on YouTube for all others. Plans are to upgrade our camera equipment, and to continue on-line services for our shut-ins, who have greatly appreciated this unexpected "blessing," of the Corona Virus.

1936 Walther League Picture, on the grounds of Concordia Lutheran Church, Brentwood



1936 Houston, TX gathering, International Walther League Convention

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN

Hazelwood

Holy Cross Evangelical-Lutheran Chapel Continues to Serve



Holy Cross Lutheran Chapel in the Hazelwood neighborhood of the City of Pittsburgh is a preaching station of First Trinity Evangelical-Lutheran Church. After the closing of the steel mill in the late 1990s, Hazelwood became an economically depressed neighborhood. During times of normalcy, the faithful at Holy Cross operate a food and clothing pantry in order to provide necessary sustenance to their friends and neighbors. We serve over 50 needy families in the Hazelwood area by giving away free clothing and food at a bi-weekly distribution day.

During this time of COVID-19, we are determined to serve our neighbors and show forth the love and mercy of Jesus. We continue to provide emergency food for the neighborhood throughout this crisis. We give away food almost every day. We have also continued to keep our bi-weekly distribution days. We put together paper bags of food including fresh produce, bread, and frozen meat for those who come seeking help. While many businesses and services are closed, Holy Cross is open and ready to serve the needs of our neighbors.



Holy Cross Lutheran Chapel is a relatively new mission in the Pittsburgh area. Worship services began this year on December 1, the first week of Advent. In addition to offering the bi-weekly clothing and food distribution, Holy Cross hosts hot meals for the community on the first and third Sundays of



each month. These dinners are followed by a Vespers service with preaching on the catechism. Holy Cross Lutheran Chapel also hosted a toy give away on December 21, providing Christmas gifts for over 250 children. This event will take place annually in the years to come. Since August 2017, Holy Cross Lutheran Mission, in partnership with Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries, has hosted an annual Hazelwood Community Day. We plan to do this again in 2020. Various LCMS missions from the Pittsburgh Area will be in

attendance, as well as several other Pittsburgh Area community organizations. If you desire to help with the 2020 Hazelwood Community Day, please contact Vicar Timothy Kern through email: timothy.kern@ctsfw.edu. The Community Day is a great way to raise awareness in the neighborhood for Holy Cross Lutheran Chapel and the Holy Cross food and clothing pantry.



Holy Cross acquired a church building in November 2019. There are currently a few maintenance and building improvement projects underway. We have replaced the broken entrance doors with new red steel and glass doors and we are restoring the church's beautiful stained-glass windows at what is a surprisingly minimal cost. Our desire is to make the exterior of the building more attractive and inviting to residents in the neighborhood.

NEWS FROM AREA CONGREGATIONS

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN (continued)

Hazelwood

After removing the old window shields from the exterior stained-glass windows, one passer-by remarked about the improvement saying, “Wow, now it looks like a church!” Even though we have had a presence on the street for several years, of our “new” building and its renovations, another said, “Oh, I didn’t realize you guys were open.” Perhaps these projects will lead a new person or family into Holy Cross Lutheran Chapel. They most definitely beautify the church for the praise and glory of God.



Holy Cross is a steadily growing mission in the city. Even during the Covid-19 lockdowns, residents of Hazelwood have been asking about the church.

While receiving food from the pantry, one mother asked about baptism for her daughter. We have a small but faithful congregation, and there is no shortage of catechism students. When we are able to once again meet in person for services, we have new members waiting to be received. Three children are ready to begin confirmation classes. It is our earnest

prayer that all these things happen soon. Until then, we shall cast all our anxieties on God because He cares for us all.

Vicar Timothy Kern

MT. CALVARY LUTHERAN

West View

Mt. Calvary used the time that the church was closed during the coronavirus to continue renovation work on the church basement. Members and friends of the congregation – maintaining social distancing, of course – finished repairing walls, and completed painting in the basement and kitchen. The ceiling is finished and four ceiling fans have been installed, as has LED lighting.

A new refrigerator has been purchased, along with new tables and room dividers. New flooring that will complete the final phase was ordered and delivered, and a group of volunteers are hard at work to put the finishing touches on the job.



NEWS FROM AREA CONGREGATIONS

MT. CALVARY LUTHERAN (continued)

West View

While the renovation work was taking place in the basement during the week, virtual services continued Sunday mornings via Zoom. Mt. Calvary was delighted to have the numbers include some participants who weren't members of the congregation. Because of the success of the online services, church council, during a virtual meeting, considered continuing in that manner, at least once a month, for homebound members after the shutdown is lifted.

Plans for Mt. Calvary's annual summer picnic are also in the works. The date is Sunday, July 19, at Wall Park on Rochester Road in McCandless Township. The morning will start with a worship service at 11:00 a.m., followed by a covered dish luncheon, games, door prizes, and much fellowship.

TRI-PARISH

St. Johns, Millvale; Zion Lawrenceville; Bethel Glenshaw

Pastors Dan Hahn and Art Litke conducted worship services from the back of a pick-up to members of Bethel Glenshaw, St. John's Millvale and Zion Lawrenceville drive-in style to celebrate Mother's Day. Sixty cars were tuned in to a local ban on car radios to hear the message and sing hymns at a local fire company parking lot.



REDEEMER LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Oakmont/Penn Hills

Redeemer continues to make the most of every opportunity to stay connected during this time! On Tuesday, May 5, RLS held a Parking Lot Prayer & Praise event at the Penn Hills campus. Families joined together for a time of worship and prayer, all from the safe confines of vehicles.

Pastor Hahn and Pastor Westgate led the service. The evening ended with a fun car scavenger hunt! It was such a joyful time to see each other's faces and praise the Lord together. Be sure to visit Redeemer on Facebook for a video recap of the event!

On Friday, May 8, Redeemer celebrated its annual Mother's Day Event. Faculty and staff delivered delicious Oakmont Bakery treats to school moms, and students shared special art creations and videos to celebrate their mothers. Visit our Facebook page to see some of the pictures that our school families shared of this day.

Redeemer is enrolling for the 2020-2021 school year! We invite you to visit us at rlspittsburgh.org and contact Alison Jackson at admissions@redeemer-oakmont.org for more information.

Prayers for a blessed spring and summer for everyone!

Concordia Cares Program:

Don't forget about our multi-part program to lift our residents' and patients' spirits:

A card/video campaign from the community to our residents and patients. To send a card, community members will need to contact the Activities Department at the location they're interested in (the phone numbers for our locations are on our website, www.ConcordiaLM.org). To send a video message, community members, family members or staff who are interested can email us at SendASmile@concordialm.org to get specific instructions on how to send a video, which will then be shared with residents and patients.

A shopping service for all Concordia retirement living residents. Concordia is coordinating a shopping service for our retirement living residents, in which Giant Eagle will prepare residents' orders to be delivered to the retirement living buildings. Residents will later be billed for their groceries. For more information, contact Director of Retirement Living Connor Hagey at CHagey@concordialm.org or 724-352-1571, ext. 8343.

The immediate expansion of Concordia's Tele-CareGiver Program. Established in 2001, Concordia's Tele-CareGiver Program is a free service that utilizes volunteers who make daily phone calls to homebound individuals to ensure that they are able to answer the phone - a daily "check-in" and friendly voice every day. If you are interested in learning more about being a client or know of someone who may benefit from this service, call 724-352-6260.

Video conferencing with loved ones available for all residents and patients. The Activities Staff at all Concordia locations are making it easy and accessible for all residents and patients to be able to video conference with their loved ones at least once a week.

Daily online devotions. Look to Concordia's website, www.ConcordiaLM.org, to soon see daily devotions from Concordia Chaplaincy Staff and maybe even some special guest devotions from pastors at our member churches. The devotions can be found on the "About" section of our website: <https://www.concordialm.org/about?service=4>.

Regular online puzzles. Look to Concordia's social media channels for regular pictogram, puzzle or trivia question to answer: o Concordia Lutheran Ministries on Facebook

[concordia_lm on Instagram](#)

[@ConcordiaLM on Twitter](#)

CALL FOR BOARD NOMINATIONS

Because you are members of our LCMS churches in the Pittsburgh area, the current Board of Directors at Redeemer Lutheran School is asking for your support in identifying prospective nominees for the Board. This year, we look to potentially add multiple directors to our existing board. We are interested in developing a team of individuals who would be willing to be considered for nomination to serve in this capacity.

Any member of an LCMS church who cares about faith-based education and specifically the ministry at Redeemer and is willing to help guide our work in this rewarding but ever-changing field, would be eligible for recommendation. The perfect candidate would be someone who has been in the workplace for a few years in business management, finances, education, law and marketing. Our goal is to reach out to all of our congregations for expertise, feedback and involvement.

Please call or email any of the following individuals if you have someone who you might recommend:

Gail Holzer, gholzer@redeemer-oakmont.org; (724) 493-1059

Connor Hagey, connorhagey@gmail.com; (724) 996-6482

Thank you and may God bless our efforts.

Thanks to Our Healthcare Heroes

Psalm 62:1-2 - My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress; I will never be shaken.

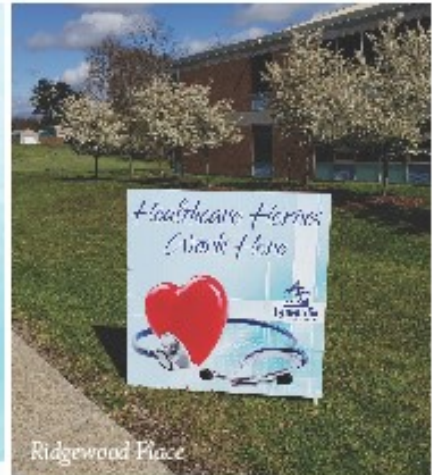
During this pandemic, we're struck by many things at Concordia: the resilience of our patients and residents, the generosity of the communities we serve, the resourcefulness of our residents' families in finding creative ways to stay present in their loved ones' lives and so much more. But perhaps most moving these last few weeks has been the dedication, courage and love displayed by our staff members.

Our Healthcare Heroes are not only running towards this fire we call COVID-19, but are doing so with a level of compassion that is off the charts. As an organization, we're trying our best to let them know how much we appreciate their efforts, but we encourage you this day to reach out and thank the senior living caregivers you know – and even the ones you don't know. They don't do this work for the praise, but you better believe they deserve it.

We are incredibly blessed and humbled to call them members of the Concordia Family, and we continue to pray for them, for those in our care and for our country and world every single day.

Please keep up with us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for posts that inform AND make you smile, something we could all use more of these days!

A Heartfelt Thank You to All of Concordia's Heroes



The workforce at Concordia Lutheran Ministries has been working diligently at each of the 17 locations to ensure a safe and healthy environment for our residents. These custom-made yard signs were one small way leadership showed its appreciation to the 2,984 employees. In addition, a dress down with treats day each week since late March has been offered and National Nursing Home Week, May 10-16 was celebrated with gifts, daily food treats, theme days and more. Our employees, have always gone above and beyond to see our residents and patients through. Thank you this week, and every other week of the year, for being our Healthcare Heroes.



The Concordia of Cranberry residents garden club took advantage of nice weather recently and planted tomatoes, green peppers, zucchini and strawberries.



Cabot Lund Care Center residents enjoyed wave parades from friends and families.



Concordia Lutheran Ministries Ways to give during COVID-19

As we continue to combat this pandemic together, we at Concordia have been so grateful for the tremendous support we've received from the community. Many people have asked how they can make a difference during these challenging times.

Here are a few ways that you can help Concordia while still maintaining social distancing:

Participate in our card/video campaign for our residents and patients.

To send cards for our residents to enjoy, please contact the Activities Department at the location you are interested in sending them. To send a video message, email us at SendASmile@concordialm.org.

Make or donate any type of masks or other personal protective equipment (PPE).

There is no shortage of PPE for daily use at Concordia, but if you would like to help us prepare for our long-term supply needs, please contact our purchasing director at: 724-352-1571, ext. 8374.

Give the gift of a companion.

Some people have chosen to give toward our acquisition of lifelike robotic pets that help our residents cope with loneliness – especially during this time of social distancing. Please call our Foundation office at 724-352-1571, ext. 8363 for more details.

Making a tribute gift in honor of your loved ones.

Tribute giving is a heartfelt way to recognize, honor and celebrate your loved ones or the staff that are helping to care for them. With a tribute gift, you continue to support our mission of providing faith-based, quality care to those who need it most. You can give online at Give.ConcordiaLM.org and click the "GIVE NOW" button or mail to the CLM Foundation at 134 Marwood Rd, Cabot, PA 16023.

If you are interested in helping with any of these initiatives, please contact the Foundation Office at 724-352-1571, ext. 8363 or giving@concordialm.org.

For the most up-to-date information on Concordia's COVID-19 response, visit www.ConcordiaLM.org