



THE PITTSBURGH LUTHERAN

VOL 91, NO 6, August 2020

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PALM DEVOTION

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

Starting Anew Today

“Through the Lord’s mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning.” – Lamentations 3:22-23

Whatever has brought stresses into your life, your family, your home of late, these are not eternal. Whatever distraction may have led you away from the Lord, fear not, for the Lord has not departed from you. Whatever sin is burdening your heart, do not despair, for the Dayspring from on high has dawned and He brings forgiveness with Him.

It is a great temptation to believe that we cannot go back, that things will never be the same again. While this may be true to one degree or another with regard to the days of our lives in this world, we can take heart and find hope in the Lord’s promise and invitation: *“Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness.”* With the Lord, nothing is impossible, and we can go back, repent, and return to His loving embrace.

Saint Peter asked Jesus, *“Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?”* Jesus said to him, *“I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.”* Here Jesus is not giving a limit on forgiveness, rather He is revealing His merciful way of always forgiving us. Every time we return to the Lord confessing our sins, even if they are the same ones repeatedly, He forgives us just as if He is hearing our confession for the very first time. Jesus does not rehash an old mercy that He must dust off with a shrug and a sigh every time we come to Him. His mercies are new every morning. Every proclamation of forgiveness is a declaration of a new day! We can go back to the Lord and find refreshment, renewal, and restoration.

Look to the cross. See your God. His death once for all, for you. Your life renewed every morning. As the father demonstrated to his prodigal son, “Welcome home!”



Mark your Calendar

August

- 1. Kids Fishing Days 20, Saxony Farm Estate, 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- 22. Concordia Fashion Luncheon, Butler Country Club, 10:00a.m.
- 29. Concordia Hospice of Washington Memorial Butterfly Release, Washington County Fairgrounds, 1:00 p.m.
- 30. Good Samaritan Hospice Drive-In Memorial Service & Butterfly Release, Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Franklin Township, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

September

- 20. PALM 2020 Delegate Meeting, First Trinity, Shadyside, Registration 2:30 p.m.
- 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.



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<http://www.palmpa.org>



Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries 2020 Annual Delegate Meeting Important Business for Our Missions

20 September 2020

Registration—2:30 PM

Meeting Begins—3:00 PM

**First Trinity Evangelical-Lutheran Church—Shadyside
Second Floor Auditorium (for social distancing)**



Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries

We are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are
God's building. - 1 Cor 3:9

535 N Neville Street • Pittsburgh, PA 15213

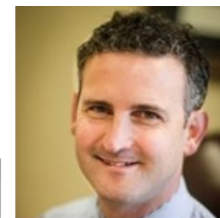
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PALM's outreach is growing and needs a governance document that will enable us to operate efficiently within a legal framework of best practices for a non-profit organization so that we may continue our mission of reaching out and proclaiming Jesus Christ to the Pittsburgh Area.

Governance Committee to Present Revised Bylaws

Since 1997, Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries has been serving the Pittsburgh area by encouraging and supporting new and existing mission outreaches. Our efforts gained additional traction in 2017 with the establishment of a new outreach in the Hazelwood neighborhood of the city. 2018 and 2019 saw the establishment of a new congregation in Clarksburg, West Virginia as well as the acquisition of a church building for the growing Holy Cross Mission in Hazelwood.



During the acquisition, our legal advisors noticed that the PALM bylaws needed some revisions to meet present legal standards. In January, our Board of Directors appointed Michael Fiffik, Managing Member at Fiffik Law Group, P.C., Michael Kumer, Owner of Boards Made to Order, Inc., and Daniel Spittel, Talent Acquisition Specialist at UMPC Senior Services to serve as the Governance Committee charged with proposing revisions to our Bylaws. The product of their work has been sent to the Board of Directors who will be presenting them to the delegates at the annual meeting.

The new Bylaws are a complete revision that incorporates up-to-date legal articles and best-practices for governance while preserving the mission and purpose that PALM has had since our beginning.

The Board of Directors believes that the delegates will be pleased with the work that our Governance Committee has done. Let us all pray for God's blessing upon their work.

On Your Anniversary in God's Service

By Shirley Freyer

The day of a pastor's ordination is most likely one of the most significant in his life. It is a celebration of God's call to him and a time of thankfulness that he has completed the education necessary to begin to preach The Word. It's a time to pray about the plan God has for him in the years ahead. Several of our pastors are marking a milestone anniversary of the day they made their sacred pledge to God, the day God entrusted each of them with one of the most precious assignments – the spiritual well-being of a congregation.

Nourished by His gracious love, these Shepherds continue to feed God's church with the bread of life in Word and Sacrament. We join together to wish all of you God's gift of your fine work in His service be rewarded with happiness and peace as we continue to pray for you.

Rev. David Weeks, Calvary Murrysville – 40 years (June 1)

Rev. Ronald Breight, Christ, Forest Hills – 30 years (July 1)

Rev. Dr. Douglas Spittel, serving First Trinity, Oakland and Holy Cross, Hazelwood – 30 years (June 3)

Rev. Dr. Daniel Hahn Jr., serving St. John's Millvale, Bethel Glenshaw and Zion, Lawrenceville - 25 years (July 2)

Rev. Scott Kuntz, Mt. Calvary, West View – 25 years (July 9)

Rev. James Oester, serving St. John, The Cove and Zion, Accident – 25 years (July 9)

Rev Jerome Panzigrau, John Huss, Arnold – 20 years (July 23)

HOOPS AND HOPE

Pittsburgh Campus Mission

July 2020 - Pastor Eric R. Andr e

On-campus mission presence takes many forms. Since October 2001, several times a month I have joined a fairly even mix of faculty, staff, graduate students, and undergraduate students known as the “lunch-bunch” for noontime games of pick-up basketball. In this context, I have engaged with hundreds over the past two decades, with too many ministry stories to tell in this brief space, so let me share just a couple in the context of [this article](#) by one of the players that **you should first read** at the CMU website: [<https://www.cmu.edu/news/stories/archives/2020/july/lunch-bunch-basketball.html>].

(Pastor Andr e 3rd from right in yellow shirt.)

As mentioned in the online piece, Stan Krowitz (the University Center facilities coordinator, whom I’ve known for about 15 years) got and used the AED/defibrillator that undoubtedly saved faculty member Zack Rubinstein’s life. What is not mentioned is that, after Garret Goon (Physics postdoc) and I went to the athletics desk and called EMS and 911, I returned to the court and gathered a group of players around me for prayer: Sean McGowan (staff), Paul Griffioen (a grad student involved in our ministry), and I ap-



pealed to the Lord of life and resurrection that he would spare Zack’s life. After answered prayer, Stan – also a devout Christian – came over to me and deflected all praise to our almighty and merciful Father: “Stan, you saved him,” I said. “No, Eric,” he responded, “you know that it was all Jesus.” Zack is Jewish; certainly, God has a purpose in bringing him back from the dead...



As also noted in the article, Sean himself soon thereafter began his own trial, with cancer (see photo at left and sidebar at link above). I visited Sean in the hospital and prayed with him, even as we interceded for him each Sunday at the divine service here at First Trinity. His cancer is now in complete remission!

Again, just with the group from this past year alone there are several other “stories” – showing up in my pastoral collar before changing and also seeking to engage the others has led to lunch and happy hour conversations about God, on-court and post-game discussions about and invitations to church, and, yes, defense of the faith as needed; I am thankful for these valuable opportunities to engage in dialogue with fellow Christians, and many unchurched, as well.

Hoops and Hope (continued)

ONLINE PRESENCE:

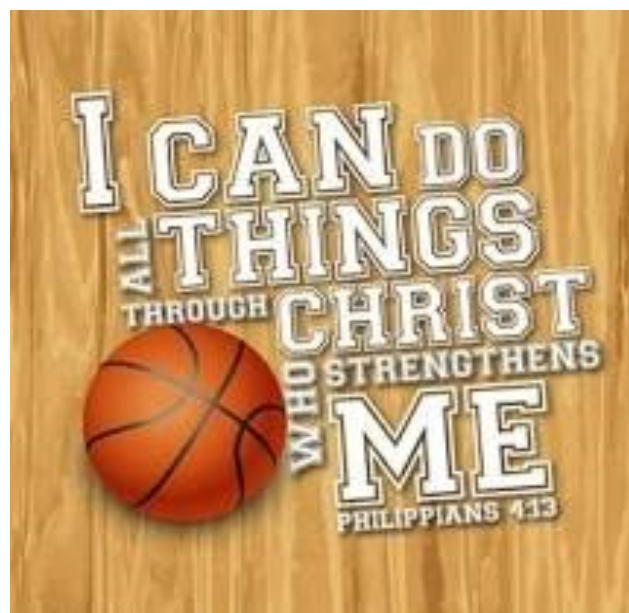
As with everyone else, the COVID-19 pandemic has affected our work in campus ministry...but it has not slowed it down. Some of our regular activities have been shifted to online (for example, our ESL Bible Study which has continued now throughout the summer - with students logging on from not only Pittsburgh, but also various cities in Japan and Brazil), while the internet has also provided us with *new* opportunities. Here's a small sample of just three such avenues for connection, pastoral care, and outreach for Pastor Andr e (please click on the embedded links to view the videos that have just recently become available) -

Podcast interview on "[Personal Spirituality and Virtual Worship: The Changing Nature of Campus Ministry and Pastoral Work During an Epidemic](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WxsLi2sH_Ms)" - with the Beatrice Institute of Pittsburgh (31 March). https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WxsLi2sH_Ms

Panelist for "[Spiritual Self-Care During Times of Uncertainty and Crisis](https://chatham.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=ad45d3e3-7e7d-427f-8ba1-ab9201381bc1)" - webinar sponsored by the Chatham University Diversity & Inclusion Council and Multi-Faith Council; my appearance begins approximately 8:00 minutes in until 14:00 (3 April). <https://chatham.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=ad45d3e3-7e7d-427f-8ba1-ab9201381bc1>

Attendance at weekly online Interfaith Dialogue with the University of Pittsburgh Interfaith Office - [Pastor Andr e was featured in an interview regarding Holy Week/Easter on 19 May. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bZ_LI7VYUwE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bZ_LI7VYUwE)

Your campus mission is still serving the needs of students; God's work continues through your campus ministry, and we need your support. Please, especially in these difficult times for us all, support the ministry financially. You can **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. You can also make **checks** out to First Trinity with "Campus Ministry" in the memo line, and mail to: Campus Mission, 535 N. Neville St., Pittsburgh, PA 15213. If you are a Thrivent member, please contribute through Thrivent Choice to "Lutheran Student Fellowship of Pittsburgh, PA". *MOST IMPORTANTLY, PLEASE PRAY FOR US, AS I DO FOR YOU.*



How Good is That!

by Augusta R. Mennell, Campus Ministry Director

Suri never committed herself to learning what the Christian faith is about. Her parents would not have objected if she had done so. After graduating, she stayed in touch and always welcomed our interest in her life. She told us about the man she married; she had even brought him to a student meal. She talked about the job she was working at – always very long hours – and about her current home in Colorado. It was during the recent phone call just to check in with us that she said something I could not believe I had heard correctly. As we talked about Rev. Loree’s online Sunday worship services, she said that she was watching them. I absolutely doubted that I had really heard her, so she repeated it for me! That was so exciting that I urged her to email Pastor Loree telling him she had listened. He has cared about her and always has asked how she is. Then, after worship last Sunday, Pastor Loree mentioned that she had texted him saying she had watched the service. How good is that! Doors open. Thank you, Lord! We are so thankful that she listened to the worship service.

At Campus Pastor Larry K. Loree’s suggestion, campus ministry emailed many former Slippery Rock University students like Suri to stay in contact with them. Students like Carlos, Mara and Satoru have responded with great joy to our emails, phone calls, and letters. They have never forgotten their home away from home here at All Saints Lutheran Church and Student Center.

“Praise the Lord,” writes Satoru from Japan. He continues, “Thank you for keeping us in your prayers.... I’m still giving thanks to God for using you to bless my life.”

Satoru came to campus ministry Bible classes where he became a Christian. After that he told many students about his faith. He is now a pastor in Tokyo. He still feels deep appreciation for All Saints. He even brought his wife, Kazary, to introduce her after their marriage. In his letter he inquired about Reverend Allan E. Opper, who caringly mentored him. Satoru was glad to say that he would welcome a visit from a Pakistani student who attended SRU and now studies for his MA in Osaka Japan. We know Satoru would lovingly share his life and his faith with this student who is interested in the Christian faith even though he is from a Muslim background. We are thankful for this possible contact.

Carlos from Paraguay is a blessing to hear from. He joyfully calls or emails to wish us a happy birthday or a happy Mother’s Day. He is jubilant that his friends at All Saints have not forgotten him. He was baptized at a Catholic church while in Slippery Rock.

"The Joyappa Family stays in touch with campus ministry." Mala is on the left, Nayan is in the middle and Joyappa is on the right.



How Good Is That! (continued)

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia seems too far away and too remote from which to receive a warm email greeting from Mara and a photo of her darling infant son Bukhuu. Thanks to a Christian who lives in our area, we learned Mara's address and emailed her. She was so thrilled to get our email! She lives with her Shamanist (i.e. based upon witch doctors) parents, who are not pleased with her Christian faith. We are letting her know we are praying for her to find Christian fellowship. She writes "I'm so happy that I was baptized and am a child of God. I want the same to happen for my son."

Through the last twenty years campus ministry has become close friends with the Joyappa family from India. Their three children came here as SRU students and now are married with families here. The mother is Christian, the father is a follower of Zai Baba. Both parents now live in India. When we read that Rev. Edward Naumann is working to establish an LCMS seminary in India, we wondered if we could connect the Joyappa family with the Naumann family. Since trust has been built between us over the years, we were able to ask them if they would like to extend friendship to Rev. Naumann and his family. Having stayed in touch with his family is such a blessing because we're able to share such a possibility. The Joyappa family said they will welcome the contact with Pastor Naumann and his family if it is okay with the Naumann's. Reverend Loree's suggestion has been a priceless opportunity. The results are a blessing.

PSU Campus Ministry Update

by Matt Slaybaugh, DCE, Director of Campus Ministry - Revive

My name is Matt Slaybaugh. I am the Director of Revive Campus Ministry at Penn State in State College, PA. Our campus ministry is connected with Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran (LCMS).

We were on our spring break service trip last March when we received the news. Penn State announced that the next few weeks classes would be moved online due to the coronavirus. Our students quickly scrambled to adjust their plans. Online classes would remain through the semester and now the summer classes. Our regular gatherings on Wednesday evenings were moved to ZOOM. For a time of catching up, bible study, and prayer. We recognized our graduating seniors with a ZOOM celebration. We are excited about Penn State's June 15th announcement that there will be in-person fall classes. However, there will be many changes with new health and safety protocols. Questions loom about what campus life will look like and student organization limitations.

We are always looking to meet incoming or current Penn State main campus students. If you know anyone from your church or community attending I would greatly appreciate receiving their contact info. Please submit their contact information (name, phone number, email address) to me at slaybaugh.matt@gmail.com. If you have other college students, here is a helpful link to locate other LCMS Campus Ministries- <https://www.lcms.org/how-we-serve/national/campus-ministry/lcms-u-chapter-map>. Your prayers are appreciated as we continue in your ministry.

You can follow us at:

Website- revivepsu.com

Facebook- "Revive at Penn State"

Instagram & Twitter- @revivepsu



LOCAL MISSION

Mileposters News

Starting in May, Mileposters activities have been focusing on the Pittsburgh city steps; there are more municipal stairways here than anywhere else in the world, a total of 739, according to the book 'Pittsburgh Steps,' by Bob Regan, and 344 of these are legal streets which consist of nothing but steps. There are even some houses located on these steps; our June event took place at one of these houses, complete with mailbox. The quad stoker team and their mom visited the Middle Street steps on May 24 (pictured--101 steps). The event on June 24 brought four riders from last year together with two prospective new stokers, on the Harpster Street steps, Troy Hill (pictured--45 steps), with trail mom/captain Lenore and a new mom. There are spectacular examples such as Rising Main Way (Fineview, 331 steps, but not the longest), and several instances where one set of city steps intersects another. Three participants in the June event got home by going up the Harpster Street steps to Purse Way (48 steps), turning right, and walking to the top. One of the most spectacular sets, 188 steps, with several turns, connecting Troy Hill Road with East Ohio Street, was recently closed for no apparent reason. On the other hand, the Chestnut Street steps (97) are currently being completely rebuilt. Tandem, single, and kick bike rides have continued as well. Total mileage to raise support for LCMS ministry in hard-hit Puerto Rico is well ahead of this time last year at 838. The goal is three thousand miles.



UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Concordia Lutheran Ministries

Concordia Hospice of Washington (CHOW) will host a drive-in Memorial Butterfly Release on Saturday, August 29, at the Washington County Fairgrounds, 2151 North Main St., Washington, PA 15301. Registration begins at 1 p.m., and the event will commence at 2 p.m. This event is open to anyone who wants to honor and celebrate the memory of their loved ones. Children are welcome. Families or individuals can purchase butterflies to be released at \$10 each and must be purchased in advance by August 1. Due to circumstances surrounding COVID-19 and large events, CHOW is offering three options to make the event memorable and comfortable for your family: you can attend the full event and release your own butterfly (while remaining in or near your car), attend the full event and have a CHOW team member release your butterfly for you, or you can pick up your butterfly during the registration hour and release it later at the place of your choosing, preferably within a few hours. Register or purchase a butterfly by visiting the Events & News page at www.ConcordiaLM.org. For more information, please call 724-250-4500.

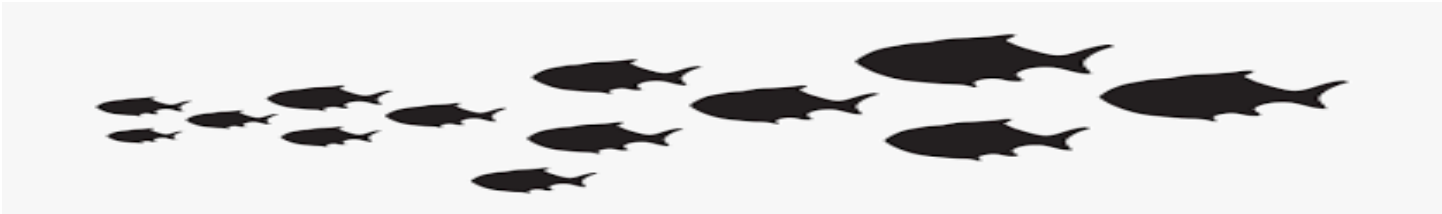


Good Samaritan Hospice, a mission of Concordia Lutheran Ministries, will host a Drive-In Memorial Service & Butterfly Release on Sunday, August 30, 2020 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, located on Lake Arthur, Mt. Zion Baptist Church Rd., Franklin Twp., PA 16052. This two-part event is open to anyone who wants to honor and celebrate the memory of their loved ones. Children are welcome. The unique Memorial Service is free and will be held inside Mt. Zion Baptist Church, with a limited number of people allowed into the sanctuary for the service, to be determined the day of the event. All others will be able to tune into the service in their parked cars via a local radio station. The Butterfly Release will be held after the Memorial Service. Families or individuals can purchase butterflies to be released at \$10 each. Pre-registration and butterfly purchases are required by August 1, 2020 to guarantee a butterfly and help us anticipate the facility needs. You can either release your butterfly with the group or pick it up and release it elsewhere, preferably within a few hours. Register by visiting the Events & News page at www.ConcordiaLM.org or by calling 724-352-1571, ext. 8355.

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

KIDS FISHING DAYS 2020

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Concordia has decided to replace the 2020 Fishing Derby for Kids with a series of Kids Fishing Days for kids ages 14 and under at Saxony Farm Estates. The final of three events will be held on Saturday, August 1, from 8:00 - 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Registration will be required. When registering, you will be asked to select a date and a two-and-a-half-hour time slot. Each session will be limited to 100 total guests, to ensure proper social distancing. We respectfully ask that you please limit the number of adult chaperones in your party, to allow for more kids to be able to fish. Free refreshments and bait will be available. Rather than measuring fish and awarding prizes based on sizes, we will announce door prizes every half hour. A limited number of fishing poles will be on hand for kids to borrow, but participants are encouraged to bring their own. Make sure to bring your lawn chairs or blankets as well. directions. To register go to the Eventbrite website. For more information, call Concordia Public Relations at 724-352-1571, ext. 8268.



ADDITIONAL FISHING NEWS:



Saxony Farm Fishing Day

A total of about 100 enjoyed Concordia's First Saturday Fishing Day at Saxony Farm on July 18. Pictured here is Rev. Robert Wacker and his wife, Katie and son Tobias. Pastor is a chaplain at Concordia Lutheran Ministries and vacancy pastor for Prince of Peace in Freedom.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Penn Hills/Oakmont



Redeemer Lutheran School is enrolling for the 2020-2021 school year!

What does "Excellence" look like for the upcoming year?

- *Full 5-day on-campus instruction
- *Christ-centered learning for grades prek-12th
- *Integrated technology
- *Full curriculum, including music, art, athletics, and physical education
- *Adherence to CDC guidelines for daily cleaning and disinfection

Spread the word about RLS to your friends and neighbors!

For more information on enrollment for the upcoming school year, please contact Alison Jackson at 412-793-5884, admissions@redeemer-oakmont.org, or visit us online at rlspittsburgh.org.

Don't forget to visit us on Facebook as well!



BACK TO SCHOOL

N Y S T D F U L O H M E
 F P C E M X T Q E U P S
 W A L S H I B R V A G W
 O G S T U D Y L T K R A
 R Z D K N J O W D P T N
 K O C R E K S G L U E R
 T S F Y P D O R B Q A D
 E U V A N G E U Z M C E
 J D E Q K W C S E A H Y
 X M O H S I J V K T O L
 L I R N L Z A G B F X C
 B S A T E N P I W E J H



STUDY	TEST
LEARN	ANSWER
TEACH	DESK
WORK	TAPE
DONE	GLUE



ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN
Slippery Rock

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AUGUSTA



Augusta Mennell, Director of Campus Ministries at All Saints Lutheran, Slippery Rock, celebrated her 80th birthday on July 5. In spite of coronavirus limitations her son, William, and family (Amanda, Gracyn, Aedyn, and Owen) came from Woburn, MA, to celebrate. The kids enjoyed baking a special cake and creating a scavenger hunt for their grandma to find her birthday presents.

To make the celebration special, family, friends, church members and former students who Augusta ministered to (and hugged!) over the last 35 years sent in tributes to include in a special birthday book. Many recounted how Augusta made a special impact in their lives and how they see to this day God working through her to reach the local college students.

Praise God for what He has done over the years through Augusta. May He bless her with many more years to do His work.



(Augusta, William, Amanda, Gracyn, Aedyn, and Owen)

NEWS FROM AREA CONGREGATIONS

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

McCandless

We originally had planned on having in-person Mystery Island VBS on July 13-16, but God had other plans! So, instead, Ascension Lutheran Church offered a Virtual VBS—The Armor of God! As of the submission deadline, there were 25 children registered to learn about the Armor of God via an online format. Volunteers videotaped daily Bible lessons, craft instructions, mission lessons, music/songs, and games, as well as receiving a parent devotion for every day of VBS. Thanks in part to a Thrivent Action Team, Take Home Kits (pictures attached separately) were provided to participants that included craft materials, music songbooks, snacks for each day, mission materials, and gift cards/prizes. Our VBS mission was “Christmas in July” for residents and staff at Concordia of Franklin Park and Concordia Lutheran Ministries at The Orchard. The VBS children, their families, and Ascension’s congregation made cards, candy canes, videos, and signs for distribution at the above two Concordia locations. There was also a youth group age component of VBS who participated in the Bible study “Courage That Defies Death” outdoors at the church on the evenings of VBS.



BETHEL

Glenshaw

Bethel welcomed Vicar Donn Woolweber and his wife Debbie as they arrived from California in early July to begin his 1 year vicarage with Zion Lutheran Church and Bethel Lutheran Church. He will be working closely with Dr. Rev. Hahn with the Tri-Parish churches. They bring with them a lot of musical and theatric talents which we hope to tap into with the Tri-Parish project. Bethel has been holding worship service at 10:15 on Sundays, which is also being live streamed on our website: bethelglenshaw.com. We ask those attending to please wear face masks and keep social distance.

We are sad but happy for Robert Meier and Ralph Zacharias who went to their glory home this summer. Ralph was the oldest and longest member of Bethel. His son John and wife Marcy will be joining Bethel since they moved back to Pittsburgh. Mark and Paola Hammer joined Bethel in late June. They are the daughter and son-in-law of a parishioner, Marina Isaac.

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Forest Hills

Anniversary Celebration

Christ Lutheran had a wee bit of a celebration for Pastor Bright’s 30 anniversary in the ministry which was July 1. He received his very own cupcakes and the congregation was invited to get one after the service. Cal Eggers gave the Pastor a token of our appreciation and his wife Alma presented Pastor with his treats.



NEWS FROM AREA CONGREGATIONS

CONCORDIA LUTHERAN

Brentwood

Concordia Lutheran Church - teaming up with the Bhutanese Community Association of Pittsburgh and Squirrel Hill Health - have conducted Coronavirus testing, free of charge, to our Brentwood, Baldwin, and Carrick neighbors this summer.

On June 9th, June 18th, July 6th and July 14th, Concordia hosted Squirrel Hill Health's mobile medical unit, as they conducted this vital testing to the community, and especially to our Nepali-Bhutanese neighbors. Over 100 people were tested each time, and by this work, we've opened up another avenue of outreach to our newest neighbors.

Our worship can still be seen weekly on Youtube. Simply type in "Concordia Pittsburgh" and there will be our most recent service, with many previous ones available as well. A Wednesday weekly

devotional is also available on Wednesday mornings at 11:00 a.m. We also began fund raising to upgrade our cameras and equipment so that we can move to "live" broadcasts in the near future.



MT. CALVARY

Westview



The basement is finished! Mt. Calvary in West View has a completely renovated basement and kitchen, thanks to members and friends of the congregation who repaired and painted walls, put in new lighting and ceiling fans, and installed new flooring. Room dividers have been purchased, but will not be put into use yet, unlike the new tables, which were utilized for the inaugural activity.

The kitchen was part of the renovation, which included fresh paint, new flooring, and a refrigerator

Mt. Calvary's annual summer picnic had to be relocated from Wall Park in McCandless Township because the park is closed. However, rather than cancel the picnic, council decided to hold it in the refurbished basement and stage it with a luau theme. Held July 19, the morning started with a worship service at 11 a.m., followed by a luncheon, and included festive decorations, games, door prizes, and much fellowship. More details next month!

On a more somber note, our sympathy and prayers are extended to Pastor and Nikkie Kuntz and their family on the recent passing of Nikkie's father, Robert Forrester. Both Nikkie and Pastor had been spending as much time as possible with him while he was in hospice care.

HOLY CROSS EVANGELICAL-LUTHERAN CHAPEL

Hazelwood

Serving During Change

Although I only speak from a week's experience as the new Vicar of Holy Cross Lutheran Chapel in Hazelwood, I can nonetheless speak confidently that the Spirit of Christ is active in this church. Foundationally, the Spirit is given to the congregation in the faithful administration of Word and Sacrament. But, as is meet and right, the tree is known by its fruit. And much fruit is being produced. The tireless and joyful workers in the food and clothing distribution center help meet the needs of the Hazelwood community, COVID-19 or not. Though it distributes food every other Saturday, its doors are open most days of the week for those who express need. It is a selfless and generous mission, one for which many are grateful and become interested in the church. I know that my appreciation for and knowledge of the mercy going on in this church will continue to deepen during my year as Vicar.

The opportunities for growth and outreach are tremendous in this congregation. Already this year, there are 4 adult catechesis members and 3 youth preparing for confirmation classes. There are many more to be reached in the community of Hazelwood, to be, oddly enough, caught in the freeing net of the Gospel. The current pandemic has only ripened the harvest. Hope is needed more than ever, and it is to be found at Holy Cross: in the forgiveness of sins, the comfort of reconciliation with God, and the peace of guilt-laden consciences eased of their burdens. It is here to be found in the joyful actions of its members to meet the physical needs of their neighbors. It is here to be found, because it is here that Christ Himself is found in Word and Sacrament.

Assuredly, a sinful Vicar will embark upon this time of learning and experience to interact and care for other sinners in the congregation and community. But, as Rev. Spittel preached at my Installation service, sinners being forgiven is a much greater thing than being installed as a Vicar. It is this comfort that will preserve Holy Cross and its new Vicar this year, come what may. And it is this comfort that will enliven the lives of sinners to radiate hope to the hopeless, good news to the downtrodden, so that they too may know God's gracious purposes for them. May the Triune God richly bless this endeavor and mission.

As of now, there are Matins services offered Tuesday-Sunday (9:30 a.m. every day except Sunday when it is at 8:30 a.m.), Wednesday Noonday Prayer followed by Bible Study, Friday Stations of the Cross (12:00 p.m.), dinner is offered twice a month followed by Catechetical Vespers (Dinner at 5:00, Vespers at 6:30), and there is church every Sunday at 9:30, followed by Bible Study at 11:00 (every other week is Divine Service).

The restoration of Holy Cross continues to proceed at a nice pace. The stain glass windows are currently being repaired and other plans for fixing up the church are under way. Lastly, we still hope to put on the Hazelwood Community Day in August, pandemic restrictions permitting, at which various tents and displays from Lutheran organizations and the Hazelwood community will showcase and promote their work. It is in Christian hope that we look forward to the blessings God has in store for Holy Cross this upcoming year.



Vicar Silas Hasselbrook was born December 22, 1995 in Pittsburgh, PA and baptized nine days later on New Year's Eve at First Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church by Rev. Joseph Brennan. After living in Iowa for a year, he attended Zion Classical Lutheran School in Fort Wayne, IN as his father attended seminary. After living in Waco, Texas for a year (father's vicarage), he moved to St. Louis as his father pursued a PhD. He lived in Missoula, Montana the longest and attended Loyola Sacred Heart Highschool. Upon graduation, he attended Concordia University Wisconsin on academic, piano, and organ scholarships pursuing the pre-requisites for Pharmacy, a Parish Music Degree, and Philosophy and Bioethics minors. It was on the college track team where he met his wife, Moira, as they were, initially, the only two hurdlers for the university. Moira was born and raised in and around Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Both Silas and Moira graduated from Concordia May 2018, Moira with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Both come from large families, Silas being the oldest of twelve, and Moira the oldest of six. (Vicar Silas Hasselbrook, silas.hasselbrook@ctsfw.edu 920-658-5190)

NEWS FROM AREA CONGREGATIONS

REDEEMER LUTHERAN

Oakmont

Redeemer Oakmont has kept busy over the last few months. We've sent cards to our shut-ins, we've gathered food items and more for Rosedale Food Pantry, and we even hosted a blood bank.



Secretary for Redeemer Lutheran Church

Redeemer is looking for a good Christian person to become our Church secretary. This is a part time position without benefits. Normal hours would be 3 to 4 hours a day Tuesday through Friday, starting the day between 9 and 10 am. The salary starts at \$8.00 per hour, depending on level of experience, possibly increasing at 6 months. The work load is heavier at seasonal times in the church year (e.g., leading into Christmas or Easter), and so the position typically requires more hours during those months and fewer hours in the summer months in order to achieve a balanced salary budget. This is dictated by a yearly budget for this position.

Basic duties will include:

Preparing worship bulletins, Redeemer's monthly newsletter and other letters and documents as needed.

Answering the phone, taking general messages and sorting the mail.

Ordering office and worship supplies as needed.

Maintaining Redeemer's Church records.

Maintaining a good organized office, and equipment.

Good basic secretarial skills will be needed such as understanding Microsoft products, the internet and e-mail, along with the understanding of copying equipment.

If you would like to apply, please contact.

Dave Bernhardt at 412-848-8771.

TRI-PARISH (BETHEL-Glenshaw, ST. JOHN'S-Millvale and ZION- Lawrenceville)

Vicar Donn Woolweber was installed as vicar for the Tri-parish on Sunday, July 12 during a worship service at Zion in Lawrenceville.

Born in Wisconsin, Vicar Woolweber, at age four, planned to be a doctor. His pastor told him in 8th grade he would make a fine Lutheran minister. When he was 17, he went on tour with the Brothers and Sisters as the youngest singer, dancer and actor.

Three years later he was married and over the next 30 years his career was rooted in music education as a high school music director and principal as well as the high school football head coach, basketball referee, professional emcee and radio personality. Having graduated from University of Wisconsin with a BFA, he earned an MS at Cardinal Stritch University where he served as the director of vocal music. During that time, he and his first wife had a son Peter, who died at 7 months, daughter Amie who is now 38 and Eric, age 32.

In 2005, he moved to California where he landed a co-starring role in a movie and found a church where he met Debbie. They married in 2010 and together founded a classical and educational theatre company "Shakespeare At Play" where they wrote curriculum for two school districts. Until 2017, they were also caregivers for Debbie's mom and another 90+ year old. Both have performed in live theatre, television and radio but also made their mark in sports and athletics. Despite this circuitous path, God led them to St. Louis to become an LCMS pastor and "work for the greatest employer in the universe."

Tri-Parish is pleased to welcome Vicar Donn and Debbie into our fold and eager to work with him over the next year. He will be supervised by Rev. Dr. Dan Hahn.



Remembering a Concordia Original



In 1970, Concordia Lutheran Ministries named a new administrator: the late Horst Schwalm. Over his 15-year tenure at Concordia, he gave Concordia the blessings of strong faith, compassion and, perhaps one of his best contributions, the presence of his beloved wife, Eleanor. The Lord welcomed Eleanor home to be with Him forever on May 28, 2020, at the age of 98, after having lived over half of her life at Concordia – and giving so much of her time, talents and treasure to our residents and our history.

In 2018, Concordia started the Horst & Eleanor Schwalm Faith in Caring Award, an honor that would go to a single Concordia volunteer (or group of volunteers) who truly goes above and beyond in service to others. This award is just a small representation of Horst and Eleanor’s legacy, as they both left Concordia better than they found it, inspiring their friends and family with their generosity and love. Helping to shape the heart and soul of an entire organization is no easy feat, and Eleanor put her all into Concordia year after year. She was a pillar of Faith in Caring, and she will be dearly missed.

Remembering Stephen Johnson

Stephen W. Johnson, Concordia’s current Chairman of the Concordia Lutheran Ministries Board, passed into eternity on Thursday, June 11 at the Good Samaritan Hospice Inpatient Unit. He was a man of great faith, wisdom and character. He was first elected to the Concordia Lutheran Ministries’ Board of Directors in November 2001 and has served consecutive terms since. He was most recently elected as Chairman of the Board once again in December 2019 after serving in the role for more than 12 years of his terms on the board. As Chairman of the Board, Stephen wrote many letters for Concordia’s Annual Reports that summed up Concordia’s year and vision for the future, and his words were always God-centered and mission-driven. He signed these letters “Soli Deo Gloria” – To God Alone Be the Glory. Stephen lived by these words, he inspired everyone around him with a clear, Godly vision. Concordia may have lost a Chairman of the Board, but heaven has gained a humble soul redeemed by Christ. Soli Deo Gloria.



Nursing Educational Opportunity

On the Concordia Blog, we have an article and video about how a partnership between Concordia and Butler County Community College will help more people than ever realize their dream of becoming a nurse! Check it out, and feel free to SHARE with anyone who might enjoy or benefit. Thanks!

<https://www.concordialm.org/blog/concordia-and-bc3-partnership-aims-to-make-an-impact-on-the-nursing-shortage>

Concordia at Villa St. Joseph Breaks Ground on Personal Care Expansion

Concordia at Villa St. Joseph, located in Baden, PA, broke ground on a new personal care expansion on Wednesday, June 8, at 10:30 a.m. The day's celebrations were marked with a formal ceremony and blessing held at the campus (1030 State St., Baden, PA 15005).

The expansion will be an 82,000 square foot building, adding 78 personal care beds and 33 memory care beds to the campus, which already offers short-term rehabilitation, long-term nursing care and outpatient physical therapy. The personal care expansion will feature an enclosed courtyard for memory care residents, a dedicated Chapel, several activity rooms, multipurpose spaces, an outdoor patio off the great room space and a pond water feature.

Concordia Lutheran Ministries acquired Concordia at Villa St. Joseph in 2018, and this is the organization's first building project in Baden. Concordia looks forward to further developing their mission in Baden and serving the people of Beaver County in this exciting new expansion for many years to come.

For more information about the new expansion or the continuum of care already offered at Concordia at Villa St. Joseph, please call 724-869-6300. Visit the facility online at www.ConcordiaVillaStJoseph.org.



Pictured at the CVSJ Groundbreaking are:

Dave Drane, Director of Facilities; Rev. Dr. Dan Hahn, parent board member; Sister Ann Green, Family Liaison to Sister Residents Rachelle Arnold, CVSJ Administrator; Sister Mary Pellegrino, former Congregational Moderator for Sisters of St. Joseph, Sister Sharon Costello, Congregational Moderator for Sisters of St. Joseph, Leadership Team; Keith E. Frndak, President and CEO; Brian K Hortert, COO; Hope Rouda, Vice President, Personal Care; Jim Wolf, parent board member and Concordia of Pittsburgh director.

Your Dream for Free: An Informational Session on becoming an RN at Concordia



Dr. Patricia Annear, EdD
MSN RN CNE

Get an insider's look into BC3's nursing program and how Concordia's Tuition Assistance Program can turn your dreams into reality.

We invite you to join us in conversation with Dr. Patricia Annear, Dean of Butler County Community College's Nursing and Allied Health Division, at any one of the three Concordia sites she will be presenting at in July.

Dr. Annear will provide an in-depth look at the curriculum for BC3's RN program and also intends to give our employees a sneak peek of their LPN program that is expected to launch in fall 2021.

▶ **Tuesday, July 21**

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Concordia at Cabot
Lund Care Center Conference Room
134 Marwood Road
Cabot, PA 16023

Deadline to Register: Friday, July 17

▶ **Tuesday, July 28**

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Concordia at Villa St. Joseph
Heritage Hall
1030 State Street
Baden, PA 15005

Deadline to Register: Friday, July 24

▶ **Thursday, July 30**

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Concordia at Rebecca Residence
Chapel
3746 Cedar Ridge Road
Allison Park, PA 15101

Deadline to Register: Monday, July 27

All sessions will commence at 1:00 pm with an hour-long presentation and Q & A. From 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Dr. Annear will meet one-on-one with interested employees to continue a personalized and private discussion about your unique inquiries.

Registration is required for each session. Please email BC3NursingProgram@concordialm.org to express your interest. HR will assist you with scheduling a session that works bests for you.



We're excited for YOUR future! Please join us for this exclusive opportunity!