



THE PITTSBURGH LUTHERAN

VOL 92, NO 7, September 2020

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The following link is the PALM 2020 Annual Report:
https://pub.lucidpress.com/PALM_Annual_Report_2020/

PALM DEVOTION

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

"September of our Lives"

*Even to your old age I am he,
and to gray hairs I will carry you.
I have made, and I will bear;
I will carry and will save. – Isaiah 46:4*



September is a month that brings the refreshment of cool Autumn breezes, a new school year, and the return of many fall programs in the Church. The Feast of St. Michael and All Angels heralds the coming of the festival half of the Church's year. September also stands as a metaphor for growing older, reminiscing about the days of the Spring and Summer of our lives, and relishing the last warm days before the frosts and darkness of Winter descend upon us. Frank Sinatra devoted an entire album to the "September of My Life" on his fiftieth birthday in 1965.

Reminiscing brings fond memories. Visiting places of our personal history evokes visions of our children when they were little and ourselves when we were young. Such remembrance may also evoke regrets or a sense of a time of innocence that has been lost. Sinatra sang, "I find that I'm sighing softly as I near September, the warm September of my years." But the September of our lives is not intended to be simply a time of reminiscence or regret. Holy Scripture teaches us that even though our lives change with time, our Lord and His grace never change. In our youth, our maturity, even to our old age, it is the Lord who carries and saves us. He has not only made us, He bears us up through all of the changes and chances of this earthly life.

We can fondly remember days gone by as gifts that our Lord has given us that made us and our children who we are today. We can contextualize our regrets in the forgiveness that Christ has won for us on the cross. All of our remembrance is taken up into the eternal Supper in which Jesus gives us His Body and Blood for the forgiveness of sins calling us to joyfully do this in remembrance of Him.

September is a time for remembrance, and it is also a time to live. Live abundantly in the Lord. Commit your ways to Him. Joyfully look ahead to the days to come and remember that it is He who bears you up yesterday, today, and forever.



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

pittarealutheran@gmail.com
412-407-3306

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

September

13. 3rd Annual History Event, Cemeteries of Lawrenceville, 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Held at:
Zion Ev. Lutheran Church
237 37th Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15201

26. P.A.L.g.S. Golf outing, Victory Hills Golf Course *THIS EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELED*

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.WE PRAY THAT ALL OF YOU ARE SAFE AND HEALTHY.



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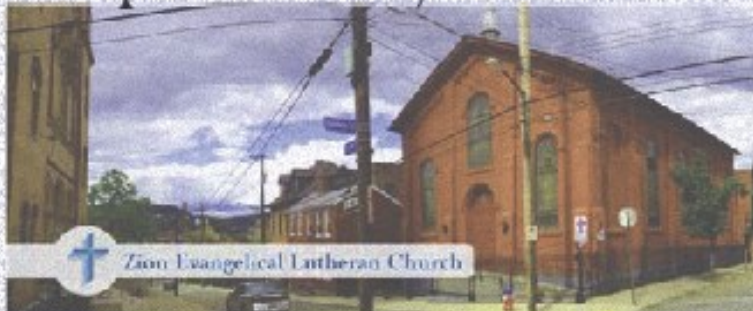
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PALM Website
<http://www.palmpa.org>

3rd Annual History Event Cemeteries of Lawrenceville

September 13, 2020- 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.



Held at:

Zion Ev. Lutheran Church
237 37th Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15201

1:30 p.m. - Jude Wudarczyk, a local historian, author, lecturer, and tour guide will explore Lawrenceville's lost resting place in his presentation "The Lawrenceville Burying Ground."

2:15 p.m. - Dr. Elisabeth Roark is a professor of art history and museum studies at Chatham University. She received her Ph.D. and MA from Pitt and her undergraduate degree from Allegheny College. Her presentation "Allegheny Cemetery: a Garden of Graves" will focus on the history, landscape, and some of the magnificent monuments of Allegheny Cemetery.

3 p.m. - Jim Wudarczyk, local historian, author and researcher for the Lawrenceville Historical Society and the Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Round Table will be giving a presentation on Saint Mary's Cemetery, "A Look at Lawrenceville's Other Cemetery". Founded in 1849, it is the final resting place of many notable Pittsburghers.

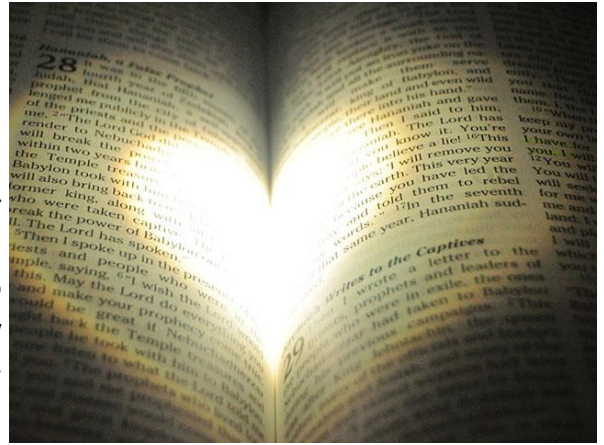
**Free to the public: Reservations and Face Masks are required.
Please call: 412-621-2720 to make your reservation, please
leave name and phone number**

SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY

That They May Know the Truth

by Augusta R. Mennell, Campus Ministry Director

She used to read the Bible all the time. It was a familiar sight to see her clutching her cup of coffee while pouring over her well-marked Bible. I was puzzled when she no longer read from her Bible. She assured me that she now reads it online so she can easily compare translations. Instead, she assiduously studies a book on miracles.



Miracles are such an interesting topic that I asked her what the book said. She answered that I probably would not understand the book because it was too complicated and filled with difficult terminology. This piqued my interest so I ordered a copy of the book. I wondered if it would give me information I could use in my own personal Bible studies, or perhaps information I could share with college students during our Bible classes at All Saints Lutheran Church and Student Center.

As I browsed through this book on miracles I discovered that it mixed a few words from the Bible with many psychological terms. The book promoted peace through self-awareness; promoted universalism by saying that God is in every religion; and also promoted the idea that everyone basically is good. The “miracles” referred to in the book title seem to be the power we have from ourselves. The book is not based on God’s Word in any way.

Why does this book that my friend is reading matter? What difference does the teaching about miracles make? It matters because the teaching is completely false. It is the kind of teaching students will be exposed to when they attend college online or on campus.

Campus ministry at All Saints is here to help students learn the truth from the Bible. To do this we win their trust through our actions. We show them that we will help them. Then they will be comfortable in listening arguably to our advice which is based on the Bible.

We did this for Anuj and we will do it for Brent. We did this by helping both Anuj and Brent.

Anuj called asking campus ministry for help. He had left all of his belongings in his Slippery Rock apartment when the virus closed down the Slippery Rock University campus. He called from Virginia to say he had to remove his belongings immediately or his landlord would throw them out. Anuj is Buddhist, yet had come to our student meals and had lunch with us at Bob’s Sub Shop. Even if he had not, we would have helped him. Normally, All Saints campus pastor, Reverend Larry Loree, would have immediately helped, but he was on vacation. So I asked a Bangladeshi professor we know and my husband Jim to help. They carried his belongings to All Saints where Anuj can pick them up when SRU classes begin again. It was hard work for the men because they had to climb up two flights of stairs, but they were glad to help. Our Nepali student is so appreciative that he asked how he could repay us. Our answer is that it was a blessing to be able to help. All we really wanted was the chance to continue our friendship and possibly the opportunity to share our faith, so that he would hear of the truth that is Jesus. We really want him to know that there is a significant difference between false teaching like the universalism presented in the miracle book and the teaching of Christianity. The actions of helping him move his belongings may open a spiritual door.

CAMPUS MINISTRY

That They May Know The Truth (Continued)

Brent (not his real name) called to find out when All Saints will hold the Korean student meals. He is a senior at SRU, who will take his classes online while living at home in Pittsburgh. Although it is a one-hour drive, he plans to attend the student meals. He enjoys the company of other students and the delicious foods prepared by Jo Dublin, but he most enjoys the company of Bob. Bob is a Christian who practices his Christian faith. He loves college students. He is friendly, a senior citizen, and deeply involved with helping Jo Dublin and Korean students. Although Brent is not Korean himself, he feels that Bob is a grandfather figure who is easy to talk with. Brent has been straightforward with campus ministry in saying that he is not especially interested in Christianity. Nevertheless, he plans to attend any meals we might have in spite of the virus, just so that he can visit with Bob. All Saints prays that this friendship will encourage faith.

Whatever it takes, All Saints fellowship wants college students to know the Gospel is true. We believe God can help us do this in spite of the virus and in spite of false teaching.

Welcome Amy Kuszynski!



PENN STATE UNIVERSITY

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

After continuing trips by Mileposters riders, the Miles to Go 2020 campaign to raise support for LCMS work in Puerto Rico stands at 1,804 miles--the goal is 3,000. Although nearly three years have gone by since Hurricanes Irma and Maria devastated the already-poor island, with 75,000 houses needed to replace those destroyed in 2017, none have been built. 20,000 existing houses still have the familiar blue emergency tarps, now worn and torn. Earthquakes have further damaged structures, and the coronavirus is taking its toll. Puerto Rico had been hoping to welcome tourists back to help rebuild its crippled economy, but a spike in cases in August, matching several mainland states, meant that visitors still had to be turned away, with only one airport open out of three. In addition, a drought emergency has been declared--in some areas, water is shut off for 24 hours every other day. Herds of animals, accustomed to living off abundant vegetation, are getting thin. While an appeal letter will be sent out later, those who would like to assist Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Mayagüez may send packages. Some of the most-needed items are diapers, wipes, white rice, and D and C batteries. United States Postal Service flat-rate boxes are usually the least expensive way to send items. Please mail packages to:

Iglesia Luterana Príncipe de Paz
Buzón 409 Bo. Rio Hondo
Mayagüez, Puerto Rico 00680

Among several rides on the Riverfront Trail, the July 24 trip (pictured) saw two grandparent captains bring five of their grandchildren to join the group leader in visiting the fishpond at the Branchport Boat Club--another five miles.



Two new riders made a five-mile round trip on the Youghiogheny River Trail (Great Allegheny Passage) between Buena Vista and Douglas Run on August 2, pictured at Milepost 29. One of them may become the newest Mileposters trail mom. Five riders rode eight miles with the leader on August 5, from Dravo Landing (pictured), at Milepost 25, to the ice cream stand at Douglas Run, past Milepost 29. So far in the season, twenty rides have been made on this trail--connecting to the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal towpath in Cumberland, MD, it takes riders to Washington, DC. Trips have been made by over a dozen different riders.



LOCAL MISSION

HOLY CROSS EVANGELICAL-LUTHERAN CHAPEL: Serving During Change

Hazelwood- Vicar Silas Hasselbrook

Engaging and Collaborating with the Hazelwood Community

An important aspect of planting a mission church, and the health of any church for that matter, is community involvement. This communicates to the neighborhood that you are invested in the general well-being of the area and its residents. This also creates many good connections that may result in visitors coming to church and being interested in how our theology relates to our actions.

On August 4th, Holy Cross organized and participated in a local Community clean-up day. Members of Holy Cross partnered with a group of teenagers (the group's name Being Grounded) to clean up the area surrounding the church. This group of young men does both volunteer work and paid work in the neighborhood throughout the summer, in efforts to clean up trash, mow lawns, assist elderly and disabled residents—in general, to make the neighborhood look nicer and well kept. They are required, under the supervision of Joey and Ashley (2 community leaders) to do 4 hours of supervised work and 4 hours of work on their own each week.

The Community clean-up day lasted from 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. with nearly 20 volunteers that picked up trash, trimmed hedges, swept sidewalks, cut grass, edged lawns, and pulled weeds around the church, in addition to cutting down grass in overgrown lawns and assisting nearby residents with their properties. We also ordered sacked lunches from Dylamato's a local market and deli. Additionally, thanks to a fund from Thrivent, we were able to purchase tools for the church and distribute 'Live Generously' shirts to the participants.

This is but one example of how the Holy Cross mission is active in and with the community of Hazelwood. Currently, I attend meetings for Hazelwood Initiative and Greater Hazelwood Community, in addition to shopping at local stores, talking with various store owners, going to the mechanic here in town, walking up and down the streets of the neighborhood and speaking with residents. Currently, we are supporting a food pantry at a Propel charter school in our area, K-8th grade, that distributes food to 10-15 families.



We are also helping them provide uniforms for the children, and Holy Cross is listed on a pamphlet given to students and parents as a place for free food and clothing. We are also listed as a place of mercy during the pandemic in the local newspaper and I have been writing an article each month for the newspaper. All of these efforts serve to continue to make Holy Cross a vital component of the community as well as give prominence to our location and willingness to serve, not only physical needs, but the spiritual need for the forgiveness that is in Christ. All the success and good that comes from these endeavors must be attributed to God alone, and it is Him that we trust will continue our efforts in a manner that pleases Him and conforms to His gracious will.

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Concordia Lutheran Ministries

The most popular event Concordia Lutheran Ministries sponsors is the traditional Oktoberfest the first Saturday in October. In recent years, we have hosted as many as 1600 people during the hours of 4 – 8 p.m. to sample the traditional German menu, enjoy the polka band or feast their eyes on a spectacular fireworks display. While the day as it usually appears will be cancelled this year, fireworks will be celebrated. Details will be forthcoming.



While official open houses at our retirement communities in Cabot and South Hills are cancelled, personal visits are encouraged, and outstanding discounts are being offered. Call Peggy Trettel at 724-352-5378 at Haven I or Christie Wahlen at 724-294-1351 to arrange a tour. In addition, Concordia of Monroeville offers one one-bedroom apartment for independent living. Call Melissa Sullivan at 724-316-2464.

**“Serving the Triune God
by providing for the needs
of His people.”**

(Vision Statement of Concordia Lutheran Ministries)

OUR HOUSES OF WORSHIP

By Shirley Freyer

The first of a series featuring our area churches.

ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH AND STUDENT CENTER

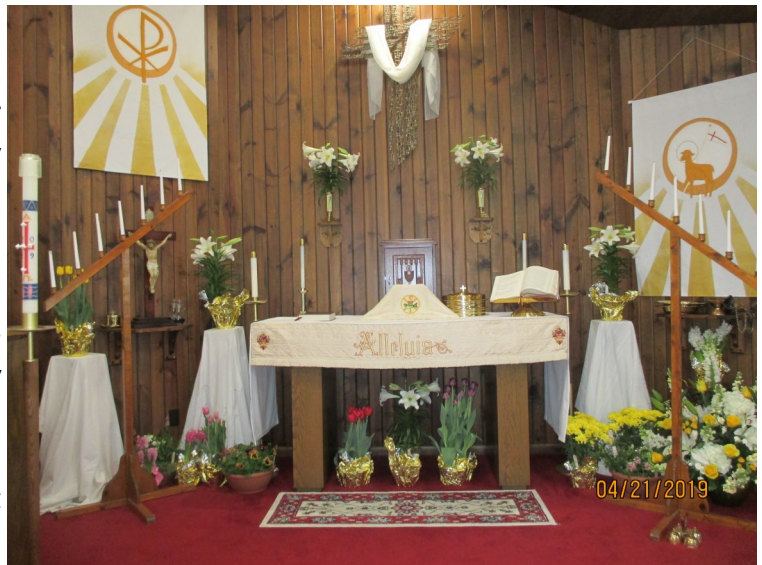
351 South Main Street, Slippery Rock, PA 16057 724-794-4334

www.rocklutheran.org

Nestled in the heart of Slippery Rock University (SRU) stands All Saints Lutheran Church and Student Center. Founded on Reformation Day (October 31) 1977 by Dr. Norris Crook who taught Behavioral Science in the Psychology Department to serve students, "All Saints is still reaching out with the hands of Jesus to meet the needs of American and international students at SRU and Grove City College," according to its website.

Even its e-mail address bespeaks its location - Rocklutheran and its name - All Saints - reveals its vision to personally connect with our community through a rigorous social ministry that is Christ-centered and fulfills Jesus' commandment to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Once inside the homey chapel, you can feel the warmth and welcome of people like Augusta Mennell, director of campus ministry and her professor husband Dr. Jim Mennell who arrived in 1984 from Iowa City. Having met at the campus ministry while studying at the University of Iowa, they came well-equipped when Jim accepted a teaching position at SRU. The couple is the backbone of the congregation of 50 according to Rev. Dr. Jamison J,



Hardy, Bishop of the English District. "All Saints has a rich tradition of caring for the students on the campus of Slippery Rock," he said "While pastors have come and gone, Augusta Mennell has been the constant on behalf of the church and the Gospel message." (Pastors Loree and Hardy grew up together in Michigan where Pastor Loree's father was a minister.)

What is a day in the life of a director of campus ministry look like? With a background as a teacher, Augusta said her "call" on September 1, 1992 was "a wonderful blessing." She does whatever needs to be done when it comes to the student population. She calls them, e-mail them, provides meals and one-on-one Bible study, transportation or just a "willing ear."

Augusta calls the church a loving place to reach out and do the Lord's work and credits campus pastor, Rev. Lawrence K. Loree and his associate, Rev. Todd A. Seaver. They are a likely team as both are graduates of Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne only two years apart and both previously served at Holy Ghost Lutheran Church and School in Monroe, MI before coming to All Saints in 2016.

Our Houses of Worship (Continued)

Pastor Loree noted, "All Saints rigorously pursues establishing relationships with the international students at SRU." Special programming (before the pandemic) includes a monthly student Korean meal enjoyed by students and members of the community. All Saints member, Dr. Kelsey Madsen, French professor at nearby Grove City College and Pastor Loree meet weekly during the school year to engage Lutheran students in an event called Lunch with Luther.

The church has partnered with FEED MY SHEEP, the local food pantry in Slippery Rock. Narcotics Anonymous meets on Thursday nights.

The church has a core group of lay people who are focused on the rights things and although they are small in number, they are functionally strong, Pastor Loree emphasized. Members Linda Domanski PhD, who teaches at Westminster College along with the former mayor of Slippery Rock who founded and ran a travel agency which is now operated by their daughter, Sonya, initiated the links with international students. -

His newest members, Deaconess Heather and Aaron Wathall and their three children share their reason for choosing All Saints. "All Saints is the community our family needed when we moved to the North side of Butler. Worship is central to the community and provides the structure our family thrives on. Pastor Loree is accessible and invested in shepherding the flock there, both members and college students. Mrs. Mennell's approach has made Sunday School like a trip to Grandma's where the kids know they are loved by their Savior and their church family."



He invites all to a traditional divine service with Holy Communion at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Sunday School for ages 3 and up as well as Adult Bible Class convene at 9:15 a.m. and will resume on September 13. Youth in 7th to 12th grade attend the Adult Doctrine Matters class at 9:45 a.m. In addition, from September to May a Wednesday evening prayer sung acapella is held at 6:30 p.m. And to sample the local flavor, Pastor Loree suggests a visit to the well-known North Country Brewing for lunch!

Pastor Loree began to serve the residents at Concordia Lutheran Ministries on a part-time basis this past March as the pandemic seized much opportunity to work with students. He loves the pure ministry aspect of the chaplaincy work. "Sharing Jesus, talking with people in front of me – it's fantastic and confirms my calling." He sees a lot of positives during this time, however. "I find myself staying more connected with my congregation, checking on people on a regular basis," His 101-year-old member is a source of strength for him during these difficult days.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN SCHOOL


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

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

BOOKS
DESK
ERASER
GLUE
LUNCHBOX
MATH

NOTEBOOK
PAPER
PENCIL
PLAYGROUND
READING
RECESS

RULER
STUDENT
TEACHER
WRITING



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NEWS FROM AREA CONGREGATIONS

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

McCandless

From July 13-16, 2020, Ascension Lutheran Church hosted its first virtual VBS! With the help of 12 volunteers, we were able to share the Word of God with 22 kids! Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we decided to host a virtual VBS. To accomplish this, we asked volunteers to create videos leading activities for our usual sessions (Bible Time, music, missions, games, and crafts). We then put together Take-Home Kits for each family filled with supplies they would need to complete the activities.

During VBS, the children learned about the Armor of God. They learned how the Belt of Truth helps defend them against Satan's lies. Next, they learned about how the Breastplate of Righteousness (from Jesus) protects their hearts from sin and allows them to be right with God. On Day Three, they learned that they always need to be ready to share or defend the Gospel of Jesus to others. Finally, they learned how the shield protects their weaknesses, the helmet protects their thoughts, and the sword guides them into Godly living.

For our Missions activity this year, we sponsored Christmas in July. VBS and church families made 210 cards for residents and staff of Concordia of Franklin Park and The Orchard. We also created a video compilation of Christmas carols to share with the residents. God provided and answered our prayers!



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Forest Hills

When was the last time that you saw a hanging pumpkin? Well, journey to the Garden of Eatin' at Christ Lutheran and you can see one!

The garden is big and beautiful. And yes, that is a cantaloupe peeking out from the green. Some of the produce is being shared with The Rankin Christian Center. Cucumbers, cabbage and zucchini have already been harvested.



P.A.L.g.S. GOLF OUTING CANCELLED

I am sorry to report that we will again be cancelling the September 26, 2020 P.A.L.g.S. golf outing at Victory Hills Golf Course. For everyone's safety I felt this was the best thing to do.

On a brighter note we are on the schedule for the last Saturday in April and September for the next outings. So, mark your calendars for April 24, 2021 and September 25, 2021. We look forward to seeing everyone in the Spring.

CONCORDIA LUTHERAN

Brentwood

Congratulations to Lacey Lynn Mersky (and her parents, Jordan & Candice), baptized at Concordia on August 2

Congratulations to Norm & Margie Schumm, who celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on July 30

Congratulations to Pat & Alice Holzer, who celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on August 28

Our Sunday School for all ages will resume on Sunday, Sept.13, at 9:15 a.m.

NEWS FROM AREA CONGREGATIONS

MT. CALVARY

Westview

Mt. Calvary in West View put a new spin on the old axiom of when life gives you lemons, make lemonade: when life gave the world the Coronavirus, Mt. Calvary turned its annual summer picnic into an indoor luau (without the pig roast!). Recognizing the perfect opportunity to showcase the newly renovated basement, the Women's Tuesday Outreach Committee spent the previous weeks setting up the new tables and decorating with colorful tablecloths, tropical paper flowers and palm trees, and plastic pineapple lights.

The guests were attired in vibrant garb befitting a tropical atmosphere and received a lei upon entering to complete their outfits. After the church service, everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch followed by games and prizes, an auction for gift baskets and items donated by members of the congregation and local businesses, and Bingo.

An even more important highlight at the luau was the celebration of 25 years of Pastor Scott Kuntz's ordination. He has been serving at Mt. Calvary since 2003. Council Vice President Jim Heinrichs presented Pastor Kuntz with a new traveling communion set as a thank-you for his faithful ministry.

The Sunday after the luau, Mt. Calvary resumed regular church services both in the sanctuary and via Zoom.



After having decorated the church basement at their Tuesday night meetings, Mt. Calvary's Outreach Committee enjoyed the church luau.



At the church luau, Pastor Scott Kuntz received a traveling communion set from the congregation in celebration of the 25th anniversary of his ordination

REDEEMER LUTHERAN

Oakmont

Alexander Pappa was confirmed on Pentecost by Pastor Westgate at Redeemer Lutheran Church. Alexander is the son of Edward & Linnea Pappa and just completed eighth grade at Redeemer Lutheran School.

Redeemer Lutheran School is gearing up to begin the 2020-2021 school year, with August 26th as our first day of classes. Redeemer will be holding classes onsite, 5 days per week. Please lift up Redeemer's faculty and families in prayer as we seek to continue our tradition of providing quality education during this time of uncertainty.



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

Dear Family in Christ:

This is Vicar Donn Woolweber and my wife, Debbie inviting you to join us every Tuesday afternoon at 3:00 pm for inspired and powerful prayer in a ministry called Prayer Warriors. The location is at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church 237 37th Street, Pittsburgh PA 15201.

Prayer Warriors is a powerful and essential ministry that was started by Debbie over two years ago while we were still in St. Louis during my Seminary Education. Among many things, Debbie worked at The Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) international home office and had significant contact with people all around the nation needing prayer for themselves and others they know and love. The number of prayer requests outweighed the focused efforts of those employed at LHM. With that being the case, Debbie and I met with Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer, President of Concordia Seminary and we built a unified program to meet the prayer needs of so many people. The Seminary and LHM joined and share the prayer requests and pray over them. The Seminary faculty, Staff, and students pray consistently and are amazed at how God is working through prayer!

Debbie and I then brought the process to California and there are many in churches having the same experiences and multiple more prayers are being answered. We begin every Tuesday at 3:00 pm so that we are joining with LHM, Concordia Seminary, and the participating churches in California at the very same time to pray for the lives of those in need. Every Tuesday at 2:00 pm CST, everyone at LHM stops what they are doing and goes to their chapel and prays over the requests they have. In CA at the very same time, (NOON PST), the churches pray over the requests that they have, and the Seminary likewise joins all in prayer.

Zion, Bethel, and St. John's will have a prayer request box in the back of the church to place the requests of all those in need of prayer. They are then gathered and brought to Zion to be prayed over. ALL ARE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED TO COME every Tuesday @ 3:00 pm at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church. Come and join us in serving our Lord Jesus Christ as we pray simultaneously with others across our nation! Bring family and friends! ALL ARE WELCOME!

God's Blessings Always,
Donn E. Woolweber, Vicar
Office: 412-821- 6266
Mobile: 747-232-4911
vicar@stjohnsmillvale.org

Concordia Lutheran Ministries

Deaconess Accepts Call at Concordia

Concordia Lutheran Ministries Director of Chaplaincy Rev. Jack Hartman recently announced that Deaconess Sara Scungio accepted a call to join the Chaplaincy Staff.

Sara was commissioned and installed on Wednesday, August 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the Larry Talmadge Memorial Pavilion behind Haven II on the Concordia at Cabot campus. The Rev. Dr. Daniel Hahn Jr., Regional Vice President, Eastern District, LCMS conducted the service.



She is a May 2020 graduate of Concordia University Chicago with a B.A. in Theology having completed her one-year internship at Concordia. She began her duties as an intern at Concordia last July. As a deaconess she will fulfill regular visitations at several Concordia campuses, hospital visitation, counseling and any other duties assigned to enhance the spiritual care of residents. Her current assignments are visits and hymn sings at Ridgewood Place, visits and Bible studies at the Orchard, visits and hymn sing at South Hills, visits, hospice visits, Bible studies, and childcare Bible lessons at Cabot, visits and hymn sings at Fox Chapel, and visits and Bible studies at Rebecca Residence.

“My concentration is in mercy, teaching the faith, and spiritual care. I minored in psychology which allows me to utilize interpersonal skills in visits and Bible studies,” explained Deaconess Sara.

Originally from Virginia, Deaconess Sara is at home in Saxonburg and enjoys musical theatre, Zumba, and spending time with her family and dogs whenever she has a chance to visit them. She is a member of Grace Ev. Lutheran Church in Penn Hills.

President and CEO, Keith Frndak says, “We are particularly blessed to welcome this servant of our Lord as we continue to expand our mission.”



Concordia Lutheran Ministries

Christmas in July ... Thanks to Ascension VBS!

A special thanks from Concordia Lutheran Ministries to the 24 students who participated in the 2020 virtual VBS conducted by members of Ascension, McCandless. Each day throughout the week of July 13 - 16, directors Lisa and Emily Marcellus (who are schoolteachers, pictured right) explored "The Armor of God" via online lessons and Becky Marquette followed with a mission video. The mission portion of VBS was an outreach to provide "Christmas in July" for residents and staff at two Concordia communities - Concordia of Franklin Park and Concordia at the Orchard. Becky requested to include the staff in the project "because they have much more difficult jobs than some people realize and I wanted to also provide encouragement to those faithful employees who keep showing up to work and often do thankless jobs that are so important and often go unnoticed."



VBS children, their families, and Ascension's congregation made cards, candy canes, videos, and signs that were delivered the week of July 26 for the celebration. A plastic bin was left outside the church for families/church members to drop off their cards. A cart of craft supplies was available and VBS participants received a bag of supplies in their VBS Take Home Kit provided through Thrivent Financial dollars. Church members also assembled a video of Christmas carols for the residents sung by the VBS kids, praise team members, and congregation members.

Activities Director Jodi Macko summed up the delight of her residents, "I'm all smiles...my face hurts too. The cards are beautiful. Our residents love them."

Ascension has adopted Concordia of Franklin Park residents at Christmas presenting each with a gift. Becky Marquette became familiar with Concordia at the Orchard through her piano accompaniment for worship services conducted there by Chaplain Roger Nuerge.



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

Your Dream for Free:

Let Concordia pay for your nursing degree!



recently forged a partnership that will provide amazing opportunities for our community members interested in earning a degree in nursing!

How it works:

- ◆ Apply and earn acceptance into BC3's Nursing Program
- ◆ Apply for Concordia's BC3 Tuition Assistance Program by visiting www.concordialm.org or scanning this QR code to the right
- ◆ Graduate in two years
- ◆ Begin your new career as Registered Nurse with Concordia, debt free!

Quick Q & A:

Q: Will Concordia pay for all of my tuition or a portion of it?

A: In the program, your tuition is FULLY PAID by Concordia!

Q: Do I have to work for Concordia while in school?

A: No, however, if you do commit to 5-6 days a month, Concordia will also reimburse the cost of your books!

Q: What kind of nursing position will I have with Concordia?

A: Concordia has 16 locations across western Pennsylvania that offer inpatient care or residence, and our home health, hospice, and private duty service lines serve 13 counties – so we have a wide variety of nursing positions available!



Interested in a closer look at Concordia?

Call 724.352.1571 x8372 to schedule a personal appointment with a safe distance tour of the Concordia at Cabot campus! Concordia is blessed to be able to give back to our local community members with this amazing opportunity! Email BC3NursingProgram@concordialm.org to learn how you can turn your dream into a reality!