



# THE PITTSBURGH LUTHERAN

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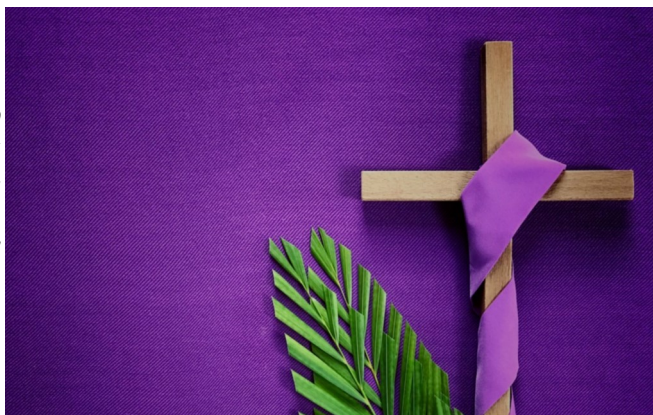
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## PALM DEVOTION

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

### “Let us look to Jesus”

*Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. – Hebrews 12:1-2*



After a difficult 2020 and a bumpy start to 2021, in February the Church turns her attention to the season of Lent. A markedly penitential season, Lent carries with it many opportunities for Christians to transcend the currents and trends of the world. Fasting comes to mind quickly as a Lenten practice and this can be helpful for both body and mind. An intentional fast from certain habits, be they health or activity related, can assist in evaluating whether these behaviors merit permanent change. Intentionally examining ourselves according to the Ten Commandments leads us to a healthy penitence in which we cry out “Lord, have mercy!” Such penitence reminds us that we are not the masters of our destiny nor are we to trust in ourselves for our well-being. Likewise, at a time when circumstances have amplified the voices of politicians and scientists, which are intended to be helpful, humility before God reminds us that “It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man. It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in princes” (Psalm 118).

Lent is a season for positives, not just negatives. If we were only to give up things for Lent, our lives would be left cold and diminished. Lent directs the Christian toward the positive. We turn away from the negative only insofar as we turn toward that which truly gives life and salvation. The weight of the cares and pleasures of this world are replaced by the hope and joy of our Lord, Jesus Christ. The will and energy that is lacking in us is taken up by Him who endured the cross for us. The drudgery of the world’s problems are replaced by the swift feet of one running by faith. Our separation from God is replaced with being seated at the right hand of the throne of God in Jesus.

Advent turned our attention to our Lord, exhorting us to lift up our heads for our redemption draws near. Lent reminds us that we are not alone, that we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, that our Lord is near, and that we can look to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. The Lenten Spring of the Church year is a time to remember that we have the Christmas gift of Jesus throughout all the days of our lives.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

February

14. Valentine's Day



17. Beginning of Lent



**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.**

♡ JESUS LOVES YOU ♡



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SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY

**The Five-Minute Gospel**

*by Augusta R. Mennell, Campus Ministry Director*

Does a warm, friendly welcome make a difference in becoming a successful campus ministry? All Saints Lutheran Church and Student Center has found that it does.

All Saints member Linda Domanski has been an example for everyone in our congregation by how she has made college students feel so welcome with her warm greetings. As far back as 1984 she and many other members were hard at work landscaping the hillside in front of the church. As she worked she darted away and then quickly returned to work. She explained that she had just shared a friendly hello to a college student who was walking across the parking lot. She had shared, as she put it, the “five-minute gospel” with him. She had shown the student that he was welcome to All Saints.

Linda and her husband recently moved to live closer to their youngest son and family in Maryland near DC. All Saints misses them terribly. We especially miss the friendly way she makes college students as well as all others feel very welcome.

The proof is in the pudding. On Christmas Day we received a phone call from Japan from a former student who had come to study at Slippery Rock University. This call is a testimony to what Christians who are friendly can do.

The student who called Christmas Day is Sam (not his real name) from Pakistan, whose family is Muslim. Sam loved being in Slippery Rock where his sweet attitude earned him many friends. He attended our Korean student meals when he could make time. He accepted our invitations to attend Sunday worship, where we sat close to him to explain to him the service. Although we might believe that a Muslim might not be interested in friendly invitations, he was. It was pure joy when he attended two worship services. Everyone was glad to meet him. He enjoyed the service very much, especially the hymns. He wished he could be in Slippery Rock so that he could worship again. He especially loved the hymn “Immortal, invisible God only wise” (802).

Sam went on to study for a master degree in Japan. He loves the Japanese language and would like to live there. But this is not the end of the story. All Saints Fellowship stayed in touch with Sam letting him know that we would pray for his sick sister at his request and for him after he had suffered a bad bike fall. We told him about two dear Japanese students who had attended SRU and urged him to contact them. He did so and has become friends with them.



## CAMPUS MINISTRY

### Five Minute Gospel (cont.)

On Christmas Day Sam called to say Merry Christmas and to tell us he'd be listening to the Christmas story online in Japanese. How did this happen? Kenzaburo, a Japanese student who attended SRU and who had been baptized at All Saints, has a mother, father, sister, and nephew in Japan. Sam accepted our encouragement to visit Kenzaburo's family. They had a great time eating together in their home. The relationship flourishes. Kenzaburo's sister Michiko is a Christian. She is the one who offered to send him her church's Christmas presentation as he is in Osaka and she is in Kyoto. Sam's voice was filled with joy as he told us he'd be listening to the Christmas story.

The point of this story is that friendliness opened the door to friendship so campus ministry could eventually share the names of people like Michiko with Sam.

Even though we may believe that God cannot break through to Muslims, or Japanese, or Americans, He can and does. Linda Domanski's approach is right. It is one All Saints extends to students. It is one we all can use. Being friendly helps all students to realize they can trust what we share with them. We have a great and wise God who helps us tell His story.

Linda and Bob Domanski (pictured below)



Anna Grimenstein (pictured below), a student at Westminster College, rode to All Saints with the Domanski



## LOCAL MISSION

### MILEPOSTERS NEWS

The Miles to Go 2020 campaign to raise support for LCMS ministry in Puerto Rico concluded after 3,046 miles by 18 riders, and appeal letters were mailed out. Contributions will help to fulfil the commitment by LCMS Disaster Response to supply \$1.3 million in aid to the island by 2022.

While the weather has not been the best for riding bicycles, plans are in motion to make snow hikes on pedestrian-only branch trails at Dead Man's Hollow, Milepost 18, and the Cedar Creek Gorge, Milepost 36, as well as on some of Pittsburgh's many city steps. Although there was no snow at the time, the season-end celebration was held outdoors; a larger group, who had already received Thanksgiving gifts, gathered for prayer before walking to the home of our newest family to deliver theirs.

Looking forward to planned sequential events, so riders can greet each other as they take turns for indoor activities, one family enjoyed four-way chess on January 3 (pictured), celebrating a year of studying the sweep of the entire Bible--their goal now is to individually read through 66 books in the next year. As often happens with such a large board, the game was a stalemate, but blue moon ice cream (pictured), a Mileposters favorite, was still a hit.



### Our Houses of Worship

By Shirley Freyer

#### **Christ, Forest Hills**

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<https://www.facebook.com/christlutheranchurchfh/>

by Shirley Freyer

“In Christ alone, My hope is found” – reads the title page on the website of Christ Lutheran Church, Forest Hills. It is further described as a community of people who strive to know Christ Jesus and minister to the people in the Woodland Hills community, a member of the LCMS, the global leader in conservative protestant theology and education. Conveniently located nine miles east of downtown just off Route 30 in Forest Hills.



“A community of very faithful people, “Rev. Ron Bright affectionately calls his congregation. His clever sense of humor coupled with fathering four boys provides a strong foundation to pastor the diversity of its members. “Christ has become a new home for many who have lost their former church homes through closures.” After nearly 14 years, Pastor Bright refers to them as eclectic. It is not just people who have grown up in the church. It is different walks of Lutheranism. Christ claims members who belonged to Concordia in McKeesport, Epiphany in Penn Hills, Immanuel and St. Paul in Braddock.

The newest members, Rev. Reholma and Johnnie McCants have joined since his retirement and the closure of Unity in Homewood. Pastor McCants currently serves as emeritus minister.

Why Christ Lutheran? What is it that draws folks to visit and stay?

President of the congregation for the past two years, Jim Law and his wife, Dee reflect on the last 50+ years they have been members of Christ from their home, isolated for the Christmas season due to contracting COVID. Jim and Dee moved to Gilmore Acres from Somerset after he graduated from Pitt and began teaching in the Pittsburgh Public Schools. “Our congregation cares for each other; the friendliness and comradery are a priority,” he said. “During these days of our sickness, members are calling or sending cards every day.”

“It’s quite easy to fit in, according to Jonathan Bright, Pastor’s oldest son, now responsible for outreach ministry. “There are so many types of people who have membership,” Jonathan said, “You always can find more substance to a conversation than a hello, how are you?” “I found my own way at Christ.” he confessed. “A way of making individuals feel like they belong; someone will make them feel wanted,” he assured.

In addition, there are so many different groups and activities – music, cooking, service. When the pandemic hit, a cluster of folks assembled and began to sew masks to donate. Hundreds were collected for Concordia Lutheran Ministries residents and staff. The practice of Welcome Cards also helps leadership to stay connected to those visitors and practice follow-up, one of the many duties’

“Barb is our back-seat tail gunner,” Jonathan noted.

“I began working here in August of 2010 because I needed a key to the church.” Barb explained. “I came from Epiphany which we closed in 2009. The congregation was fortunate enough to sell and give the profits to many local LCMS groups. I had been the pseudo secretary there. I called myself pseudo because we couldn't pay anyone, and I did what I do here on a much smaller scale.” She said, “This is my dream job. I loved teaching but was able to retire after 30 years.” Barb continues, “Many people say that we are a friendly congregation. I think we have a great Women's Service Guild who make prayer shawls and lap robes, cookies for shut-ins and people at the Sunshine Kitchen whom they also service with sandwiches a few times a year,” Barb M. said.

Eight women established The Women's Guild in 1951 to further Christian fellowship among the ladies of the congregation and to be involved in Christian service. It is one outreach that has been successful throughout the church history as the group continues to support the congregation financially through missions - quilts for the homeless ministry at First Trinity in Oakland for example, as well as items such as a new stole for Pastor Bright.

The 75th Anniversary commemorative book, written in 2008 reads ... On March 8, 1931, the Lutheran Church Extension Society (LCES) opened a mission church with Rev. William Dale, pastor at Trinity in Mt. Oliver. Followed by a three-week survey of the neighborhood in Forest Hills. Three months later, in June the LCES called Pastor Oliver Graebner to serve as a missionary for the Pittsburgh area. He and Pastor Eric Malte opened the Ardmore Lutheran Mission on August 30 in a rented storeroom at 103 Sumner Avenue. Sunday School began that Fall with three teachers and a dozen students who were met by church members at Braddock Hills Elementary School and transported to the “church.”

By 1933, 28 adults were confirmed, and the name Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church was adopted, and the congregation was formally organized. That same year, a Ladies Aid Society was formed, Vacation Bible School began, the first young people's society



was organized, and 125 members attended the first church picnic. The next year the cornerstone for a new church located at 514 Atlantic Avenue was laid. An adjoining parsonage was dedicated on March 31, 1940. Pastor Graebner was called by the Lutheran Laymen's League to organize the newly acquired Camp Pioneer in Angola, NY. Rev. Walter Sommerfeld began his tenure at Christ on May 6, 1945 having served Christ in New Castle.

The church was outgrowing its location and in July of 1949 the purchase of the current site was approved at a cost of \$6000. Current member Charles Koenig was the church council secretary at that time. (He now resides at Concordia of Monroeville.) The present sanctuary was dedicated on May 4, 1952. Five years later a parsonage was dedicated to house Pastor Sommerfeld and his family who served the congregation until his retirement on June 30, 1974. Rev. Ron Johnson served from 1974-81. And on July 11, 1982, Rev. Ernest Knoche Jr was installed. His passion for golf prompted the creation of the annual golf scramble in 1983 which has continued, thanks to the efforts of Susan Robatzen until this year.

## HOUSES OF WORSHIP SERIES

Education was always a mission focus for the people of Christ Lutheran. The history is riddled with constant opportunities for seminary students and vicars in addition to the school expansion. The school began under the tutelage of Pastor Knoche and operated in the existing Sunday School space. An educational wing was opened in the fall of 1989 and by 1996 a modular building was added to house grades 7 and 8.

“We also had a thriving after-school program which grew to be a babies to grade 6 all-day program in addition to the school.” Barbara Peterson, long-time member of Christ who has made her home at Concordia Haven 3 retirement living community since 2007. She assisted the pastor (Knoche) with Confirmation instruction, and he called her the “full-time lay volunteer.” A graduate of Wilson College, Barb also led a Women’s Bible Study group of 25 to 30 women for 25 years.

Most likely the longest standing didactic outreach was Vacation Bible School. According to an article in the February 24, 1948 issue of the Lutheran Witness, it was the largest in the Eastern District.

Barbara remembers the years when Christ hosted 270 children in the two-week program.” I began as a helper at age 13.” She eventually taught preschoolers and 6<sup>th</sup> graders. From 1973 until she retired in 2006, she served as VBS Director.” In those days, we had a staff of 100 volunteers,” she remembered. “It was our big mission push each year and members scheduled time off from work or moved their schedules to accept this call,” she said of the team. “I was involved in committee work and stewardship but found my niche for serving the Lord in teaching and directing education.”

In 2006, a new 2 manual digital Allen Quantum organ with the capability of reproducing sounds of 132 voices was commissioned for building in honor of Pastor Knoche who decided to retire after 24 years of ministry. The next year, Rev. Bright moved from Wisconsin with his wife Linda and their sons Miguel, Jonathan, David and Timmy to shepherd the flock at Christ.

In 2016, grades K through 8 were closed and the following year the Early Learning Center also closed. Although these are no longer operating, Barbara P. said, “We know that hundreds of kids and their families were touched by God’s Word from 1982 to 2018 through the school and childcare, and through the nursery school, too. A lot of people came first as members of the community and came to be members of the congregation.”

Four classrooms currently are rented to Shanny the Nanny, for day care. In 2019 The Garden of Eatin’ was established in the church backyard for the Unity Mission and to supply local food pantries with fresh produce. An Evening of Praise was held featuring the church organist, the handbell choir, and the Barclay String Quartet.

Jim commented on the spiritual transformation over the last several decades. “Our communities have changed, and our congregation, like so many others, has adapted to the needs of retirees.” For example, so many years, Christ celebrated Christmas with a 7 p.m. and a midnight service. Last year the times moved to 4 and 7 p.m. and this year it was live streamed in the fellowship hall and recorded on Facebook and You Tube.

“Our congregation has exceeded what was expected as far as contributions during this time,” Jim noted. And the Internet has allowed the congregation to renew some friendships and connect with former members.

When looking for its website, Christ Lutheran is the first listing under Worship in Forest Hills Borough. Within the past two to three weeks, Rev. Ron Bright has assembled a full arsenal of video production. “He has gone above and beyond to be Covid friendly, learning how to live stream the worship service and utilize YouTube as well as recording his sermons,” Jonathan revealed. “I call him a public speaking introvert, but he has dived headfirst into this technology.”



## HOUSES OF WORSHIP SERIES

Barbara M. is equally thrilled about the jump into stay-at-home worship. “Our service on You Tube is published on Mondays. Now we have begun Facebook live which is good because it’s on Sunday for those who might like to worship with the congregation at church. We also have the sermon, announcements, and the service on our website each week,” she said.

Pastor Bright announced that Holy Communion may be brought to those who are not comfortable at in-person worship during the pandemic. He also assured all that “we will never again close our doors to worship... and we will continue to use the internet to broadcast our Bible studies and services.”

In a message at the church’s last anniversary celebration, Pastor Bright writes, “Tempus Fugit Latin for “Time flies.” If we think time has passed by quickly, the future is changing even faster. Compare today with life 25 years ago. What changes and challenges will the next 2 years bring? We give our triune God thanks and praise for His grace this far along our way, the work we have been able to do in His name and the memories we have collected. We pray that His blessing will remain with us that, celebrating and building on the foundation of the past, we may forge ahead into a future full of unknowns obeying the Great Commission to make disciples of all nations. Whether the time is past present or future, we know and believe the promise of Jesus Christ to be true that, “I will be with you always, to the very end of the age.”

[Click Here to Visit the Christ Lutheran YouTube Channel](#)



## SCHOOL NEWS

### REDEEMER LUTHERAN SCHOOL

*Oakmont / Penn Hills*

<http://rlspittsburgh.org/>

Redeemer Lutheran School's theme for the 2020-2021 school year is "Sent to Serve." The students were blessed to have several opportunities to display the commitment to this theme throughout the month of December.

The entire Redeemer student body participated in a fundraiser and serve-a-thon from November 20<sup>th</sup> to December 22<sup>nd</sup>, encouraging students to seek out ways to serve the Lord in their families and communities. The classes with the highest participation rates were awarded with special classroom parties. Raised funds will go to purchase new smartboard technology for the classrooms. Thank you to the Redeemer church family for supporting students in this fundraiser!

Some of our high school students had the opportunity to serve their community on December 11<sup>th</sup> by passing out food, gifts and clothing at Hosanna House in Wilkinsburg. We thank Bill Richardson, RLS parent and director of Cutting Edge Ministries, for coordinating and spearheading this service day.

The junior and high school National Honor Society students sponsored a Toys for Tots drive at Redeemer for the month of December, bringing in over 540 toys to share with children and families around the Pittsburgh area. Many church and school families supported this cause; NHS is grateful for everyone's participation.

Finally, RLS presented a drive-through Live Nativity on Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. Faculty, staff, and students from all grades portrayed different scenes from the life of Jesus in this special event that was offered at no cost to those that attended. It was a wonderful opportunity to share the beautiful truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ with our community. Heartfelt thanks to the hard work of all involved, particularly to RLC member Dave Bernhardt; their selfless and diligent labors made it possible to offer this ministry to those in our area.

Throughout all of the unexpected twists and turns of this calendar year, we at RLS have been thankful to the Lord Jesus for every chance to serve Him and share His Word. We look with joyful anticipation to the path He has laid for us in the New Year.

## SCHOOL NEWS

### ZION LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

*Bridgeville*

This has been a challenging year, to say the least, but still wonderful. Parent's willingness to adapt to the "new way of doing things" has been so much appreciated. Their patience as we needed to change our schedules and activities made our jobs a little less stressful. The kind words of encouragement and gratitude has made our days brighter. We have the best parents!

We have been practicing our Christmas songs since September and were looking forward to our Christmas Programs. With the new COVID restrictions limiting the number of people indoors, we had to think outside the box ... literally.

We decided to hold our programs outside, two classes at a time and during the school day. Who knew..... it was a blast! The kids loved it, the parents loved it and we all got to enjoy the children singing like little angels. To hear children singing about the birth of Christ with such joy ... well ... it just doesn't get any better than that.

I wanted to share a few photos of our preschoolers singing. Enjoy!



Even in the snow...singing one of our favorite songs: "What did the cows in the manger say to baby Jesus in the hay? Moo, moo, moo, moo, baby Jesus we love you!"

Thank you Mrs. Tevia! You are the best!



"Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way..." Oh how they love to jingle those bells!

## NEWS FROM AREA CONGREGATIONS

### ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

*McCandless*

We praise God for sending Rev. Adam Thompson to Ascension Lutheran Church, who was installed as pastor of Ascension on December 6, 2020. Pictured from the installation are Pastor Thompson with his father, Pastor Mart Thompson, area LCMS pastors, and Vicar Brian Bocian who were in attendance.

First row, left to right: Vicar Brian Bocian, Rev. Adam Thompson, Rev. Ben Berteau

Middle row, left to right: Rev. Mart Thompson, Rev. Brian Westgate, Rev. Dr. Daniel Hahn.

Back row, left to right: Rev. Sean Walters, Rev. Jared Townley, Rev. Barry Keurulainen

Photo courtesy Russ Lucas.



### Tri-Parish

Our Tri-parish celebrated Christmas Eve with a drive-in service in the parking lot of a local fire company. Those in attendance tuned their car radios to a local station to hear the sermon as well as a children's message, sing the carols and respond to the liturgy conducted by Pastor Dan Hahn and Vicar Donn Woolweber. Each family was given an ornament, a tradition begun several years ago by St. John's members, Jack and Carol Jasneski and Bill & Lisa Bruni. All also received an LED candle as we celebrated with candlelight.



### “God with US” Program on the Radio

In these days of livestreaming and recording worship services, here is an option for those congregants who do not have access to a computer. Even with Rev. Barry Keurulainen’s retirement, the Lutheran broadcast “God with Us” continues...

WORD-FM 101.5 Sundays @ 10:30 a.m. “God with Us” featuring Rev. Dr. Daniel A. Hahn Jr., Pastor, Tri-Parish (St. John’s, Bethel and Zion, Lawrenceville). If you miss the program, it is also available at <https://stjohnsmillvale.org/god-with-us.html> and updated weekly.

**CONCORDIA LUTHERAN**

*Brentwood*

Concordia remained busy during the Advent and Christmas seasons. Services have continued unabated during this time, although we could not do our Live Nativity this year, and snow turned the occasional Service into a Service of the Word.

We DID go Christmas Caroling however... through Youtube! Our Concordia Carolers gathered in the Chancellery on December 20, and recorded our usual repertoire of Carols so that our shut-ins could safely watch from home. The video was well-received and has been one of the most-viewed on our channel.

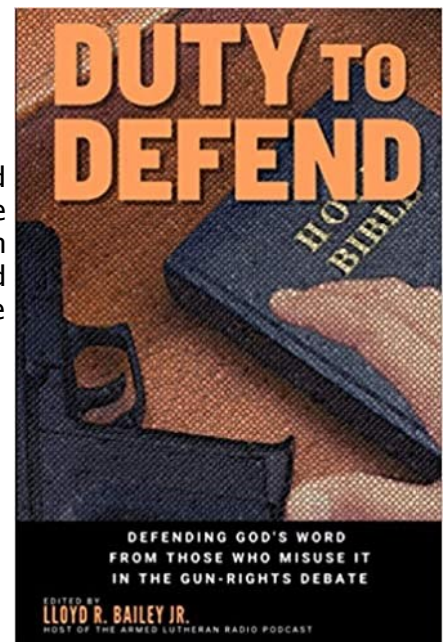


Our [Youtube Channel - "Concordia-Pittsburgh"](#) - continues to serve our shut-in members. A midweek devotional was resumed during the Epiphany Season on Wednesdays. We continue to upgrade our camera equipment, with the intention of doing Live-stream services soon.



Johnny Mainarich worked on his Eagle Scout Service project through December - replastering and painting of our Church undercroft. Since we hold church dinners and Voter's Meetings, amongst other activities there, we're hoping that in sprucing up this vital space, we'll be able to do even MORE once his work is completed!

Pastor McCanless has authored two chapters in the recently released book - Duty to Defend: Defending God's Word from those who misuse it in the gun-rights debate (available through Amazon). Written by an all-star cast of LCMS Pastors, Pastor McCanless covers Exodus 22 and Luke 22 in his chapters. And while he receives NO residuals on the purchase, he will be happy to autograph your copy for free.



## NEWS FROM AREA CONGREGATIONS

### MT. CALVARY

#### *Westview*

Despite some of Mt. Calvary's December activities being interrupted because of the virus, positive things occurred. The annual Christmas party, scheduled for December 6, still took place, even though the caterer had to cancel; however, the committee found another that was able to provide a simple yet delectable lunch.

Members who signed up but were not able to make it had meals delivered to their doors, including Bill Barkschat, who celebrated his 90th birthday December 8, and received a card signed by everyone in attendance.

North Hills Community Outreach was the target of this year's Christmas Blessings project. The church's Outreach Group delivered food and household items to the ministry, along with a \$500 check. At their Tuesday night sessions, the group also made 175 ornaments for Kane Regional in Ross, and crafted gift boxes filled with small treats for Meals on Wheels recipients.

The annual Sunday Christmas Program had to be canceled but members decorated the church, and the Christmas Eve candlelight service took place as scheduled.

Like most others, Mt. Calvary made the best of a situation over which we had no control. But in the midst of it all, we remember that Jesus is Immanuel - God with us - and still sits on the throne.



Top Left - Mt. Calvary's Outreach Group designed little boxes to hold treats for people who are on Meals on

Bottom Left- A small portion of the food and household items donated to the North Hills Community Outreach as part of Mt. Calvary's Christmas Blessings Project

Bottom Right - Pastor and Nikkie Kuntz were dressed in holiday spirit at Mt. Calvary's annual Christmas Party



## Concordia Lutheran Ministries Board of Directors Elects Leadership

James Limbaugh has been elected as chairman and James Wolf as vice-chairman of the Board of Directors for 2021 according to officials at Concordia Lutheran Ministries.

James Limbaugh was an attorney with the law firm of Miller Limbaugh & Conley in Allison Park for 18 years until his retirement. He is married to Karen for 47 years and has five children and five grandchildren. Jim has been a member of St. Luke Lutheran Church in Cabot for 38 years. He enjoys gardening, coin collecting, reading and watching sports.

Married to Mary for 47 years and blessed with two children and two granddaughters, James Wolf is a decorated USMC Vietnam veteran. A current member of Peace in McMurray, he has served as President, Vice President, Elder, Deacon, Usher, Lay Preacher, Sunday School teacher and choir member at sister congregations over the last 37 years. In 2012, he climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro in Kenya to raise \$14,000 for a Concordia mission project.

Eighteen board members comprise the governing body and represent 30 Lutheran Churches Missouri Synod in the western Pennsylvania area. This parent board has oversight for 17 subsidiary corporations in various locations. According to the 2020 Leading Age Ziegler 150, Concordia is in the top 25 non-profit senior care providers in the country, as ranked by number of beds/units. This does not include Concordia's extensive network of community services.

Keith E. Frndak, President and CEO is both impressed and delighted with the caliber of his board leadership and looks forward to robust expansion and strong support of our mission of faithful caring.

*(Pictured- Left:: Limbaugh; Right: Wolf)*



## Concordia Lutheran Ministries Finds the Blessings of 2020

Last year brought challenges like no other, but we have met every one of them head-on at Concordia Lutheran Ministries. Our activities staff members coordinated several thousand alternative visits with residents and their families, our home and community employees served 23,000 patients and completed 600,000 in-home care visits all while traveling over 6 million miles to care for others. Concordia Medical Equipment made over 6,000 deliveries to patients.

From the countless hours our staff has spent caring for the physical, mental and emotional needs of our residents and patients, to the outpouring of support from the communities we serve- every day of 2020, no matter how challenging, we were blessed to see small testaments of leadership, kindness and empathy.

More than anything else, the past year was a testament to the Concordia family - the compassion of our staff, the commitment of our donors and communities and most importantly, the unwavering dedication of our residents, patients and their families. What sets us apart and helped us to remain true to our mission of service, is that we truly put our faith in caring. Thank you to all our supporters, staff, residents, patients and their families who have found the blessings in 2020 with us.

### Two Concordia Residents Reach Centenarian Status

On December 9, 2020, Concordia at Cabot resident Rita Green marked her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Concordia at The Orchard resident Doris Sell celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on January 6, 2021.

Both were honored with a proclamation naming their birthdays as special celebrations at the individual Concordia communities they call home.

Born in Akron, Ohio, Rita Green lived most of her life in Butler, Pennsylvania. She eloped and married Leonard Green on July 20, 1943. They had three children - William Green of Sewickley, Patrice Franchuk of Butler, and Robert Green of Butler. She also has six grandchildren. Rita was employed as a telephone operator. Rita's advice for living 100 years is: "be nice to everyone and have a good time."

Born in Freeport, PA, Doris Sell lived most of her life in Cabot, PA. She married Walter ("Mike") on June 5, 1942. They had two children - Roger (Deb) of Cabot, PA and Walter of Kittanning. She also has two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. She was a homemaker. She was an active member of Zion United Methodist Church, Eastern Star and Saxonburg District Woman's Club. Doris enjoyed being a seamstress, painting china, and loved to do crafts or help anyone in need in her free time. Doris' advice for living 100 years is: "Just be Yourself."

Concordia is thankful for God's gift of longevity and congratulates these ladies.







## 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:giving@concordialm.org).

*For the most up-to-date information on Concordia's COVID-19 response, visit [www.ConcordiaLM.org](http://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](http://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](mailto:BC3NursingProgram@concordialm.org) to learn how you can turn your dream into a reality!