



THE PITTSBURGH LUTHERAN

VOL 101, NO 6, August 2021

PALM News	1-5
Campus Ministry	6-8
Mission News	9-16
Church Focus Series	17-19
School News	20
Congregation News	21-26
Special Events	27-29
Concordia News	30-31

PALM DEVOTION

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

“The Eternally New Church”

*Through the Lord’s mercies we are not consumed,
Because His compassions fail not.*

They are new every morning;

Great is Your faithfulness.

“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul,

“Therefore I hope in Him!” (Lamentations 3:22-24)

For over thirty-one years, I have heard (and sometimes participated in) the complaint that our congregations in Pittsburgh are old and tired, that all we seem to do is close churches. It is an understandable attitude, given that with our human eyes we behold properties that were once LCMS churches but are no more. Our minds wander to reminisce about churches and schools that once were flourishing but have closed. We start to count the congregations that have merged or closed and we think that this defines the Church, but it does not.

Historically, Pittsburgh (and many other cities across the United States) has seen an ebb and flow of Missouri Synod congregations. Churches in the Southside and Dormont closed, but gave birth to new congregations in Mount Lebanon, McMurray, and Whitehall. Daughter congregations have been planted across the metropolitan area by many mother churches, some of which still exist and some that have since passed. Schools have opened and closed and we now have a Lutheran High School. New missions have begun and flourished in our region including campus ministries in Slippery Rock and State College. It just does not always happen quickly. The establishment, life, and even closure of churches in this place or that takes decades. The proclamation of the Gospel across our region may be a generational process, but it is a vibrant one. The Church is the living Body of Christ.





Ordination of Rev. Donn Woolwebber at Zion, Pittsburgh and Bethel, Glenshaw.

So far this summer, the Pittsburgh area has seen two ordinations, the installation of a vicar, and the induction of a deaconess intern in our Pittsburgh parishes. Within the last few years, we have established a new congregation, expanding our region into new territory in West Virginia. We have a vital, growing mission church in the Hazelwood neighborhood of the City of Pittsburgh.

Various congregations support mission outreaches to the Deaf and Blind communities, university campuses, our homeless or marginally housed neighbors in need, various immigrant populations, youth and senior citizens. Concordia Lutheran Ministries, owned and operated by our Pittsburgh LCMS congregations, has grown to be the largest Recognized Service Organization in the LCMS, faithfully serving thousands of seniors in all stages of retirement from independent living to home care to skilled nursing to hospice care in three states!

Dear brothers and sisters of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod in the Pittsburgh Area, the Lord is working mightily among us to accomplish His will and work! If we are tempted to lament our present situation, we should take a note from the Lamentations of Jeremiah where he acknowledges that the mercies of the Lord are new every morning. As important as they may be to us, our hope is not to be found in the transient numbers of congregations or individual members or bank accounts and budgets. Our hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness! Jesus is risen from the dead. He is alive. His Body is alive and His Body is the Church.



Ordination of Rev. Stanley Lacey at St. John's, Clarksburg, WV.

Looking backward, let us remember our congregations of the past and give thanks that our Lord used them to bring us where we are today reaching out to our region in mission. Looking forward, let us expectantly and excitedly await the great things that He will do among us and through us for the salvation of the world both tomorrow and, excepting His return, even decades from now. Most of all, every morning, let us give thanks for the mercies that He gives to us today - for the Christian people that He calls to faith and sends forth in mission. Dear Christian friends, rejoice! The life of Christ manifests itself in the Church in Pittsburgh and we are privileged to be a part of it.



Vicar Benjamin Janssen, Elizabeth, and Nathaniel at Holy Cross, Hazelwood.



Pastors Andrae and Spittel with Deaconess Intern Zoë Huelsman who is working with PALM, Campus, Deaf, Blind, and Homeless Missions, Holy Cross Chapel, and Concordia Lutheran Ministries

Pittsburgh Lutheran Homeschoolers

by Rev'd. Brian P. Westgate, PALM Lutheran Education Director

There is a growing number of homeschool families in the Pittsburgh area. To serve them, Mrs. Anna Mussmann, a member of First Trinity, a rostered LCMS teacher, and a homeschooling mother, started a Lutheran Homeschoolers group in 2019. Three families are involved currently, and there's always room for more. They meet once a month at First Trinity for support, fun, and fellowship. Your PALM Lutheran Education Director decided to visit a meeting of the group recently.

Meetings during the school year happen at First Trinity in McKinney Hall. They begin at 9:30 a.m. with Matins prayed in the Chapel. Playtime follows in the children's hall. Later the children take part in an activity. Sometimes it is book-based. This time they were to draw something that was memorable to them over the last year and then talk about it. Subjects included a playground, Holland, and sharks. After snack time and more play time, the meeting ended around 11:30 a.m.

Why home school? Mrs. Mussmann answers that it is the responsibility of all Christian parents to educate and catechize their children and she and her husband have chosen to do this by means of homeschooling. She adds, "We appreciate the opportunity we have to spend so much time together, and we like the flexibility it gives us to meet each child's needs individually."

What's the difference between homeschooling and the schools we're used to? Mrs. Mussmann notes: "Our class size is very small! This allows us to make education a lifestyle that we pursue together."


To learn more, please contact Mrs. Anna Mussmann by email at annabookreader@gmail.com. Over the summer, the group plans to meet monthly at area playgrounds. Do join them!



Historical Preservation

Congregations do well to preserve their history. Don't just submit things to Concordia Historical Institute from time to time. Bulletins, newsletters, and other documents (such as voters assembly minutes) should be preserved for posterity, precisely so that future generations may learn from them.

Please preserve your history, Pittsburgh-area congregations, and please make sure your historical documents are protected. Keep them in a vault room, or if they must be in a basement or other place, please keep them higher up so that floodwaters will not be able to destroy them. You will also do well to scan and preserve them digitally as well.



New Pastor in Accident Celebrates a Decade of Service in the Ministry

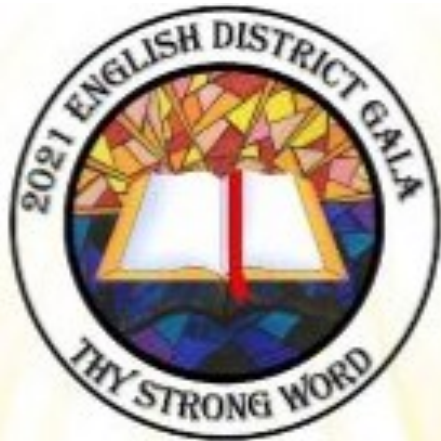
The Rev. Benjamin Hertel was born and raised in Hales Corners, WI, a suburb of Milwaukee. He attended Luther Memorial Chapel during his undergraduate work at UW-Milwaukee, until he went to Seminary in 2007, at Fort Wayne. Part of the Seminary class of 2011, he completed his vicarage in Inner-city Baltimore, where he met his beautiful wife, Brittany.

Married in 2010, Pastor and Brittany moved to Indiana, accepting a call to pastor St. Luke Lutheran in Rensselaer. Four children later, Zion and St. John Lutheran of Accident, MD extended a Call and Pastor accepted. He was installed on October 30, 2020. Brittany enjoys being closer to family and the children enjoy their schooling here. Dorothy is 10, Katherine is 7, Benjamin is 5, and Jacob is 3.

They pass their family time hiking, playing games, and enjoying local farmer's markets, of which the area has much to offer.

First Ever English District Gala Held

By Rev. Brian Westgate



There are so many mission endeavors in our District & Synod that deserve to be funded, and budgets so often have so little room? How can we fund them? For this reason the English District has an Endowment Fund, that over the last 6+ years has provided funding for missions opportunities that are not included in the budget, like mission congregations, disaster relief, academic scholarships, campus ministries, and many more ways to support God's mission. Pastor Jamison Hardy, English District Bishop, has long desired to work on growing the English District Endowment Fund. If there was some sort of tragedy in our congregations or the world the Endowment Fund would be able to help pay for our mission work in the District. With this in mind, the first-ever English District Gala was held in

the hopes of bolstering the Fund by raising \$50,000 through both direct giving and an online silent auction. It was also a way to bring the District together in what should have been the year for District Convention and to talk about some of our mission work.

Why do we mention this here? Because Pittsburgh was a heavy feature of the Gala. The Gala began with a recording of a choir from our own Redeemer Lutheran School singing Prof. Martin Franzmann's beloved hymn, "Thy Strong Word Didst Cleave the Darkness." Among the videos of missions in the District was a video all about our own Holy Cross Chapel in Hazelwood, narrated by Pastor Spittel, as well as a video from Pastor Andrae, including interviews he conducted with both current and former students of our Pittsburgh LCMS-U campus ministry.

In relation to campus ministry, during the Gala there was a fine presentation by LCMS campus ministry leader Pastor Marcus Zill, now called to the English District campus ministry at the University of Arizona in Tucson, AZ. In his presentation, he praised the District's care for campus ministries, as the college campus is the place where we encounter the dying culture with Christ. He encouraged us to "Be Lutheran" in both doctrine and practice and to "Be Pioneers" in doing mission work that hasn't typically been done with a "can do attitude" and proactive spirit - this is a hallmark of the English District-LCMS.

Several award-winners were presented, including the District's yearly Lumen Christi educator award for teachers in both our congregations and our parish schools. Also, a new "He Loved the Church" award in memory of our sainted Bishop emeritus, Bishop Roger Pittelko, was awarded to both the sainted Bishop and to Rev'd. Dr. Frank J. Pies, pastor emeritus of Our Saviour's National Evangelical-Lutheran Church, Hartland, MI, where Pastor Hardy now serves as an assistant pastor while he serves the English District-LCMS as Bishop/President.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

August

8 Gibbons Band free concert, Haven II Patio on the Concordia at Cabot Campus, 4:00 p.m.

15. [Good Samaritan Hospice Drive-In Memorial Service and Butterfly Release Event](#), Mt. Zion Baptist Church - Lake Arthur, Mt. Zion Baptist Church Road, Franklin Township, PA, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

21. Good Samaritan Hospice Drive-In Memorial Service and Butterfly Release Event, Concordia at Villa St. Joseph, 1030 State St. Baden, PA 15005 [2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.](#)

28. Concordia Hospice of Washington Butterfly Release, The Barn at Ike's Place, 80 Ike's Rd., Amity, PA 15311, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

September

CONCORDIA HAVEN CONCERT SERIES Sundays @ 4 p.m., [Haven II patio \(Haven I Dining Room if inclement weather\)](#). Campus tours before and after each performance. 12 56 East Band, Haven II patio (Haven I Dining Room if inclement weather), Cabot, 4:00 p.m.

October

23. Concordia Fashion Luncheon details TBA

[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.](#)



The Pittsburgh Lutheran

Published by
Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries
(PALM)

Editors
Nancy Koester, Mary Lou Rilee,
Megan Migyanko

The Pittsburgh Lutheran is published 10 times per year.

All inquiries, comments or suggestions should be addressed to the Editors at:
pittsburgh.lutheran.editor@gmail.com.

Please mail PALM donations to:
Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries
Attn: Treasurer
535 N. Neville Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

PALM Officers
Rev. Douglas Spittel, President
Justin Spittel, Treasurer
Rev. Brian Westgate, Secretary

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

CAMPUS MINISTRY

SRU CAMPUS MINISTRY

by Augusta R. Mennell, Campus Ministry Director

It May Take Twenty Years

Vish and Shiv, identical twin boys, walked into All Saints Lutheran Church and Student Center asking, "Where is the cross on the steeple?" What a wonderful question! All Saints campus ministry has shared friendship and faith with the boys' grandparents, parents, and aunts and uncles for twenty years. We hoped seeds had been planted. This question suggested that our hope may have been fulfilled.

It is important to realize that God does accomplish His purpose. It is encouraging to see the impact campus ministry can have, even when it takes twenty years to see growth. It is especially important after the long battle against Covid. Vish and Shiv represent what God does and gives hope to campus ministry when the fall semester begins in a few weeks.

The story began twenty years ago when Vish and Shiv's mother came to study at Slippery Rock University. Her parents were born in India. Her mother was a devout Christian. Her father, Joy, was a strong and determined Hindu and follower of Zai Baba. Early in their marriage they moved to Africa where they managed a huge vegetable-flower export business. The mother spent her time running a Christian school for the farmworkers' children. In the meanwhile, the father remained Hindu and the mother, who became a dear friend, remained Christian. The children, two daughters and one son were raised Hindu.

The parents wanted their children to have good educations. So, after boarding schools in Africa, they sent them to Slippery Rock University. The first to arrive was the twins' mother, Nishi. Their grandmother, Mala, came with her for a prolonged time to see that Nishi settled in well. During this time Mala came to All Saints where we had time for wonderful Bible studies. When Mala went back home, she was certain that All Saints would take good care of her daughter.

And we did. All her siblings came to All Saints and shared their lives with us. They came for student meals and their parents came too when they were visiting their children.



SRU CAMPUS MINISTRY CONTINUED

The children graduated, married, and got very prestigious jobs. It was normal to think they would remain in the United States. In fact, the twins attended an excellent Christian preschool in Boston while their parents worked at their jobs. The grandparents regularly came to America to spend weeks with their children and, of course, were heartbroken when once again they had to return to Africa and later India, leaving the grandchildren and children behind in the USA.

Naturally, the boys' father's parents, who are elderly and unable to travel to Boston from India, were heartbroken that they had never seen their only grandchildren.

This all leads up to why Shiv and Vish came to All Saints' door. They and their parents were coming to say goodbye before flying to India, where they would now live permanently. His parents and hers wanted time with their children and grandchildren. That would be a huge change, but one they were willing to risk.

The two boys noticed we did not have a cross on the steeple, so it was interesting to see their reaction when they came inside All Saints. They went into the sanctuary and saw the beautiful and striking crucifix hanging over the altar, a crucifix Reverend Larry K. Loree, Jr. and the congregation had dedicated recently. The boys were at ease in the sanctuary because they regularly had been inside of the church located inside their school in Boston.

Naturally, I wondered if there was any chance the Christian education would continue in India. I asked their father, Karen, if he had been baptized. He asked in return, "Should I have been?" I replied, "Are you a Christian?" He said that he respected all religions, but added that he had attended a fine Jesuit school in India and that his best friend was an orthodox Catholic priest who is going to open a school in India. He said that if anyone would baptize his sons it would be this friend.

I felt so relieved that he had such a good relationship with a Christian. The seeds planted at All Saints added to the seeds planted in Karen's life may lead to baptism.

Encouragingly, Karen had seen a book in my bookcase that interested him. It was called Seeking Allah - Finding Jesus, by Nabeel Qureshi. He asked if he could take it with him to read. The book is one of the best defenses of the Christian faith that I have ever read. Nabeel describes his conversion from Islam. He knows Jesus as his Savior.

Twenty years later the Holy Spirit is still wanting this family to know the love of Jesus. All Saints campus ministry will continue to thank God for this opportunity and to pray to continue this mission work to His glory. It may take another twenty years, but campus ministry will never stop.

CAMPUS MINISTRY

PENN STATE CAMPUS MINISTRY

Good Shepard Lutheran, State College

Revive Campus Ministry at Penn State is preparing for the full return this new school year! We are excited that our students will have a more normal experience post-COVID. Classes will be in-person, along with all student organization activities, and sporting events. Our welcome week events include church rides, weekly gathering, ice cream social on campus, involvement fair and campus tabling promoting our group, small group, hiking Mount Nittany, and more. We are excited for our Fall Retreat in October at Camp Krislund where students will do life together through bible studies, fun games/activities, and more.

We would greatly appreciate if you could share the contact information (name, phone number) of any undergraduate or graduate students within the LCMS or your community attending Penn State's main campus.

Matt Slaybaugh
Director of Revive Campus Ministry
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church - State College, PA
slaybaugh.matt@gmail.com
919-744-1433



MISSION NEWS

Mileposters News

Ten rides have taken place since May 10, getting the season into high gear. A small group enjoyed exercise in the grass and getting some practice on a kick bike (pictured) at Citizens Park on Troy Hill, May 30.

Our irrepressible youngest stoker, who is four years old but says he is five, was trying to seize the handlebars from his sister. He has ridden 20 miles since his mom qualified as captain last October.

Seven other riders joined the group leader for a trip on the Riverfront Trail July 6, pictured by the fishpond at Branchport Boat House. The red tandem was ridden solo by the first youth captain candidate since 2018. She did well, riding the black tandem also. After another 15 miles by herself, she will get an opportunity to qualify as captain by riding with a stoker for the first time.

The total ridden so far in this year's campaign to raise support for LCMS ministry in Puerto Rico is 1,960 miles.



HOLY CROSS HAZELWOOD

by Vicar Silas Hasselbrook

Easter Triumph, Easter Joy that a Pandemic could not Destroy

The fundamental truth and mystery of Easter is that life has conquered death. And not in some abstract way, but that the God-man Jesus Christ in His flesh and blood, the contact point with His total Divinity, has conquered death and opened the gates of life for all of humanity, for all of creation. This truth is the life, or, perhaps better said, this Truth is the life of and the Principle for how the Church worships, thinks, and exists. It is the distinct message of hope that Christ offers to the world through the Church. No longer does our human life or efforts need to be bookended by death. In Christ life always has the final say.

And though we celebrate the event in which our dead relationship to God was restored to life at Easter, this transition from death to life is the fabric of our reality as Christians all the time. We start the Divine service in such a way, acknowledging our sins, our little deaths, in order that we may receive forgiveness of sins, which is life and salvation. We eat and drink the fruits of Christ's death so that we may live, knowing that we are being united to Christ, body and soul, for life everlasting. Our very existence as sons of God occurred in Baptism when we died to sin and were made alive in Christ. And, as Luther says, each day we daily die to sin, we daily repent, we daily experience the death of our Baptism, so that we may live. To die to death is to live. And this only happens because we are united to Christ's own death and Resurrection.

This past year and a half has been a period of death. Yes, every day of human history has featured death center stage. But often the world and its fleeting pleasures, ideologies, and distractions pull the curtain over death, so that we don't see it as clearly. Certainly, our modern obsession that hope and solutions to our mortal plight are to be found in science and politics have contributed, have taken the edge off our awareness of and grappling with death. But what the pandemic did was rip the curtain back so that the world had to face death and remember their mortality. The fear the pandemic inspired showed that death frightens most people, and especially so those who have no hope, who do not know that in Christ life always has the final say. Whether this fear was founded or not is not the point—the pandemic exposed a widespread fear of death that is part of the corruption of humanity. It makes sense that only fear of death could unite so many people around quick changes regarding social interactions. We all will die after all, no exceptions.

And this fear of death has threatened various parts of our life, most especially the Church. In many ways, this fear of death has contended against the Church. Many pastors have faced burnout from anxiety over the future of their church or dealing with competing views and approaches to the pandemic. Navigating restriction protocols and virtual services have added to stress levels. And there is the concern about members or families that may not return to church even after this is all said and done, who have grown accustomed to not gathering with the communion of saints. Rightly can it be said that this acute fear of death brought out by the pandemic has contended with the life of the Church.

And yet, to contend with Christ, the Life of the Church, means that death will not have the final say. In fact, at Holy Cross we have witnessed Easter triumphs throughout the year, as many people have been brought into the life of the church. In the fall, we brought into membership a couple, Woodie and Ricki Nace, who have been and continue to be the cooks and coordinators for the Sunday evening Community Dinners. These dinners are open to Hazelwood and after a wonderful meal and time for fellowship, we head upstairs for a Vespers service to end the day. One day Ricki approached me and asked if we could move the dinner up an hour so they could attend the Vespers service before Woodie had to go to work. We have and it is a joy to see them and their grandchildren receiving God's Word.

HOLY CROSS HAZELWOOD CONTINUED

A few weeks before Easter, in the same space the Community dinners are held, I met a woman who needed food. As we were helping her get food, she told me her name was Babs and she was looking for a church to join. I encouraged her to check out our church. Typically, this is as far as things go and such invited people do not show up for church. But at 9:30 on Sunday morning she was attending with an elderly man, Ed, for whom she cares. After the service she told me that she desired to commune, to which I said that we had to go through classes. She promptly agreed. During instruction, she and Ed wholeheartedly agreed with the beliefs contained in the Catechism and had no issues with what we believe and confess. Babs and Ed joined within two weeks of my meeting her and have been faithful members ever since.



Another Easter triumph occurred on Easter itself. Three youth were confirmed and one adult brought into membership. I met with the youth twice a week for the past year to go through confirmation lessons and the adult was integral to many of the maintenance and beautification projects went into improving Holy Cross' presentation.

And this upcoming month of June is full of Easter promise. We are having more people visit and join us for Bible Study, expressing interest to join a church family. Currently, there are two adults who are in catechesis, one of whom will be baptized, and both of whom will become members on June 20th.

But Easter triumphs are not limited to new members. Easter triumphs are found in faithful Christians who gather around and receive life in the Word and Sacraments. They are found in compassionate Christians who desire to feed and clothe those in need, as happens almost daily here at Holy Cross. Easter triumphs occur when faithful saints see death in the world and live out and confess the message of hope in Christ against it. And all these triumphs will continue to rise victorious as long as our center and foundation is the life of Christ. Even during a year of turmoil, division, and fear, Christ has worked peace, unity, and joy at Holy Cross, and continues to bless this mission with growth. Amidst, and in, and even through death, His Easter triumph always has the final say. And the final word is life.

HOLY CROSS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHAPEL

Hazelwood

New Vicar Introduction

The writer to the Hebrews states, “**Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever**” (Heb 13:8). Holy Cross Evangelical - Lutheran Chapel in Hazelwood and First Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church live out this confession as I was recently installed as their new vicar. I have some large shoes to fill as both of my predecessors, Timothy Kern and Silas Hasselbrook, were wonderful vicars who did amazing work at both Holy Cross and First Trinity. While change is never easy, we pray that God may continue this good work throughout my vicarage year.



Since I am new, it seemed appropriate to briefly introduce myself and my family. My name is Benjamin Janssen, and I am the youngest of four children. My father is an ordained LCMS pastor and serves at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Martinsville, IN while my mother is an RN in Bloomington, IN. In May of 2019, I graduated from Concordia University Chicago with a bachelor's degree in Business Not- For- Profit Management along with two minors, one in Theology and another minor in Biblical Languages. While in Chicago I attended St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church in Forest Park, IL where I met my lovely wife, Elizabeth.

Elizabeth and I were married on Pentecost of 2019 and then moved to Fort Wayne where I received my first two years of pastoral education at Concordia Theological Seminary. Elizabeth is an Occupational Therapist and worked in a public school district near Fort Wayne during my first two years of seminary. Then on May 12th, God blessed Elizabeth and I with the birth of our son Nathaniel John. He has been our joy these past few months and is loving Pittsburgh so far.

Our little family is so excited to spend this year with all of you in Pittsburgh. This is an exciting time for us as we learn about ourselves, parenting, Christ's church during my vicarage year. As this year begins, we agree St. Paul who writes, “**I thank God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.**” Thank you and God bless you all.

-Vicar Benjamin Janssen

Holy Cross Evangelical - Lutheran Chapel

First Trinity Evangelical - Lutheran Church



Clarksburg to be 2021-22 1-1-1 Recipient

Have you ever wondered what might be an easy, yet extremely effective, way to raise funds for our mission churches in the Pittsburgh region? About three years ago the English District piloted the 1-1-1 program. The idea is this: each person in church, each Sunday, gives \$1 (each week). Our English District campus ministries here in the Pittsburgh area, located at All Saints Slippery Rock and First Trinity Pittsburgh, as well as other English District campus ministries (Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries, Martin Luther Chapel at Michigan State, and at the University of Arizona), are recipients of 1-1-1 funds for 2020-2021. Holy Cross Hazelwood was one of two recipients in 2019-20, and received about \$24,000. It has been announced that for the 2021-22 cycle of 1-1-1, St. John's Church in Clarksburg will be one of the recipients, along with Blessed Sacrament Church in Hayden, ID (Ceour d'Alene).

What could Pittsburgh do? Here's one idea: Perhaps the SELC and Eastern District congregations could do their own version of 1-1-1 this year, to support both Holy Cross Chapel and St. John's Church. How much could be raised? Using figures from The Lutheran Annual 2021, these congregations could raise around \$1600/week, which works out to around \$163,000/year. That's right - that's \$800 a week for mission churches if everybody just gives \$1 every week. That's at least \$80,000 for each mission. Can you imagine how far that would go in supporting the work of these congregations? It would be a wonderful gift indeed.

Do you want to know more about this program? Here's a snippet from the English District website:

It is completely voluntary, but we believe that as God's people see and hear what is being accomplished, specifically and directly in support and development of new missions and enhancing existing missions, more and more of us will want to be involved. It's simple. Very simple. It is NOT burdensome, nor sacrificial. It involves every baptized member of the Body of Jesus in your congregation, from the newest baby baptized to the oldest member. It demonstrates the power of the beautiful body of Christ working together, prompted by faith. It shows how much can be accomplished by many, giving little. Here's the plan: \$1/per baptized member/per week. Simple, right? Self-explanatory almost. Not burdensome, nor sacrificial. All can participate.



MISSION NEWS

Memorial Day observed at Minersville Cemetery

by Rev. Brian Westgate, Chair of the PALM Minersville Cemetery Committee

Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries was happy to once more celebrate Memorial Day services at Minersville Cemetery on Pittsburgh's Herrin Hill this year. There were 16 people in attendance representing nearby First Trinity Church in Pittsburgh and Redeemer Oakmont, as well as Trail Life USA Troop PA-0412.



The religious service was led by Pastor Westgate of Redeemer Church, PALM Secretary, Lutheran Education Director, and Chair of the PALM Minersville Cemetery Committee. The hymns "God Bless Our Native Land" (TLH 577) and "Swell the Anthem, Raise the Song" (TLH 584) were sung; the order of service came from the beloved Children's Hymnal. Psalm 148 was prayed, and Hebrews 11:32-12:2 was read, followed by a devotion by Pastor Westgate.

This was followed by the civil service, led by Pastor Spittel from First Trinity, PALM President and Functions Director. This included the Pledge of Allegiance, the singing of the National Anthem, the reading of the Presidential Proclamation for this year's Memorial Day, and the singing of Taps. After a moment of silence, those present placed approximately 40 American flags on graves of veterans buried in the cemetery. Veterans from the following wars are present: Civil War, Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II.

The next service at the cemetery this year will be held on Veterans Day, November 11. We hope you will attend.

Please do consider volunteering at the cemetery. We hope to announce soon a time for our next work day.



MISSION SAINTS FEED HAZELWOOD IN BODY, SPIRIT

by Justin D. Spittel, Urban Ministries Director

Mercy, Witness, Life Together - these ideals illustrate how the church works together to proclaim the Gospel and to provide for our brothers and sisters in Christ in our congregations, communities, and throughout the world. In all we do, Christ is at the center, leading us, sustaining us, keeping us focused on our mission. This will never change.

In a busy undercroft in a small church in Hazelwood, these ideals are front and center. From mid-morning to early afternoon every other Saturday, you will find handfuls of individuals tirelessly hauling in food deliveries and packing shopping bags full for dozens of families who will no longer worry where their next meal is coming from.



This is the Holy Cross Food and Clothing Distribution, PALM's premier benevolence mission, which provides vital assistance to families in Hazelwood and beyond. While the food and clothing are free, many clients find joy in helping the many volunteers who make this outreach possible.

Members of the former St. Paul's Lutheran Church, ELCA, began the mission out of necessity in 2001 when several women of the parish sold an excess of new appliances and clothing left in storage to help support the church through a financial crisis. During the Great Recession in 2007, when many low-income workers lost their jobs and needed assistance in feeding and clothing their families, the mission incorporated a food bank into their operations. In the years that followed, the mission partnered with local businesses and organizations to give food that would otherwise be disposed of to those in need. When the Holy Cross mission acquired St. Paul's in 2019, PALM breathed new life into the mission, chartering it officially by its new name and recognizing it as a PALM mission.

A benevolence mission is a sterling example of our Christian ideals, and no one knows that better than Holy Cross' church workers, mission directors, and volunteers.

"The mission is about serving God, to help people with the necessities," said Virginia Brooks, the mission's co-director. "I thank and praise God for all He has done for us. Through hard times, none of this was possible without Him. He does what we cannot do. I am His instrument, and I give Him all the glory."

"[This mission] brings people into the church. It means a lot for the people that we serve and work through," said Walter Brooks the mission's co-director. "That's the most important take-away from this, beyond a shadow of a doubt."

"The Lord brings those in need to us so that we may reach out to them in mercy," says The Rev. Dr. Douglas Spittel, "and we take every opportunity to give witness to the hope we have in Jesus to our neighbors. Mercy outreach, witness to the neighborhood - all of this leads us to our life together in Christ."

The Holy Spirit works through the saints at Holy Cross through kind words, a prayer, and stewardship towards their neighbors in need who would otherwise not find God themselves.

"Many people who come through our doors never go to church," Mrs. Brooks continued, "but I know and I pray they can feel God's presence here."

MISSION NEWS

Holy Cross Mission Continued

The Holy Spirit does call some of those same neighbors to bear witness to the Gospel in church in the days that follow.

“I came down here the next Sunday,” said one client, now a communicant member, when she recalled her first interactions with Holy Cross. “With the grace of God, that’s the best thing I ever did in my life, is to come and join Holy Cross. I am so thankful and so happy; it brought light into my heart, and a whole new world.”



Such abundant generosity from both grants and donations help this mission to thrive. From that continued support, the kitchen in the undercroft was renovated last May and updated to be a safer and more efficient workspace. (Pictured left: Moira Hasselbrook snaps a group selfie during renovation.)

God inspires the saints at Holy Cross to use what talents they have for His glory. What is being done in the Hazelwood community is truly both a wonder and a blessing!

We invite you to join us in mission, too! The most direct way to provide aid is through monetary donations. Collections of clothing and non-perishable foods will be considered based on current need, and donations

cannot be accepted unannounced.

Please contact Holy Cross through the submission form on www.holycrosspgh.info or by telephone at (412) 521-0844.

HOUSES OF WORSHIP SERIES

Our Houses of Worship

By Shirley Freyer

First Trinity Evangelical-Lutheran Church, Oakland/Shadyside

535 N. Neville Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

412-683-4121

www.FirstTrinity.net

Rev. Dr. Douglas H. Spittel, Parish Pastor

Rev. Eric R. Andrae, STM, Associate Pastor



Founded in 1837 as the First German Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Pittsburgh, First Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church is the oldest remaining LCMS congregation in Greater Pittsburgh. And it was the first truly Lutheran organization based on God's Word and Luther's doctrine rooted in this city, "the mother church", if you will.

Nine years ago on January 22, they celebrated 175 years remembering their unpretentious beginnings and the countless blessings our Lord and Savior has bestowed on this church. This Church of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession first met in a small Unitarian meeting house on Smithfield Street, Downtown, moved to a schoolhouse, on to the courthouse, until the first building was dedicated at the corner of Sixth Avenue and Grant Street on April 5, 1839. Rev. F. Heyer was commissioned missionary for Pittsburgh until 1840.

Its first charter was granted in 1841 during Rev. Fred Schmidt's pastorate - a pastor who edited the First German Lutheran Church paper west of the Alleghenies and came into contact with Professor Walther (father of LC-MS) of St. Louis.

The congregation outgrew the building and a new church site at the corner of Wylie Avenue and Sixth Avenue was dedicated in 1848. Twenty years later the congregation was compelled to build a new church, school and parsonage because the railroad company built a tunnel under the property causing structural damage.

Trinity Church moved to Sixth Avenue between Wylie and Fifth Avenues, dedicated in 1868 with a 180-foot steeple and a seating capacity of 1600. Membership records in 1888 list 1543 baptized members.

In 1896, Rev W. Broecker began the longest pastorate (31 years) achieved. The final transition in 1927 was already in sight. The congregation could not escape the fate of those congregations which had established themselves at the center of a fast-growing industrial city. Commerce and industry replaced the homes of members who followed the mills to the suburbs. And WWI forced new immigration laws. Youth no longer spoke German; the church school was forced to close, and the apparent option was relocation. Ground was broken on the current site for a church, a parish house, a schoolhouse and a parsonage on Easter Sunday 1926. Dedication occurred on July 10, 1927.

HOUSES OF WORSHIP SERIES

A history is detailed on the website according to its 17th and second longest tenured pastor, Rev. Dr. Douglas Spittel who just celebrated 23 years of service at First Trinity this past March.

Pastor Spittel was called from John Huss in Arnold where he ministered for 7½ years after graduating from Concordia Seminary in Ft Wayne. He earned a D.Min. in 2007 from the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary & Antiochian House of Studies in Ligonier.

Born in Baltimore, he met his wife, Leigh in 7th grade. They have four grown children – Kirsten is a consultant in Seattle; Justin, an engineer who lives in South Park; Hannah, a digital marketing professional in Dallas and Daniel, a talent acquisition recruiter for UPMC. Leigh has remained active in the work of the church on the altar guild, interior design and custodial care.



Despite the long, intricate history, its congregation claims no original families. The 80+ families are diverse in age and socio-economic backgrounds. Its congregation president is most likely the youngest among our member churches in western PA. Brandon Price is 26, a graduate of CMU who works for Google. He met his wife, Kristi while both were students.

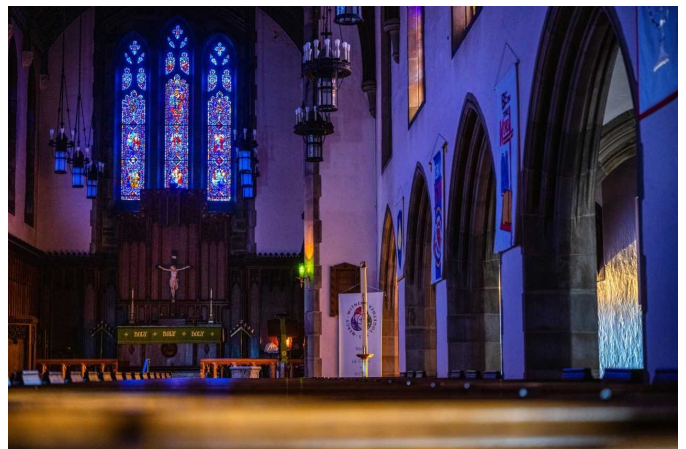
“Kristi's sister also went to CMU and attended First Trinity through the Lutheran Student Fellowship (LSF), so Kristi began when she

started at Pitt and I joined her,” Brandon said. He was baptized and confirmed on August 31, 2014, at First Trinity. Kristi, a Physician Assistant in orthopedic surgery at UPMC, transferred her membership when they married about a year and a half ago.

He comes to his current leadership role having been president of the CMU chapter of LSF. Once he finished his degree, he served as financial secretary until two years ago. Likewise, Kristi got involved with the homeless ministry and Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries (PALM) missions. The couple is expecting a baby girl in early August.

The strength of First Trinity is its confessional integrity. “We are faithful to God’s Word and have a high regard for God’s presence in Word and Sacrament,” Pastor Spittel states. Proof of that statement comes to life in Brandon’s admission.

“One of the primary things I enjoy is how focused on the Word this church is, and the pastors are. I have made most of my friends through the church, become close with a lot of the families here, and both pastors, too. I also really enjoy the very traditional worship style and the sermons of both pastors,” Brandon said.



HOUSES OF WORSHIP SERIES

Cindy and Mike Fenger re-iterate the power of the Word as their reason for choosing this inter-city church. They married in 1991 and found First Trinity to be “strong in the Word and traditional liturgy and the influence of former pastor Joseph Brennen (1991-1997) and the late Edwin McKinney most influential.” (*McKinney beneficence established the First Trinity Endowment Fund for mission outreach. The first-floor lecture hall was re-dedicated in 2006 in his memory. He spent his final years in the care of Concordia at Cabot in assisted living. His gifts to Concordia lasted through his death as a hall in the Lund Care Center Expansion has been named in his honor.*)

Mike has served as Secretary/Treasurer for over 20 years and calls himself the “unofficial boiler maintenance engineer.”

Cindy is the co-executive director of the Pittsburgh Lutheran Deaf Ministry, one of three missions sponsored by First Trinity. She attended CCAC for ASL Interpreter training, completed the CITI (Church Interpreting Training Institute) course sponsored by Concordia Theological Seminary Ft. Wayne and began to practice interpreting during the Divine Service.

Her co-executive director credits her for the Deaf Ministry. According to Debra Terhune, “Her granddaughter was born deaf, so Cindy began practicing signing during the Divine Service in 2013. Two current deaf members, Donna Ulmer and Sharon Arce joined First Trinity because of this ministry.”

Debra and her husband Terry IV, a civil engineer have been members for 27 of the 29 years they have been married. She grew up at St. Matthew on the Northside and retired from Redeemer Lutheran School in Oakmont as a teacher of music, science and robotics when her children, Caitlyn and Terry V were students there.

“My heart was always drawn to the missions at First Trinity,” she noted. “The Revd. Dr. Douglas H. Spittel is an amazing teacher of the Word. Through this teaching, the Holy Spirit works among the members who attend First Trinity, and is the reason there are so many missions associated with this church,” she claims.

Pastor Spittel attributes action-oriented members for the outreach programs, however. “Our people see opportunities and grab onto them without a lot of meetings. They have a ‘we need to do it’ attitude. It’s a big campus where nearly every day there is something scheduled,” he said.

The Terhunes were looking for a church where they could be active members. “First Trinity was a very small congregation at the time with a big heart and great potential for growth. Through the deaf ministry, I am a teacher again,” Debra exclaimed.



“We are currently in God’s Word in a “Through the Bible” series that I have created for the Smartboard. On Monday, our deaf members study two chapters of the Old Testament and eat lunch together. On Sunday, we study one chapter of the New Testament and attend the Divine Service afterwards,” Debra explained.

“Every mission has its own budget,” Pastor Spittel emphasized. Funding comes from in-kind donations and grant writing, another of the various responsibilities Debra cherishes.

SCHOOL NEWS

GOOD SHEPHERD CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

Pittsburgh (Whitehall)

We are looking forward to the 2021-2022 school year! Staff, and families, are beginning to count down the weeks until the new year begins. Classes start Wednesday, September 8, and spaces are still available in the following classes: 3 year old afternoon, 4 year old afternoon, and Junior Kindergarten.

If you have questions about the Preschool or are interested in registering your child, please contact the Director, Ashley Miller at preschool@goodshepherdpittsburgh.org or 412-884-5960.



REDEEMER LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Oakmont

Spring 2021 Wrap-up

One of the highlights of 5th and 6th grade at RLS is the annual trip to Lutherlyn. While students were unable to participate in the traditional overnight experience, they still had the opportunity to visit the camp for a day trip, and they had a beautiful day learning about God's creation! We have been thankful for every opportunity to learn and grow during this unprecedented school year, and we are blessed to have a place like Lutherlyn in our area.

Congratulations to our MS/HS track teams on a great season! Our middle school and high school Track teams had their final meet in mid-May at Geneva College for the NCSAA Championships. Overall, there were 27 school records set this year!

The ending of the final track & field meets closed Redeemer's athletic season for the 2021-2022 school year. Athletes and their parents celebrated at the sports banquet on May 24, held outside on school grounds. The sports banquet is always a highlight of the year as coaches share words of praise and encouragement for their team members. We are grateful for each and every coach, parent, and volunteer that worked so tirelessly to make our athletic season a reality this year.

Our middle school robotics team competed in the VEX IQ World 2021 Championship at the end of May, the world's largest robotics competition. There were 836 VEX IQ teams from 49 states and many countries. The team qualified for this World Competition by receiving the Pennsylvania Excellence Award and Robot Skills Championship. Redeemer competed in the live remote skills portion of VEX Worlds which consisted of driving and programming skills. The Redeemer middle school team scored their highest for the season at this competition. Way to go, Redeemer Robotic Rams!

Congratulations to our RLHS senior class of 2021! Our seniors graduated on Saturday, June 5th, with the Lord blessing us with yet another beautiful day for our outside ceremony. Our valedictorian and salutatorian both graduated with GPAs of over 4.0, with the two of them earning over 20 college credits combined to take with them in their future endeavors. Please keep Callie, Seth, Kaitlin, Mia, Nicholas, Kalee, and Charis in your prayers as they leave RLHS. The future plans of the class of 2021 display a variety of skills and interests, with 3 attending University of Pittsburgh-Main Campus, 1 attending nursing/medical program at Chatham, and still others pursuing programs in genetics, culinary arts, and literary careers. May God bless and keep these students in His care.

Enrollment for 2021/2022 school year is OPEN. Visit our website to complete an online inquiry form, or contact our admissions counselor, Mrs. Jackson, for a tour! Space is limited in some classes. rlspittsburgh.org, 412-793-5884 admissions@redeemer-oakmont.org

CHRIST LUTHERAN

Forest Hills

The Rite of Confirmation was bestowed upon, David Carmichael, Maisy Hanley and Alexa Kocher on Pentecost at Christ Lutheran in Forest Hills. Also welcomed into membership were transfers from Trinity Lutheran in Monroeville, now closed and Unity Lutheran in Homewood, now closed.

This summer Pastor Bright will be preaching a special series entitled, *The Spirituality of the Cross*, and is based in part on a book by the same name authored by Gene Edward Veith Jr. Dr. Veith taught at one of our church's universities and has written 27 books on religious topics. (Pictured Left to Right: The Rev. Ron Bright, Maisy Hanley, David Carmichael and Alexa Kocher.)



The Spirituality of the Cross has been so popular, it is now in its third edition. This book brings to the table those theological insights that are unique to our Lutheran tradition and connect back to the first Christians: Sin and grace; The presence of God; The hiddenness of God; The human God; The spirituality we can find in ordinary life; and how to distinguish the proper roles of church and government.

MT. CALVARY LUTHERAN

West View



Mt. Calvary in West View has reinstated its Sunday School program for youngsters. (Pictured right: Georgeanne Paprocki leads the children in Mt. Calvary's newly formed Sunday School class.) Beginning with one Sunday a month during the summer, the Tuesday Outreach Group is taking turns teaching the children Bible stories and engaging them in songs and activities in the church hall. It begins at 9:30 a.m. and coincides with the adult class taught by Pastor Kuntz in the church.

The congregation is also gearing up for the annual church picnic on August 1. With local parks being closed last year as a result of the virus, the 2020 picnic was held in the church hall and that will be the location for this year as well. The morning will begin with a church service, followed by a catered lunch, and a Chinese auction for a variety of wonderful gifts. The theme is "The Farmhouse." Watch for more details next month.

ZION LUTHERAN

Lawrenceville

Ordination and Installation of Rev. Donn E, Woolweber,

New Pastor at Bethel and Zion, Lawrenceville

Zion was almost filled to capacity with 80 in attendance at the Ordination and Installation of Rev. Donn E. Woolweber, who will serve a dual pastorship at Bethel and Zion. The church was beautifully decorated, and our Pittsburgh pastors were well-represented. Violins, pianos, bells, organist Ruth Molkenthin Miller and a vocal choir as well as a thought-provoking sermon by Pastor Hahn titled "Succession and Sufficiency" and the singing of "The Lord's Prayer" by Rev. Woolweber created a worship service that will be long remembered. Thanks to the efforts of Al Todd III, it was livestreamed and can be seen on Bethel's Facebook page. Dinner at Bethel, a catered affair, was delicious. Thanks to all who made this day special.

Pictured left to right: top row, Rev. Brian Westgate, Redeemer; Rev. Bob McCanless, Concordia; Rev. Eric Andrae, First Trinity; Rev. Barry Keurulainen, Good Shepherd (vacancy pastor); Rev Bert Greenway, Grace; Rev. Dr. Doug Spittel, First Trinity; Rev. Michael Schumacher, St. Matthew. Front row, l. to r. Rev. Jerry Panzigray, John Huss; Rev. Joe Nehring, friend and classmate of Rev. Woolweber and pastor at Trinity in Harvel, IL; Rev. Dr. Chris Wicher, Eastern District President; Rev. Donn Woolweber, Bethel and Zion, Lawrenceville, Rev. Dr. Dan Hahn, St. John's and Rev. Ron Bright, Christ, Forest Hills.



NEWS FROM AREA CONGREGATIONS

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH OF SOUTH HILLS

Pittsburgh (Whitehall)

Good Shepherd hosted the **Rocky Railway Vacation Bible School** the week of June 21st to June 25th. Through this important ministry, we were able to reach 64 kids as well as their family members with the message that Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through. Each day, that theme was reinforced with a key Bible Point: Jesus' power helps us do hard things; Jesus' power gives us hope; Jesus' power helps us be bold; Jesus' power lets us live forever; and Jesus' power helps us be good friends.



Kids visited Bible Adventures, Exploration Station, Kid-Vid Cinema, snack, crafts, and games. We were blessed with supporting prayer warriors, monetary donations, help with decorating and clean-up, getting the snacks prepared, and leading a station - we simply wouldn't be able to have this program without our amazing 50 plus volunteers. We're looking forward to VBS next summer (June 20-24, 2022) when our theme is **Treasured - Discovering You're Priceless to God**.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN

Oakmont



Martin Naumann, son of Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Edward Naumann, was confirmed on Whitsunday, the Feast of Pentecost, May 23, at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Oakmont by Rev. Brian P. Westgate, pastor of Redeemer Church.

His father read him his confirmation verse, Psalm 37:39. He is pictured with his grandfather, Rev. Dr. Jonathan C. Naumann, LCMS missionary to Latin America, his father, Rev. Dr. Edward A. Naumann, LCMS missionary to South Asia, and Pastor Westgate. God bless and keep him in the true faith unto life everlasting!

Redeemer Oakmont Adopts New Service Times

During COVID times we've been having two services each Sunday, but on Sunday, September 12, Rally Day, we will be going back to one service and getting back to "normal" life. Starting September 12, Sunday School/Bible Class will be held at 9:00 a.m.; the Divine Service will begin at 10:15 a.m. A luncheon is planned for Rally Day, September 12, following the Service.

ST. JOHNS LUTHERAN
Clarksburg

Ordination at Clarksburg

Rev. Stanley J. Lacey was ordained and installed as pastor of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Clarksburg, WV on Tuesday evening, June 15, 2021A+D by Rt. Rev'd. Dr. Jamison J. Hardy, President/Bishop of the English District-LCMS. Around 45 people were present, including Pastor Lacey's young family and his parents and sister, as well as many representing congregations like First Trinity, Peace McMurray, Redeemer Oakmont, and Zion/St. John's Accident.



This Service marked Pastor Lacey's first celebrated Divine Service. Pastor Brian Westgate, circuit visitor for the English District Pittsburgh Circuit, pastor of Redeemer Oakmont, and PALM secretary, served as Deacon for the Service. Pastor James Oester, emeritus, St. John's vacancy pastor, served as lector. Bishop Hardy preached on the text and theme "Be ready in season and out of season" from II Timothy 4:2.

Many pastors were present for the occasion, including Pastor Dan Golden, a classmate of Pastor Lacey's who was ordained two days before in New York State and who would be installed at St. Paul's Parkersburg, WV that coming Saturday; Dr. Edward Naumann, LCMS Missionary to Eurasia; Rev. Mark Steiner, an advancement officer at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne; Pastor Bob McCanless, Concordia Brentwood; Pastor Douglas Spittel, parish pastor at First Trinity and PALM President, who served as master of ceremonies for the Service; Pastor Justin Schmidt, Peace McMurray; and Pastor Mark Kloha, St. Paul's Ashland, KY.

All of us at PALM wish God's richest blessings on this mission congregation and their new pastor as he begins his work. We encourage you to remember them in both your prayers and your gifts. Why not pay them a visit sometime? The church is located at 125 Meigs Ave. (corner of Park & Meigs) in Clarksburg. The mailing address is PO Box 709, Clarksburg, WV 26302. stjohnsclarksburg.org

REDEEMER LUTHERAN

Oakmont

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

A successful drive-thru Strawberry Festival was held at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Oakmont on Friday, June 11, 2021. Due to the pandemic, instead of the regular menu we offered dessert only: strawberries, shortcake, ice cream and whipped topping, and a bottle of water. The desserts were pre-packaged along with utensils. The day before, volunteers attended Strawberry Prep Day not only to prepare the strawberries, but to place dessert items into separate containers. On the day of the festival as the cars pulled in volunteers worked to take orders and fill them by placing the dessert items into paper gift bags with handles. The Outreach Committee was on hand to give out Bibles and information about Redeemer Lutheran Church and Redeemer Lutheran School. If you like you can read an article in the Tribune-Review: <https://triblive.com/local/valley-news-dispatch/strawberry-festivals-bring-comaraderie-sweet-treats-to-locals-during-pandemic/>. It was great seeing all who came! Thank you for coming! Next year we hope to return to the full menu with hot dogs, brats, hot sausage and more!

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN
Parkersburg, WV

Pittsburgh Pastors Visit Parkersburg

Many people may not realize that before Pastor Blankenbuehler came to First Trinity in 1964 (and Pentecost Avella in 1966), he served three other congregations. Two of them were in the Norfolk, VA area; he founded Redeemer Portsmouth (1943-1946) and later served Emmanuel Hampton (1955-1964), where he helped build a school and started Resurrection Newport News. But in between his two periods of service there, he served St. Paul Parkersburg.



Parkersburg is three hours down the Ohio River from Pittsburgh. There is actually only one other LCMS congregation on the Ohio River between Pittsburgh and Parkersburg, St. Mark's Steubenville (SELC District). (Note: The Wisconsin Synod has a congregation just upriver from Parkersburg in Marietta, OH). For this reason, the parish bounds are quite large, extending up to an hour away to the north and south. Pastor Blankenbuehler served St. Paul 1946-1955. The work of the congregation was begun in 1884, and it was officially organized three years later. The congregation joined the Missouri Synod in 1914.



It was no doubt a very busy pastorate for Pastor Blankenbuehler in Parkersburg. While he was there, he also served the now-defunct Trinity Pomeroy as well as the state hospital in Gallipolis. In the meantime, as the family grew from one child to four, Pastor & Mrs Blankenbuehler found time to start, according to their daughter, June Bodnar, the very first Kindergarten in the state of West Virginia, in 1950; she belonged to one of those kindergarten classes. The congregation's centennial history reports that the daily sessions were centered on Christ-centered biblical teaching alongside reading, math, and music and activities that helped develop the children socially and physically - the Holy Ghost used this outreach mightily. During the previous year, 1949, the congregation had moved from Red Hill, east of Parkersburg, off US 50, where the church cemetery is located, to the northeast side of the city of Parkersburg; the new property had been acquired a few years before he took up his charge there. (At one time there had also been another congregation further east on US 50, St. John's Sand Hill.) The church built during Pastor Blankenbuehler's pastorate is now the fellowship hall. The current church was built in 1968, 20 years later. He even found time, in October 1949, to deliver a five pound can of honey to the then West Virginia governor, Okey Patteson.

ST. PAUL CONTINUED

Now let's fast forward to the present. Many different pastors have served St. Paul Parkersburg during the 65+ years since Pastor Blankenbuehler left. Pastor Dan Golden was installed as St. Paul's new pastor on Saturday, June 19. He was ordained the previous Sunday back home in Upstate New York at Calvary Church in Waterloo. Pastor Golden came to the Faith about a decade ago and has spent much of these 10 years studying for the ministry, first through classes to be a certified lay minister, and then, soon afterwards, studying for his M.Div. The ministry is a second career for him; he spent over two decades in retail management. He and his wife Julie have 5 children, from age 27 down to age 10.

Present for the installation were Pastor Westgate (Redeemer Oakmont) and Pastor McCanless (Concordia Brentwood), along with Pastor Golden's classmate, Pastor Lacey (St. John's Clarksburg). Pastor McCanless actually preached at this church some 20 years ago before he was ordained. He was installed by Pastor Danny Koch, the Ohio District Circuit Visitor for Parkersburg; Ohio District Circuit Southeast 3 also includes Zanesville and the Hocking Valley, besides Ashland, KY and West Virginia. Preacher for the service was Pastor Golden's vicarage supervisor, Pastor Clint Poppe of Good Shepherd Church in Lincoln, NE. He preached on Numbers 21:4-9, Moses raising the bronze snake in the wilderness when the people were bitten by the fiery serpents. Participating pastors included (names in order of picture from left to right). After the service, a fine reception dinner was enjoyed by all in the fellowship hall/ Blankenbuehler church.

Parkersburg is a 3-hour drive from Pittsburgh. Why not visit sometime? St. Paul's is one of only 5 LCMS congregations in West Virginia, along with congregations in Huntington, Charleston, and Alderson (all Ohio District), and our English District congregation in Clarksburg. Also nearby are Southeastern District congregations in Cumberland and Hancock, MD and Winchester, VA, as well as the Ohio District congregation in Ashland, KY where Pastor McCanless was ordained.

Pastors present for the installation included (as pictured, left to right): Pastor Danny Koch (Trinity Logan & Trinity Sugar Grove, OH), Pastor Mark Raddatz (Emmanuel Lancaster, OH), Pastor John Davidson (Redeemer Lancaster, OH), Pastor McCanless, Pastor Westgate, Pastor Golden, Pastor Robert Duncan (Emeritus), Pastor Frank Ruffatto (Redeemer Charleston, WV), Pastor Lacey, Pastor Roger Sayre (Emeritus, St. Paul Church's vacancy pastor), Pastor Andrew Wilson (Trinity Zanesville, OH), and Pastor Poppe



Concordia Lutheran Ministries

Our annual Butterfly Releases, hosted by Concordia Hospice of Washington and Good Samaritan Hospice, a mission of Concordia, represent some of the many bereavement support services designed to guide the patient's family and friends through the challenges of grief as they adjust to loss. The Concordia Hospice of Washington event will take place Saturday, August 28 at 1 p.m. at The Barn at Ike's Place in Amity, Pa. The Good Samaritan Hospice Memorial Service events will be held at the following dates and locations: Sunday, August 15, 2021, at 2 p.m. at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Franklin Township, Pa. (Butler County) and on Saturday, August 21 at Concordia at Villa St. Joseph in Baden, Pa. (Beaver County). Concordia's hospice programs have hosted Butterfly Releases since 2016. The events provide a memorable way for families to grieve their loss while also honoring and celebrating the lives of those who have gone before them. The Butterfly Releases are unique because they welcome everyone from the community, not just families of those who have used Concordia's hospice services. To register for any of these events, please call the CLM Foundation Office at 724-352-1571 ext. 8355 or go to our website at www.concordiaLM.org and head to the "Events & News" section to register online.



Concordia at Villa St. Joseph to Host Expansion Grand Opening

The public is invited to the grand opening celebration of Concordia at Villa St. Joseph's new personal care and memory expansion on Saturday, August 7 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., located at 1040 State St., Baden, PA 15005. Concordia at Villa St. Joseph stands on a faithful legacy of caring, comfort and healing in Beaver County, and its mission has grown with the new, state-of-the-art expansion that adds 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 community was designed to offer individualized care at an incredible value, featuring several floor plans to fit a variety of budgets, high-quality care and 24-hour nursing support. The event will include remarks from Concordia leadership, the Rite of Dedication, hors d'oeuvres, tours and musical entertainment.

Walk-ins are welcome - but registration is preferred. To RSVP for the event or to learn more about the continuum of care at Concordia at Villa St. Joseph, please call 724-869-6300. Visit the facility online at www.ConcordiaVillaStJoseph.org.

Take Heart! Strength and Confidence for Demanding Days

A Retreat Presented by DOXOLOGY and the LCMS Office of National Mission
September 20 – 22, 2021

Antiochian Village Conference Center — Bolivar, PA

The “Take Heart!” retreat provides an excellent opportunity for respite, rest and renewal for pastors. This is a gift that heartens not only the pastor attending the event, but also enhances his subsequent influence and counsel for brother pastors and for his parish. The retreat pays dividends that multiply the positive outcomes exponentially. This is an advanced educational training experience intended to provide **respite, rest and renewal** for LCMS pastors. “Take Heart!” underscores four major emphases for healthy ministry: **Sustain** the work of faithful, confident pastors as they serve their parish. **Diagnose** existing challenges of ministry. **Respond** confidently to provide strategies, insight, and assistance, as needed. **Equip** pastors with essential spiritual care and psychological resources. This retreat will provide **encouragement for ministry, enhance confidence in ministry** and will **strengthen pastors for ministry** during the chaotic days of COVID-19.

Presenters for the Retreat



Rev. David C. Fleming
Executive Director for Spiritual Care



Dr. Beverly K. Yahuke
Executive Director for Christian Counsel



Location: The retreat sessions and lodging will be at Antiochian Village Conference Center, Bolivar, PA.

Registration: LCMS pastors may register online: <https://www.doxology.us/events/2021-sep-take-heart-retreat-pennsylvania/>

Cost: LCMS pastors may attend the event at no cost. Pastors are responsible for covering their own transportation.

Schedule: Event check-in begins at 2:30pm and the event begins at 3:00pm on September 20. The conference ends by 3:00pm on September 22.

Registration is open through September 5, 2021

Please direct questions or cancellations to Nancy Ewert at newert@doxology.us

Gibbons Band Concert

As part of the Concordia Haven Apartments Summer Concert Series, the Gibbons Band will be performing a free concert at the Haven II Patio on the Concordia at Cabot Campus, Sunday, August 8 at 4:00 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. The band specializes in swing music from the 1930s, '40s and '50s and will perform favorites of the big band era. The band was formed by Mary Gibbons, former director of the Elderton High School Band, and her husband, Kevin, former director of the Kittanning Fireman's Band. Several of the musicians are retired or current band directors and music teachers. Audiences love singing along and the nostalgia the music creates.

As our guest, the concerts are free of charge. Tours of our beautiful campus will be available before and after each performance. And you will meet our residents and have the chance to talk with them about the worry-free lifestyle at the Concordia Haven Apartments. The concerts will be held rain or shine – they are scheduled to take place on the Haven II patio but will be moved to the Haven I dining room if inclement weather occurs, with the exception of the June 6 East Winds Symphonic Band concert. The group would only like to perform outdoors at this time, so that concert will be canceled if weather poses a problem that day. Food trucks will be on-site for every concert, weather permitting.

Walk-ins are welcome - but registration is preferred. To reserve your seat, call our Admissions Director Peggy Trettel at 724-352-5378 or email at PTrettel@concordialm.org.

This concert series is a part of Concordia Lutheran Ministries' 140th Anniversary Celebration! Concordia was founded as an orphanage and home for the aged in 1881 by a group of Lutheran pastors in Cabot, PA. Today, we are one of the largest nonprofit senior care providers in the country – serving around 50,000 people per year in three states. As we celebrate those humble beginnings this year, we honor the legacy of those who came before us and thank God for his abundant blessings.



17TH ANNUAL CONCORDIA GOLF CLASSIC WAS A TEE-RIFFIC SUCCESS!

This year marked the 17th annual golf outing at the Treesdale Golf and Country Club. Over 180 golfers played a great round to support the Good Samaritan Endowment Fund, Concordia's charitable care fund that helps offset the cost of care for residents who have outlived their resources. Nearly \$130,000 in net proceeds were raised for the Good Samaritan Endowment Fund.

Special thanks to signature sponsor SEI Investments, Gold Sponsors - Butler Health System, Armstrong Cable/Armstrong Business Solutions, Concordia Visiting Nurses and Platinum Sponsor - Truist.

Congratulations to first place winners: Highpointe at Rebecca resident - James Sullivan Sr., Stephen Hurst, Brynn Sullivan and Jimmy Sullivan! Taking second place was Danny Harris, Eric Belancic, John Nowakowski and Brad Bothell. Coming in third was the team from SEI Investments that included guest of honor, Mike Kelly, Keith Frndak, president and CEO and Brian Hortert, COO (pictured).

Also pictured is the Greygor family, a group from Zion, Lawrenceville, Mandy Rutkowski won the longest drive in the women's category; Paul Brand, Executive VP for Concordia and congregational president of St. John's Millvale with Charla Oesterling, Concordia's Executive Assistant to the President; and Bob Schmidt's foursome, former Concordia director and member of Zion, Bridgeville.



Kids Fishing Derby



Concordia Lutheran Ministries hosted the annual Kid's Fishing Derby on Sat., May 22 at Saxony Farm in Saxonburg. We welcomed one of the largest crowds ever, with over 750 people attending the six-hour event to reel in bass, bluegill, catfish and sunfish! Breaking records this year we had the largest catch in the history of the event - an enormous 22-in largemouth bass! Prizes were given out every half hour for the largest and smallest catch as well as special prizes throughout the day! Here are a few fast facts from the day: we went through 900 hot dogs, 330 pounds of ice and 4,000 worms!

Pictured is Re. McCanless, pastor at Concordia, Brentwood with his sons, Zachary and Tommy and daughter, Katie who landed her first fish. Also enjoying the day was Chaplain Robert Wacker with his sons, Toby and Ronin.

