



THE PITTSBURGH LUTHERAN

VOL 92, NO 6, August 2022

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PALM DEVOTION

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

“Searing Heat or Comforting Warmth”

“There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover, the dogs came and licked his sores. So it was that the beggar died and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.” St. Luke 16:19-23



Lazarus and the rich man spent their days on earth and in eternity in relative proximity to one another. The rich man living lavishly in his house, poor Lazarus begging at his gate. Lazarus resting in the comfort of the bosom of Abraham in heaven, the rich man tormented in the fires of hell. On earth the two never spoke. In eternity, the rich man demands that Abraham and Lazarus help him.

Lazarus, which means “the one who is helped,” cried for mercy at the gate and received that mercy tendered by the angels in eternal rest. The rich man, whose name is meant to be forgotten, never knew or practiced mercy and does not penitently beg even when suffering the torments of the fires of hell.

A simple moralistic understanding of this story would be to tell you, dear reader, to pay attention to the Lazarus of this world. The take-away would be to exhort you to be merciful even as your Father in heaven is merciful. Indeed, this is a good and salutary thing for us to do for it is who we are, baptized into the merciful death and resurrection of Jesus and living our new lives in and with the mercy of God for us and for our neighbors.

But we are also neighbors with the rich man. He cannot be saved once he is dead and suffering in hell. Jesus tells us that there will be no apparitions of Lazarus to warn him. What Jesus does say and promise is that our “rich man” neighbors have Moses and the Prophets, that is, the Word of God. It is this Word that has the power to enlighten our neighbor’s darkness, lift the veil of his spiritual blindness, and open his heart to the mercy of Jesus for him and his neighbors.

It is a difficult thing to reach the rich, nameless man. Whether he is wealthy or not is immaterial. This sort of rich man believes only in himself and thinks he needs no other. He may live down the street from you or he may sit at your dinner table. Either way, he has little time or interest for your religion. This makes him the neediest among us. He is the sick who needs a physician, the thirsty who needs a cup of cold water, the naked who needs to be clothed. So, bring him the Word of God and the hope of Jesus. In word and deed, apply the salve of patience, quench him with the Water of Life, and cloth him with the Righteousness of Jesus. Pray for him, be merciful to him, and when he feels the heat of the flames licking at his heels, tell him about Jesus Christ the All-Merciful Savior who calls him and all of us by name.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

August

7. IRMC VNA Butterfly Release, Mack Park (750 S. 6th St., Indiana, PA 15701). 2:00 p.m.

10. CLM Informational Session, LPN Certification, Good Samaritan Hospice Office, Valencia, Pa, 2:23 to 3:30 p.m. and 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

14. Good Samaritan Hospice annual Butterfly Release, Rotary Shelter at Cranberry Township Community Park 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM

19. Concordia Concert, Renewed Memories, Concordia of the South Hills, Mt Lebanon, 3:30 p.m.

21. Concordia Concert, 56 East Street Band, Haven II patio, Cabot, 4:00 p.m.

27. The annual Concordia Hospice of Washington Butterfly Release, The Barn at Ike's Place (80 Ikes Road, Amity, PA 15311, 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

September

11. Concordia Concert, Harrisville Community Band, Haven II patio, Cabot, 4:00 p.m.

16. 19 Concordia Concert, Mickey Dee, Concordia of the South Hills, Mt Lebanon, 3:30 p.m.

18. PALM Annual Delegate Meeting, First Trinity, Shadyside.

23. Concordia Purse Bash, The Mansion, Butler, Pa, 6:00 p.m.

Hello August



The Pittsburgh Lutheran

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(PALM)

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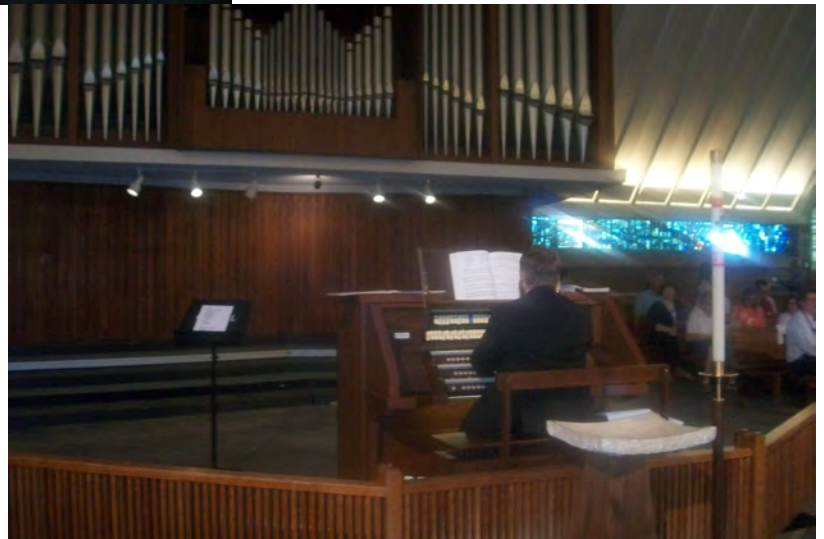
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PALM Website
<http://www.palmpa.org>

English District Convention

The English District met in Convention at Concordia University Ann Arbor June 20-22. PALM had a booth at the convention in the ministry tent, staffed by Vicar Janssen and Deaconess Intern Huelsman. Pastor Westgate served as convention organist, and Pastor Spittel served at the Altar; both are members of the District's Worship Committee (Pastor Spittel is chair).

The convention saw many elections including Pittsburgh people. Pastor Spittel was elected Second Vice-President of the District (Vice-President for the Eastern Region, which presently includes congregations in the following states: New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia, Georgia, and Florida). Pastor Westgate continues in his service as Pittsburgh Circuit Visitor, and Pastor Hardy continues in his service as District President and Bishop. Pastor Westgate and Connor Hagey were elected to serve on the Nominations Committee for the 2025 District Convention. Overtures from Redeemer Oakmont and the Circuit were passed for consideration by Synod.



Memorial Day Service

Minersville Cemetery

Around 15 people gathered together at Minersville Cemetery in Pittsburgh's Hill District for the annual Memorial Day services in the cemetery. Pastor Westgate led the religious portion of the ceremony, and Pastor Spittel led the civil portion. At the end of the ceremony, those gathered placed flags on the approximately 40 veterans graves in the cemetery.

The cemetery, which was the cemetery of Second St. Paul's Evangelical-Lutheran Church, is owned by the Synod and cared for by PALM. Please consider attending our annual Memorial Day and Veterans Day services in the cemetery.



SELC Convention Report

May 12-15, 2022

Convention theme was Thy Strong Word each homily focused around either the scripture reading for the service or that verse of the hymn. Often intertwining the two.

Circuit Forums met for Circuit Visitor election and Synodical Convention pastoral and lay representative election:

- Pr. Curtis Stephens was reelected as circuit visitor
- Pr. Curtis Stephens was elected as Pastoral Representative Synodical Convention
- Jonathan Baisch was elected as Lay Representative Synodical Convention
- Pr. McCleod was elected the Pastoral Alternate
- Betty Olan was elected the Lay Alternate
- A suggestion was made to focus on a congregation in need for a triennium for prayer, contact, and support.
- There was discussion to have an additional circuit conference or forum in 2023 after the synodical convention

The following noteworthy Resolutions were presented, voted, and passed:

- To strengthen the advisory non-voting delegate participation at District Convention. This allows the non-voting delegates to hold a separate vote before the delegates vote. The advisory delegates are already able to participate in discussion on resolutions.
- To address the Lutheran teacher shortage and low teacher salaries. This called for a resolution to Synod to establish a committee to make a debt assistance program. Initial funding would be from offerings collected during the 2024, 2025, and 2026 National Lutheran Schools week.

Missions Report – there was a report on missions planning. They discussed how church planting has been shown to be the best way to bring in new members and grow the church and cited the New Testament where the apostles went out and preached and established new churches in the communities they visited. The SELC is revamping when they provide funding to missions to better support the mission's needs.

CPH greeted the assembly. An item of note is they are releasing a new Large Print LSB which is 40% larger and “meets his 85-year-old mother's requirements”.

Rev. Dr. Joel Elowsky presented an essay on the early church father's writings about the unholy trinity (Devil, World, Flesh) and how God's Word Cleaves that darkness.

President Matthew Harrison spoke on the following items:

- The correction and rebuke of the practice of Online Communion
- Provided an update on the Concordia Universities – Selma, Portland, Bronxville all closed. Seward, River Forest, St. Paul, Ann Arbor and Mequon are in a healthy financial position.
- An update on Mequon and allegations of Woke Ideology and how the Synod is working to correct issues including violation of the bylaws, mission drift, loss of trust, and a proposed path forward
- He emphasized the successful work overseas with the Livonia SMP program. This is training pastors in European and Asian countries, even Pakistan. He emphasized the growth of Lutheran churches in Germany proclaiming the Gospel to the Muslim population.
- The LCMS is working toward fellowship with the Lutheran Synod in the Sudan and South Sudan.
- New Spanish edition of the LSB with additional hymns.

Lutheran Haven presented that they are challenged in staffing like all other Elderly Care facilities.

The SELC financial secretary and treasurer reported that the SELC is keeping a balanced budget and has spent less than money received which will allow them to do more missions work. If you want to see more news from the SELC, there is a beacon newsletter. Lastly, I was able to meet and talk with many pastors from other SELC congregations. I was also able to talk to President Harrison and Central Region Vice President Benjamin Ball.



Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries 2022 Annual Delegate Meeting

Important News and Business for Our Missions



18 September 2022

Registration—2:30 PM

Meeting Begins—3:00 PM

First Trinity Evangelical-Lutheran Church—Shadyside

Second Floor Auditorium

Each Member Congregation is asked to send

1 Pastoral and 2 Lay Delegates

Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries

Oh, give thanks to the Lord!

Call upon His name;

Make known His deeds among the peoples!

- Psalm 105:1

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An Annual Report Booklet and Delegate Packet will arrive at each parish office in early August.

CAMPUS MINISTRY

SRU CAMPUS MINISTRY

by Augusta R. Mennell, Campus Ministry Director

A Pastor Matters

My own dear campus pastor made all the difference in my life at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Iowa City, Iowa, a campus ministry. I feel indebted to him. He really listened to me, and he gave me answers from the Bible.

It wasn't until this year's orientation meetings at Slippery Rock University that I was reminded of my college pastor. He is not the only pastor who is the reason that some college students are happy to come to a Lutheran campus ministry table at the orientations. They were not afraid to accept our invitations to sign-up for future student meals and activities, such as kayaking and going to the sportsman's range. A major reason for this student enthusiasm is that their pastors have been loving shepherds and it shows.

What happened is that students who came to orientation were attracted by two things: Leif's funny question and by the influence of their pastors back home. You might laugh to hear this, but the question All Saints Fellowship's president, Leif Lotvedt, asked the students made them laugh! He asked, "Do you like free food?" They retorted, "Of course!" Then they gave Leif their names and phone numbers so campus ministry could call them to invite them to all the events at the Lutheran center, including our monthly free meals. It was Leif's humorous question, but it was also their relationship with their pastors that gave them the willingness to let us invite them to participate in our organized activities in the fall.

All Saints got to hear from students about two Lutheran pastors who made a significant difference. The first pastor is not from the Slippery Rock area. When this student told us the name of her church, we already knew all about him. We knew him because he helped a dear lady who lived in an area nursing home. She was lonely and desperately wanting to live near her son. After many months she was allowed to move closer to her son. Sadly, he was not interested in seeing her.

We called the Lutheran Church near her to see if he could help. That pastor was an angel. He visited her regularly, instructed her in the Lutheran faith, arranged rides for her to his church where the congregation became her family. And he included her in his calls, taking her his own homemade ice cream. Most of all, he went often to see her as she grew near to death. We know of his care for this lady. It is no wonder the student who was part of his congregation wanted to continue growing in faith. We are so thankful for this pastors influence.

The second pastor who is an inspiration to his student was once a vicar at All Saints. The student and his parents stopped at the table which displayed photos and also books to give away. They looked at the photo of the church building and said, "our pastor helped to build your church!". I was stunned. How could that be? And then I did remember. He was the vicar at All Saints when my husband and I first visited All Saints. He was an excellent preacher who was loved by the students and the congregation. Everyone hoped he could stay, but he got a call. In fact, he is at that very church today. During his time as vicar he influenced everyone including students because he really wanted everyone to know God's Word. He is one reason his student is ready to grow spiritually.

These two pastors are not unusual. They did what pastors do. They were shepherds who help their students. Now campus ministry gets to meet those students and welcome them to our church and campus ministry. What a blessing!

Pictured: All Saints Fellowship President, Leif Lotvedt welcomes Slippery Rock University students to All Saints at campus Orientation event.



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHAPEL

Hazelwood

Introducing the New Vicar at Holy Cross

By Vicar David L. Wenndt

Greetings in the name of Christ! The writer to the Hebrews states: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Chapel in Hazelwood lives out this confession as I was recently installed as their new Vicar. I have large shoes to fill, as my predecessors- Timothy Kern, Silas Hasselbrook, and Benjamin Janssen- were wonderful Vicars who did amazing work, both with Holy Cross and within the community of Hazelwood. While change is never easy, we pray that God may continue the wonderful work that has been done here throughout my vicarage as well!



Since I am new, it seemed appropriate to me to briefly introduce myself and my wife. My name is David Wenndt, and I'm most recently from Fort Wayne, Indiana. I was born in central Iowa, we moved to Independence, Kansas when I was six, and then we moved to Lancaster, Wisconsin when I was thirteen years old. I graduated from Lancaster High School, and then attended Concordia University-Wisconsin. While I started seminary immediately after college, the Lord had other plans, and I spent the next thirteen years working. In 2011 I moved to Fort Wayne with the intention of resuming seminary, and I met my wonderful wife Hannah. We were married on Black Friday in 2014 at the Seminary.

Hannah is a professional photographer and artist and has been incredibly supportive of my pursuit of the Ministry. I resumed my Seminary studies in the summer of 2020, and my third year of studies has brought me here, to beautiful Pittsburgh!

We're so excited to spend this year with all the wonderful people in Hazelwood. It will be an exciting year as we learn about ourselves, about God's Church, and about all the wonders of Pittsburgh during my vicarage year. I'm reminded of the words of St. Paul in his letter to the church at Philippi: "I thank my 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." (Philippians 1:3-6) This was true when St. Paul first wrote these words, and it's true for you in 2022. Jesus Christ is the Son of God, who became human and died for your sins so that you might have eternal life through faith. Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Chapel is your congregation here in Hazelwood. We continue to have Sunday Services at 9:30, with Bible Class at eleven; Matins Tuesday-Saturday at 9:30, or Wednesday Bible Study at Noon, and our Stations of the Cross Devotional Fridays at Noon.

Thank you for welcoming me and Hannah into this wonderful city! God Bless each and every one of you!



MISSION NEWS

PITTSBURGH LUTHERAN CENTER FOR THE BLIND, REVIEWING OUR 2021-22 SEASON

by Sherri Crum

From September 2021 through May 2022 101 meals were served to twenty-one different individuals.

Meal-Day Programming

Since March of 1999, the Pittsburgh Lutheran Center for the Blind has been offering full-course meals, at least eight times a year to persons who are blind/vision-impaired. The meals are preceded by a Topical Bible Study which is conducted by an area pastor or deaconess. Six different pastors and Vicar Janssen facilitated the Bible studies this season. We continue to invite new pastors to share their knowledge and learn about the PLCB and the folks we serve. We were pleased to have one new pastor join us this year. We continue to close the day with Vespers.

In 2021-22, six different cooks, or groups of cooks, prepared the food. This year folks from Bethel Glenshaw, Holy Cross Chapel, Redeemer Ladies Aid, St. John Millvale, and members of First Trinity, prepared a meal for our guests.

A Few Noteworthy Items:

The computer we had been using for several years would no longer start. That problem was solved when a generous anonymous donor purchased a new one for the Outreach Center.

Deaconess Huelsman joined us--assisting with volunteer instruction, picking up food/supplies ... and meal-day coordination.

We bid a fond yet bittersweet farewell to Clara Seaman and Michael Kennedy who relocated to Madison Wisconsin in late February.

Our annual Bake Sale fundraiser was a success. Several folks baked items, some sought items to be donated, and many selected from the wide array of delicious treats to share with friends and family members.

At our Planning Committee Meeting we reviewed our last year, determined the dates for the upcoming season and discussed other Outreach Center related issues. If you would like to learn more about our outreach to folks who are blind/vision-impaired, or to become more involved in the PLCB, please email sssmiley77@gmail.com or phone 412.682-1800.

We can always use assistance in several areas: serving on the day of the meal, shopping for supplies, providing dessert, reviewing paperwork, and much more. If you are interested, please let me know.

THANK YOU for your prayers, support, and countless hours of service to this mission. We could not do what we do without you.

HOUSES OF WORSHIP SERIES

Houses of Worship By Shirley Freyer

The English Evangelical Lutheran Church
of Our Redeemer

1261 Pennsylvania Avenue, Oakmont, PA
15139

412-828-9323

<http://www.redeemer-oakmont.org>

info@redeemer-oakmont.org

Rev. Brian P. Westgate, Pastor

Worship Sunday morning at 10:15; Sun-
day School at 9:00



“Consequently, faith comes from hearing, and hearing from the Word of God.” – Romans 10:17

The English Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer of Oakmont & Verona was born out of the ashes from the United German Evangelical Church of Penn Hills Township. The church had burned down, and Theodore Walz began serving the Lutherans of the congregation. Walz, who was the son of Pastor Killian Walz of First Lutheran in Sharpsburg, graduated from the St. Louis Seminary in 1895 and organized a congregation in 1900. They initially worshiped in a log cabin not far from the old church down Poketa Rd., and later in Verona Borough. They then went to their first house of worship at the southwest corner of Second & Delaware Avenues in Oakmont, which was purchased from the local Episcopal parish.

In October 1912, the Fourth Street church was purchased from the local Methodist congregation because of the growth of the Sunday School. The pastorates of these years tended to be relatively short, and the mission work was hard. Perhaps more recent parish memory begins with the pastorate of Rev. William Wallace Walker, Sr., who served between 1925 and 1937. He was followed by Rev. Alfred Byron Claus, who left the parish to serve as a military chaplain. When Pastor Claus left, Candidate George Washington Bornemann, who had grown up at First St. Paul’s in Southside and was serving under former District President Rev. H.P. Eckardt at St. Andrew’s in Shadyside, was ordained, and installed, serving until 1947.

Pastor Luther Granville Leonard, who is fondly remembered among the older members of the congregation, succeeded Pastor Bornemann in 1948. In 1954, a two-story addition was built onto the west end of the church to provide additional Sunday School classrooms. The following year Pastor Leonard was succeeded in office by Pastor Alfred Faulstick, Redeemer’s longest-serving pastor, who — after 18-1/2 years — retired at the end of 1973. Pastor Richard Ingmire served for a short time afterward, and in 1978 Bishop Bornemann announced that Candidate David Paul Stechholz had been assigned as Redeemer’s new pastor.

“When I was about 10 years old, seven or eight of us met for Sunday School on a small landing at the top of a stairwell,” head deacon Charlie Buttgerreit remembers.

Because of the size of the building and the “baby boom” of the '50s and '60s, plans were initiated to search for another location in Oakmont where a larger “house of worship” could be built. This was while Pastor Faulstick was pastor, and the planning went on for many years; finally in 1980 Redeemer dedicated its new building on Thirteenth St. and Pennsylvania Ave. in Oakmont. “My dad (Butch) attended countless building committee meetings over the years with many other dedicated members of our church,” said Charlie.

HOUSES OF WORSHIP SERIES

Pastor Stechholz ushered in a period of great change at Redeemer. The new church was dedicated by Pastors Stechholz, Faulstick, and Bornemann in November 1980. In September 1983, Redeemer Lutheran School was started as a preschool, with Mrs. Stechholz as the first teacher, and in 1986 Gail Holzer began her long service to RLS. (A separate feature about the school will appear in the September issue.)

In June 1988, Pastor Stechholz accepted a call to California. Eventually, he, too, became Bishop of the English District in 2006, in which office he served for nine years. He is also remembered in Pittsburgh as a director of the Pittsburgh Lutheran Chorus.

Speaking of music, Redeemer members are known by the community and those who have visited as being strong singers, noted Terry Taylor. Joining her in that thought is Bill Humphrey, head trustee, who called Redeemer, "a church that sings." The organ has enough pipes to fill the sanctuary, plus a pastor who is an accomplished organist, he said. A member since 1949, when he and his parents moved to Penn Hills from East Liberty, Bill met his wife Ginny on a bus while they were students at Clarion. It was when they were undertaking confirmation instructions that Pastor Faulstick convinced Bill he would be a good Sunday School teacher, and his convictions held true, for Bill held the post as Sunday School superintendent for more than 25 years. He has been instrumental in every building project, including the property discovery for the Penn Hills campus. Ginny served as church secretary for Pastors Faulstick and Schaefer.

The Bodnar family - Fred, June, Susan, and Peter - joined Redeemer in 1985, transferring from First Trinity in Oakland. "At the time, my sister, Susan, and I comprised the entire Sunday school at First Trinity, and our mother was the only teacher. The "retirement" of my grandfather, Rev. Lorenz Blankenbuehler, from parish ministry at First Trinity to serve as chaplain at Concordia Lutheran Ministries in 1984 coincided with my parents' desire to begin looking for a church home where Susan and I might have other children and youth with whom we could learn and grow in our faith," explained Peter.

Redeemer ended up being the best fit in a lot of other aspects, as well. Not only were there strong and vibrant opportunities for Christian education and youth, but there were also musical opportunities for children. Peter particularly remembers a youth choir called the "Sonrise Singers," led by Karen and Dan Driscoll (current members of St. Luke, Cabot). Susan played the flute in worship on many occasions, and Peter even played saxophone once or twice.

"I believe it's true that Pastor Stechholz turned to my grandfather for advice as a young pastor -- I believe Redeemer was his first call out of seminary," said Peter. "So, he trusted my grandfather for guidance, especially as he navigated a substantial building project early in his pastoral career."

In June 1988, Pastor Stechholz accepted a call to California. Eventually, he, too, became Bishop of the English District in 2006, in which office he served for nine years.

Fort Wayne seminary graduate Candidate Mark Clinton Sheafer — a son of Mount Olive Church, Beaver Falls — was ordained and installed two months later. In 1999, Edward Oren Grimenstein, a member of the congregation's 1987 confirmation class, was ordained. During these years, the school wing was built at the church. Pastor Sheafer requested release from his call and in 2002 returned to the Fort Wayne seminary, where he served as Director of Financial Aid until his retirement this past spring.

Rev. Dr. Jonathan Charles Naumann was installed June 29, 2003. His wife, Cheryl, became the parish deaconess a year later. On June 9, 2013, the congregation celebrated the ordination and installation of Rev. Dr. Edward Arthur Naumann as assistant pastor. He served alongside his father for two years until he was installed as a foreign missionary. On Ash Wednesday 2016, Pastor, and Deaconess Naumann announced they were accepting foreign missionary calls and currently continue to serve in the Dominican Republic.

HOUSES OF WORSHIP SERIES

The current pastor of Redeemer, Rev. Brian Peter Westgate, was installed July 31, 2016. He is Secretary of Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries, as well as Circuit Visitor of the English District's Pittsburgh Circuit. He also serves as chair of the District's Disaster Relief & Human Care Committee and is a member of the District Worship Committee.

Charlie and Beth Buttgerit are third-generation lifetime members of Redeemer. Both were confirmed by Pastor Faulstick in the late 1960s and were married by Pastor Stechholz in 1982. Most importantly, according to Charlie, "I believe our greatest blessing has been the unwavering dedication of our pastors and lay teachers to the adherence of the LCMS doctrine and the inerrancy of scripture."

Charlie commented, "There have been eight pastors that have served Redeemer during my lifetime and each one has been a wonderful blessing to our church."

In addition to the doctrinally solid preaching and teaching of Pastor Westgate, another blessing is the multiple opportunities that members have to both be involved in Bible studies throughout the week, and to continue to grow in faith through the studying of God's Word. Besides Pastor Westgate's Sunday morning Bible class, Redeemer offers a Monday evening Bible study and a Thursday evening Woman to Woman Bible study, both taught by dedicated and well-qualified lay leaders. The Sunday morning children's classes are also led by many extremely dedicated teachers.

Bob Auger leads the Monday evening Bible Study ... at age 90. He and his wife, Muriel, were in the same confirmation class in New York. His work as a chemical engineer brought them to Pittsburgh and US Steel.

"We moved nine times in 11 years," Muriel remarked, "and finally built a home in Monroeville." Initially members of Epiphany in Penn Hills, they joined Zion in Irwin for a time until their daughter Jean persuaded them to come to Redeemer and work at the pre-school.

A number of members pointed to the family ties as an asset, and the Auger family is a perfect example. All seven children work in LCMS Christian education, and several of the eleven grandchildren are following in their footsteps.

Terry Taylor claims five generations of family membership. "The strength of Redeemer is found in the history of its families and their leadership," she believes. "It all began when my mother was very young, she would often ride on the streetcar from Swissvale to visit her grandparent in New Kensington. At that time, around 1920, the end of the streetcar line was located on the far side of Oakmont, where her grandfather would meet her and take her to his home. She fell in love with Oakmont from the windows of the streetcar and was determined to live there when she grew up. After marrying my father, Glenn Taylor, in 1929, they found an apartment in Oakmont two blocks from the church. According to church records, she visited Redeemer in the early 1930s and communed alone. Soon afterwards, my parents transferred their membership to Redeemer from Trinity Lutheran in Swissvale, a congregation founded by her father, Stephen Wach."

Redeemer also offers numerous community outreach opportunities, some of which —such as VBS and the Strawberry Festival — have been going on for generations. Last year, the Sunday School began an outreach titled "Resurrection Road," which is held the Saturday before Holy Week and leads visitors through the life of Christ.

Beth remembers the many fellowship opportunities they enjoyed not only as children, but also *with* their children. "One event that we always remember is our annual congregational Christmas dinners," she reminisced. "We still have a Christmas ornament that we made as kids at one of those dinners." And she reported another highlight of those dinners: the Married Couple Club annual skit, especially "Charlie Brown's Christmas."



“Every summer at the Oakmont Sidewalk Sale our congregation provides a booth for face painting, cool refreshments and witnessing,” Terry noted. “Every winter we have the only Christian float in the Oakmont Christmas Parade. We also have what we call a 'Little Free Library' in front of the church, built by a Redeemer School student as his Senior Project. It is actively used by the community where we share our *Portals of Prayers* and other books and magazines for all ages. During the COVID lockdown, the Little Free Library was extremely busy as the public library closed, and it has remained popular today,” explained Terry.

Serving as superintendent of Vacation Bible School for a decade may be considered an accomplishment by some. However, Terry is most proud of Redeemer Library that she first started for the congregation in the former church building. She said it is quite rare to be able to launch a new library, and she is honored to continue to gift her talents for the church and the school.

The new church allowed more space for the adult collection, and now her charge is the development of a library at the Penn Hills campus.

Redeemer is filled with loving and caring members who are always willing to serve and show their love for others who are in need of support. The LWML (Lutheran Women’s Missionary League) is an active group that undertakes many projects throughout the year to support missions and to serve others.

Charlie talked about how the past couple of years have been challenging because of the pandemic, but now the deacons are in the planning stages to bring back some programs like the Youth Group, the Re:Vitality program, and the Second Sunday Supper & Study.

The congregation currently has around two hundred members, with about seventy in worship every Sunday, including many families with a fairly large number of younger children. Like most churches, the congregation’s older population is strong, Charlie noted.

Reasons for a decline in the young adult group are varied and not uncommon. Young people go away to college and ultimately take a job out of the area or marry someone who lives outside the Pittsburgh area and so relocate. In some cases, there are those who are just not attending on a regular basis. Obviously, a decline in attendance can put a strain on the budget and distribution of work in the church. However, of greater concern is the desire to make sure that those not attending are not missing out on receiving God’s gifts and the importance of meeting together. The deacons would like to make this an area of focus in the future, so they have set a goal of reaching out to all members with personal contacts.

Recently, Redeemer Lutheran Church celebrated its 120th anniversary. During those 120 years, the church has faced challenges. “In some of our buildings we have added rooms to meet size constraints and ultimately had to change locations a few times. Like other churches, we have had financial challenges. However, during these 120 years, we have been greatly blessed and our Heavenly Father has always answered our prayers,” Charlie said.

SCHOOL NEWS

REDEEMER LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Oakmont / Penn Hills

Congratulations!

Redeemer's very own Mrs. Carol Schumacher was honored for her 40 years as a Lutheran educator! English District Ministry Executive Albert Amling visited Redeemer to present Mrs. Schumacher with her award for loving and serving the Lord in providing Christ-centered education to children. We are blessed to have her!

Service Day

Redeemer students took part in one last service day just before the end of school, helping with various projects at the Sherwood Center for Hosanna House. Work included clearing brush, constructing outdoor classroom spaces, and cleaning the event space for a wedding.

Track and Field Day

The annual Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Schools Track and Field Day event was held on the last day of May this year. The Redeemer/St. Luke's competition for 3rd-8th grade students was held at Penn Hills High School, while the younger Redeemer elementary students held contests of their own at Redeemer's campus. High school students helped oversee the events for the day at both locations. For the first time in the history of the event, Redeemer took 1st Place! It is a joy to be able to hold this fun, competitive day. Thank you as always to everyone at St. Luke's for joining us for this yearly event.

Athletic Banquet

The ending of the final track & field meet closed Redeemer's athletic season for the 2021-2022 school year. Athletes and their parents celebrated at the sports banquet on June 1st, held outside on school grounds. Seniors were specially honored with their varsity letters. 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.

Commencement

Congratulations to our RLHS graduating class of 2022! Graduation was held on Saturday, June 4th, with the Lord blessing us with yet another beautiful day for our outside ceremony. Dr. Dana Brown, parent of graduating senior Lucas and RLHS cross country coach, provided words of encouragement to the graduating class. Please keep Lucas, London, Jack, Jimmy, Isaac, Nate, Tricia, and Peter in your prayers as they leave RLHS. The future plans of the class of 2022 display a variety of skills and interests, including zoology, cosmetology, antiques, the armed services, and business management. May God bless and keep these students in His care.

Continue to pray for the faculty and administration of Redeemer as they focus on and prepare for the upcoming school year. As always, follow Redeemer on Facebook for the latest updates on our news and happenings.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN SCHOOL *(Continued)*



Top-Left/Middle Left: The RLHS graduating class of 2022! Hats off to 2022!

Top-Right: Middle school students enjoying Track & Field Day

Bottom-Left: Senior Jack Fereday receives his varsity letter at the athletic banquet

Bottom-Center: Celebrating Mrs. Schumacher for her 40 years in Lutheran education

Bottom-Right: Service Day at Hosanna House



CONCORDIA LUTHERAN

Brentwood

On July 4, the Independence Day parade & Firecracker 5k fun run returned to Brownsville Rd. for the first time since 2019, & Concordia was there providing free cold water to runners, parade participants and viewers alike. Many thanks to John Toperzer for again organizing this year's giveaway.



GRACE LUTHERAN

(Universal) Penn Hills

In July the Rev. George Dolak celebrated his 65th anniversary of his ordination. Pastor Dolak was ordained into the Office of the Holy Ministry on July 7, 1957, at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Brad-dock, Pennsylvania. Ordaining him was his father, the Rev. Dr. George Dolak. We rejoice with Pas-tor Dolak and his beloved wife, Martha, and give thanks to God for the blessings He has bestowed upon His Church through His faithful servant.

MT. CALVARY LUTHERAN

West View

The most important thing that happened recently at Mt. Calvary is something that *did not* happen. In June, Pastor Scott Kuntz and his family traveled to Papillion, Nebraska, to consider a call from Lamb of God Evangelical Lutheran Church and Academy. They enjoyed a drive across the country, stopping at various sites along the way; but after returning to Pittsburgh, and after much prayer and consideration, they decided to remain at Mt. Calvary.

The congregation is more than happy with their decision. Pastor Kuntz was installed at Mt. Calvary in 2003, and since last year has also been serving the congregation at St. Mark's in Steubenville.

While this was taking place, other church events continued. Youngsters are enjoying Sunday School once a month during the summer, with teachers taking turns leading them in a variety of Bible stories and activities.

The Outreach Group is taking a break from its weekly meetings and is just getting together once or twice a month during the summer, but members were busy with a project prior to that. Over the previous weeks, they were putting together tote bags for Genesis of Pittsburgh, filled with items for newborns such as diapers, baby wipes, bibs, and onesies. Genesis is dedicated to providing services to pregnant women, children, and adoptive families. Items for the babies also include handmade note cards fashioned by the group, a Bible, and a children's book from Concordia. For members of the congregation who would like to contribute, the group is asking for monetary donations so items can be bought in bulk and all bags will contain the same articles. They will be delivered to Genesis in the fall.



Left: Children at Mt. Calvary enjoy a Sunday School activity while learning about the Holy Spirit



Right: Ladies from Mt. Calvary's Outreach design cards for the group's Genesis project

REDEEMER LUTHERAN

Oakmont



During the annual spring work weekend, Redeemer's trustees moved three crosses from the parking lot side of the church to the Pennsylvania Ave. side. These crosses were first erected a couple years ago for "Resurrection Road," and now stand under the church name on the wall to remind everyone who passes by that "We preach Christ Crucified." They were moved in preparation for the long-awaited installation of a Memorial Garden on the parking lot side of the church.

Molly Hagey was confirmed on Trinity Sunday, June 12, 2022, at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Oakmont by Pastor Westgate. Molly just finished 8th grade at RLS and is the first member of the sixth generation of the Buttgereit family of Redeemer Church to be confirmed. She is the daughter and oldest child of Connor and Linda Hagey and a granddaughter of Dan and Karen Driscoll. God bless and keep her in the true faith unto life everlasting!



Pastor Westgate preached at Immanuel Church in Alexandria, VA on Tuesday, June 28. He was attending a continuing education course hosted by Immanuel Church and Pastor Noah Rogness and led by Rev'd. Dr. Paul Grime of the Fort Wayne Seminary.

The sermon pointed out that the Divine Service is the heart of the Christian life and that the holy ministry, the preaching of the Gospel, and the administration of the Sacraments go together as gifts of Christ to His Church.



TRINITY LUTHERAN GLEN SAVAGE
Fairhope, PA

INSTALLATION OF REV. KYLE S. MULLINS

On Saturday, June 25, 2022, The Rev. Kyle S. Mullins was installed as the sole pastor of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Glen Savage in Fairhope, PA. Pastor Mullins is a recent graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He is married to Nicola and they have three small children. Pastor Mullins was ordained at his home congregation in Terre Haute, IN on Saturday, June 18, 2022.

The Rev. Daniel A. Hahn, Jr, Third Vice President of the Eastern District, LCMS, officiated the installation service. Pastor Mullins invited The Rev. Philip G. Meyer, Emeritus, from his home congregation to serve as the guest preacher. The Mullins family are making their home in Friedens, PA.



ZION LUTHERAN
Bridgeville



After two years of studying the tenets of the Christian faith contained in Luther's Small Catechism, six of Zion's young people were confirmed on Pentecost Sunday, June 5th.

Congratulations to our confirmands! Please welcome them as adult members of our congregation!



Concordia Ukraine Benefit Concert

The Concordia Chorale, a group of 31 Concordia at Cabot residents presented “Singing for Ukraine” on Thursday evening, July 14 in the Haven I Dining Room before a SRO audience. Keith Frndak, President and CEO, Concordia Lutheran Ministries opened the event with a check presentation on behalf of CLM plus the free-will offerings received that evening, a total of \$9000 was raised to benefit Ukraine through Samaritan’s Purse. The hour-long concert, directed by Carol Kaltenhauser, Haven 3 resident included favorite hymns and well-known patriotic anthems as well as commentaries by Haven 3 resident Carol Shick. Haven 2 resident and former world renown opera singer, Gale Limansky led our National Anthem to begin the celebration and was featured in a duet.



Concordia Retirement Living to Host Outdoor Concert Series

The Concordia at Cabot Haven Apartments and Concordia of the South Hills will host a free Summer Concert Series. Those at Cabot will be held at our Haven II Patio (148 Marwood Rd., Cabot, PA 16023, Entrance 5) on Sundays – Aug. 21, and Sept. 11. Each concert will begin at 4 p.m. and run for 2 hours with an intermission. If inclement weather occurs, concerts will be moved indoors to the Haven I Dining Room, located at 112 Marwood Rd, Entrance 2. Tours of our beautiful campus will be available before and after each performance, and parking is free and convenient to the patio.



Sunday, August 21 – 56 East Band

Performing popular dance hits from the 60s to now, this classy group has a unique sound and features a live horn section, killer rhythm section and incredible lead singer.

Sunday, September 11 – Harrisville Community Band

For over 50 years, the Harrisville Community Band has been sharing their love of music with their community. Recognize Patriot Day with the Band as they perform American standards and patriotic music. Concerts held at Concordia of the South Hills are located in the Harmony Room, located at 1300 Bower Hill Rd, Mt Lebanon. Tours will be available for one hour before each of the performances.

Friday, August 19 at 3:30 p.m. – Renewed Memories

A lively duet featuring “Music for Grown Ups,” their repertoire is inspired by “Your Hit Parade” of the 50s and 60s, including doo wop, country, soft pop, and the Great American Songbook. It’s toe-tapping stuff suitable for sing-along audiences of all ages.

Friday, September 16 at 3:30 p.m. – Mikey Dee

Mikey began his musical career at age 4, learning guitar, bass and tamburitza from his grandfather. To date, he has recorded and produced 19 albums and numerous singles. Currently he performs more than 200 shows a year, playing everything from oldies to ballroom, polkas to tamburitza.

Walk-ins are welcome - but registration is strongly encouraged. To reserve your seat in Cabot, call Admissions Director Peggy Trettel at 724-352-5378 or email at PTrettel@concordialm.org. Learn more at www.ConcordiaHaven.org. To reserve your seat at South Hills, call Director of Marketing Christie Wahlen at 412-294-1351. Learn more at www.Concordia-SouthHills.org

CLM Upcoming Special Events

Concordia Sponsors Butterfly Releases in Service Locations

The butterfly has long been a symbol of hope for people around the world. The caterpillar disappears into a cocoon, appearing dead to all around. Later, it emerges, having transformed into something more beautiful and powerful than it was. Early Christians adopted the butterfly as a symbol of resurrection, of Easter joy. The creature reminds us of its Creator, who sent His Son into unassuming human flesh, who died and was buried in a tomb, who rose again, and who promises life to all who trust in Him. The butterfly is a natural testimony to us of Jesus' words, "Because I live, you shall also live." (John 14:19b)

Join us as we celebrate the lives of those we've lost and further our mission of providing compassionate hospice care. All events are free and open to the public. Walk-ups are welcome, but pre-registration is highly encouraged to guarantee a butterfly.

AUGUST 7, 2022 | 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

The 13th annual Concordia-IRMC VNA Butterfly Release "The Legacy Continues, and Hope Endures" will be held Sunday, Aug. 7, at 2 p.m. at Mack Park (750 S. 6th St., Indiana, PA 15701). Butterflies to be released are \$25 each. To register for the event, call 724-463-6340, ext. 279.

AUGUST 14, 2022 | 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM

Good Samaritan Hospice annual Butterfly Release, is located at the Rotary Shelter at Cranberry Township Community Park (Past the Kid's Castle Park and the Baseball Fields.) Seating is limited, so you are welcome to bring chairs or blankets to the event. Butterflies to be released at \$15 each or two (2) for \$25. To register, call 724-352-1571, ext. 8355.

AUGUST 27, 2022 | 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

The annual Concordia Hospice of Washington Butterfly Release will be held Saturday, Aug. 27, from 1 – 3 p.m. at The Barn at Ike's Place (80 Ikes Road, Amity, PA 15311). Butterflies to be released are \$10 each. To register for the event call 724-250-4500.



Concordia's Angel Tear Fund Receives Award

Concordia Lutheran Ministries Angel Tear Fund was selected as the recipient of the 2022 Servant of Christ Award. Keith Frndak, President, and CEO accepted the award on June 17 at the 100th Convention of the Eastern District – Lutheran Church Missouri Synod in Buffalo, NY.

Rev. Dr. Chris Wicher, President of the Eastern District which represents 121 congregations located in New York, Pennsylvania, and Maryland, presented the award.

Since the 1990s, it is the tradition of the Eastern District to thank God by affirming and recognizing people or organizations of the District who have exemplified a lifestyle of servant ministry in their congregation, community, and world. The “Servant of Christ Award” is presented to those who display a strong and ongoing commitment to Christ and His Church through their commitment to self-sacrifice, generosity, significance, and purpose.

Established in 2007, Angel Tear Ministry is a fund dedicated to offering Christian support and aid to the needy and underprivileged around the globe. The funding priorities include improving access to quality medical resources, providing access to basic human needs including, food, potable water, clothing, shelter, and assisted living resources, improving literacy, language skills and vocational skills, training church workers, funding disaster relief projects, meeting the needs of the elderly, and providing for the health, education, and general welfare of children, including orphans.

In addition, Concordia has provided grants for mission projects locally in western Pennsylvania and internationally, around the world. Since its inception – the Angel Tear Grant Program has supported over 275 organizations to further the Kingdom. Over thirty of those groups are local or global Church Partners. Overall Concordia has poured more than \$12 million internationally almost \$12 million domestically to organizations that are doing His work with the people in most need.

An offshoot of the Angel Tear Ministries program is 1001 Orphans. 1001 Orphans is a partnership between Concordia Lutheran Ministries Foundation and Compassion International that connects over 1,400 orphans in Kenya and Ethiopia with life-giving benefits that include nutritious food, hygiene training, education, mentoring and the ability to hear about Jesus Christ and his salvation.



Concordia Golf Classic

Concordia's 18th Annual Golf Classic was held at the Treesdale Golf and Country Club on July 11. Over 180 golfers participated in the scramble tournament and more than \$135,000 was raised to support one of the most important and historic pieces of Concordia's mission, the Good Samaritan Endowment Fund. This fund underwrites confidential charitable care for residents and patients who have limited or exhausted financial means.

SEI Investments once again served as Signature Sponsor for the event, and Mike Kelly from SEI was on hand as a guest of honor. A special thank you to SEI for their continuous and generous support and to all of our sponsors, including Truist, Martik Brothers Construction, Butler Health System, DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Pittsburgh-Cranberry, Highmark, and Concordia Visiting Nurses.

Pictured in the first foursome - Mike Kelly, Keith Frndak, President & CEO, CLM; Brian Hortert, COO, CLM and Ethan Tanner.

Second foursome - Nick Burkhardt, John Baird, CLM Board Member Bob Schmidt and Rev. Justin Schmidt, pastor, Peace.





Power of the Purse

Hospice Youth Bereavement Care
A purse bash to benefit Good Samaritan
Friday, September 23, 2022
6 p.m. The Mansion, Butler, PA

141 Mansion Lane, Butler, PA 16002

\$40 per admission ticket

Each ticket includes chances to win one of 10 designer handbags

Additional drawings for:

- **Spotlight Designer Bags worth \$2,000+**
- **A “Win It All” Wine Table** (bring a bottle and get a free ticket, or tickets are \$10 each – winner takes all!)
- **High-end purses, wallets and baskets!**

Light appetizers and non-alcoholic beverages provided.
Outside snacks and alcoholic drinks are permitted.

Call 724-352-1571, ext. 8363 or visit give.concordialm.org to reserve your tickets.

BC3 LPN Application Window NOW Open

Until August 31, 2022

Concordia Lutheran Ministries will host informational sessions in July and August about its Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) with Butler County Community College's practical nursing program, which allows students to earn an LPN certification for free.

Both sessions will have two time slots: 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. and 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Attendance is only needed at one session. All sessions will be led by BC3 Admissions Director Morgan Rizzardi.



SCAN ME



Session #1

Concordia at Cabot Haven 1
Dining Room on July 19

Session #2

Good Samaritan Hospice
Admin Office on August 10 116
Browns Hill Road, Valencia, PA
16059

To register, please call Andria Rhodes at
724-352-1571, ext. 8372.

For more information about enrolling in the practical nursing program, and having Concordia pay for it, email bc3nursingprogram@concordialm.org.

