



# THE PITTSBURGH LUTHERAN

VOL 92, NO 8, October 2022

PALM News	1-4
Campus Ministry	5-8
Mission News	9
Church Focus Series	10-13
Congregation News	14-16
Special Events	17
Concordia News	18-20

## PALM DEVOTION

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

### “The Word of God Endures Forever”

*“The grass withers, the flower fades, But the Word of our God stands forever.” Isaiah 40:8*

As we approach the festival of the Reformation, we are mindful of the power of God’s Word to endure the onslaught of people and institutions that would twist and abuse it for their own selfish desires. But as we look back proudly upon the great reformers like Martin Luther and extol the superiority of the Church that stands firmly on the foundation of the Bible, we may lose sight of the very personal aspect of the verse above.

Day to day, month to month, year to year, our lives move forward sometimes staggering, sometimes lurching, sometimes marching. We are beset by joys, successes, and triumphs just as we are also beset by sorrows, losses, and failures. While we tend to associate sin with the bad aspects of life, it is important to note that anything that would distract us from God’s love in Christ is harmful to the soul. Grief may cause you to question God’s mercy and providence, but pride may equally cause you to forget God’s presence and forgiveness. One drives us toward despair, the other drives us toward idolatry.

Our Lord knows our griefs and sorrows, our joys and triumphs. He is aware when we disdain Him and when we forget Him. He knows the troubles of our life even when we think everything is a-ok. And He never forsakes us.

The grass of the neatly groomed lawn of our life will indeed wither, and the flower of our achievements will fade, but the Word of our God stands forever. It corrects us when we wander astray. It is a beacon to us when we lose our way. It is a comfort to us when we suffer. It nourishes us when we think we can’t go on. It shows us our victory in Christ when all seems lost.

God’s Word is not only a bulwark against princes and powers, but also a mighty fortress in which you may find refuge. Are you beset by pride? Read the Lamentations of Jeremiah for a sobering reminder of the human condition. Are you struggling with your emotions? Join King David as his emotions are poured out in the pages of the Psalms. Do you need a reminder that God is aware of your situation and need? Re-read Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John and find the Good Shepherd, Jesus, by your side and suffering for you on the cross. Pondering the implications of the things of this life on you? The prophets and the epistles have a lifetime of advice and direction.

The Word of God endures forever ... for you!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

October

1. Concordia Oktoberfest, Haven I, Cabot, 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
8. Pumpkinfest/Flea Market – Ascension Lutheran, McCandless, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
15. 10K Life Bike Ride, 3 Rivers Heritage Trail, 9:30 a.m.
15. Oktoberfest will be at Bethel Lutheran Church, Glenshaw, 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
22. The 46th Annual Christian Art Show, Fellowship Hall at Calvary, Murrysville, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
23. The 46th Annual Christian Art Show, Fellowship Hall at Calvary, , Murrysville, 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
23. Sauerkraut Supper, Zion Ev. Lutheran Church, Lawrenceville, 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

December

3. Bethel and Zion present “Spiritual Conversations in a Digital World” Christ Lutheran Church, Forest Hills, Pittsburgh, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.



**The Pittsburgh Lutheran**

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Justin Spittel, Treasurer  
Rev. Brian Westgate, Secretary

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

### 10K Lutheran Life Bike Ride:

A multi-church 10k Life Bike Ride on the 3 Rivers Heritage Trail from the Hot Metal Bridge to Station Square will take place on October 15 at 9:30 a.m. (rain date Oct. 22 at 9:30 a.m.).

Ascension, First Trinity, Peace, Redeemer and Zion Lutheran, Lawrenceville, churches are raising funds for Mary's Place (maternity home) of the South Hills. All funds raised will be matched by the Synod's Million Dollar Life Grant program. A reception/fellowship will follow the ride sponsored by the Thrivent Service Team.

Contact Ron Grimm if you would like to participate: [ron.grimm@lfnd.org](mailto:ron.grimm@lfnd.org) or (cell: 412-584-7039). The cost of registration is \$5 per individual or \$10 per family. Also, contact Barbara Taylor at Peace Lutheran for registration packet or to sponsor a rider.

Donations will be received at Peace Lutheran Church, McMurray, PA. Checks should be made payable to Peace Service Team, memo line: 10k Ride.





**2022 Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod  
Reformation Vespers**

**Sunday, October 30, 2022, 3:00 PM**

**First Trinity Evangelical-Lutheran Church  
531 N Neville Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15213**



Sponsored by  
Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries and  
The Pittsburgh Pastoral Conference of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

**Special Guest Preacher:  
The Reverend John Pingel  
President and Bishop of the Eastern District of  
The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod**



Lutheran Hymns and Music from Kantor Jonathan Hoyt at the Skinner Organ.  
American Sign Language Interpreters at the Service.

Hors D'Oeuvres and Dessert Reception generously sponsored by  
Concordia Lutheran Ministries.



Ample Parking generously provided by Oakland Catholic High School.



Ample Free Parking at Oakland Catholic High School  
(enter lot from Craig Street), on the Streets,  
and handicap parking at First Trinity



### Pitt Campus

The Gospel continues to take root in hearts and minds on the campuses across Pittsburgh as students learn of Christianity and Lutheranism through campus and church events. Yvette was raised in England by Ghanaian immigrants. Arriving at the University of Pittsburgh as an international graduate student, she was baptized at the Easter Vigil in April (see photo above left) after completing catechesis. Her background in Pentecostalism led to many spirited discussions with Pastor Andr e over lunch and coffee. Attendance at worship, Bible study, and social events were instrumental in drawing her to First Trinity as a new member. Says Yvette: "I'm blessed to have found such a solid community of believers who center their lives around the Gospel. I'm so happy to finally be baptized into the body of Christ!"



(NOTE: Please get permission before sharing this story) "Harry," a graduate student at Pitt, was confirmed on Pentecost Sunday (see photo above right). His background is from a strict Muslim family in Saudi Arabia, which makes his baptism prior to arriving in Pittsburgh, and subsequent confirmation at First Trinity especially exciting and meaningful. Since Harry had joined a misleading cult that claims to be Christian as an undergraduate student in Nevada, Harry said he had to make sure that First Trinity was a Bible-based church and that it followed the teachings of Christ. Harry has been participating in student Bible studies and weekly Divine service. Harry also enjoys inviting others to our events to introduce them to Christ and our faith.

Summer Bible study began in May — weekly attendance between 10 and 20 attendees indicates a summer that has been filled with opportunity. English as a Second Language students represent six foreign countries (Japan, England, China, Cameroon, Turkey, Saudi Arabia) and additional reach. Earlier in the semester, just in the month of March, Pastor Andr e and LSF were able to reach 50 students on Ash Wednesday, 30 students through an outing to the Pittsburgh Symphony, and a mix of 40 students, faculty, and community members through a First Trinity symposium (see picture top right on page 2 and [this related link](#)). It is clear that the LSF reach is expanding and providing many occasions for the Gospel to take root!

***"I'm very sad because yesterday was my last day. Thank you very much for your kindness during my Pittsburgh life. My daughter and I enjoyed ESL class very much and I could learn about Christian. If I can join in classes from Japan online, I want to again! Thank you! Please take care, see you some day!"***  
- text from Yarika (Japan) to Pastor Andr e

Pitt Campus (Continued)

Some interesting links:

<http://tiny.cc/top10books>

or

[Top 10 Books - YouTube](#)

Pastor Andr e is interviewed by Pastor Joshua Ulm regarding their Top 10 Books

<http://tiny.cc/VBS> or

[Home | Catechized Kids](#)

LSF Alumnae Diana Yaeger's newly developed VBS, Sunday School, visual arts, family devotional, etc.



Celebrating Yvette's baptism & breaking the Lenten fast with LSF friends



Dr. Scott Stiegemeier, Professor of Theology at Concordia — Irvine: "What Does It Mean to Be Human" via Zoom at LSF Bible Study

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Dr. Calum Matheson, Pitt Communications Dept., presented on: "Christian Discernment in an Age of Political Extremism & Conspiracy Thinking"

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LSF and Beatrice Institute gather to attend the Pittsburgh Symphony

Lutheran Student Fellowship (LSF) & International Student Ministry (ISM)

535 N Neville St  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213  
[www.LSFPgh.com](http://www.LSFPgh.com)  
412-683-4121

Instagram:  
[LSF Pittsburgh](#)  
Facebook: [LSFofPGH](#)

We Appreciate You!

You can donate online: scroll about halfway down at <http://lsfpg.com/donate/> OR for no-fee, secure giving, go to the giving portal at <http://www.firsttrinity.net/donate/> and choose "Campus Ministry" from the drop-down menu (for recurring giving options, just follow the directions to sign up or contact me). You can also make checks out to First Trinity with "Campus Ministry" in the memo line, and mail to: Campus Mission, 535 N. Neville St., Pittsburgh, PA 15213.

If you are a Thrivent member, please contribute through Thrivent Choice to "Lutheran Student Fellowship of Pittsburgh, PA".

Also, if you have any recent high school graduates who will attend college in the Pittsburgh area, or any current students in our schools, please share their contact information with us and ours with them. Even if they are local and thus might be worshipping at their home congregation on Sundays, we would love to connect them with our community of students for Bible Study, social events, service projects, and overall peer and pastoral care & support!

**MOST IMPORTANTLY, PLEASE PRAY FOR US, AS WE DO IN GRATITUDE FOR YOU. THANK YOU!**



## CAMPUS MINISTRY

### SRU CAMPUS MINISTRY

*by Augusta R. Mennell, Campus Ministry Director*

#### A Thankful Campus Ministry

Imagine a group of college students peacefully kayaking along a backwoods creek when all of a sudden a water fight breaks out. That is just what happened this last August when All Saints campus ministry sponsored a kayaking event on French Creek for Slippery Rock University and Grove City College students, just after they returned to campus.

There they were, enjoying the French Creek scenery when all of a sudden they were deluged by Rev. Jacob Deal. He had brought his children's' fully loaded water pistols with him on the kayaking trip. Everyone, including Rev. Deal, enjoyed not only the water battle, but also the lunch and getting to know each other.

I'm thankful for this fun event for the students, which was organized by All Saints' president Peter Rigney and by All Saints Fellowship's student president, Leif Lodtvet. It was so much fun that it was described as "Fantastic," and "The most fun ever," and "When can we do it again?"



Thankful is how campus ministry feels about the kayaking. It gave an open door to drawing students to All Saints where they can have not only fun, but a great opportunity to mingle with other Christians and to learn more about the Christian faith through Campus Pastor Deal, who will hold Bible studies for them. He welcomes students to ask serious questions.



All Saints campus ministry is also very thankful to have been invited to attend Slippery Rock University Events Day, and, for the first time, we are now also attending Grove City College's annual Ministry Fair. Rev. Deal and I stood by our orientation table in the hot sun in SRU's quad. We talked to students. We invited them to our Labor Day meal. A most exciting result was meeting an LCMS student named Matt, who accepted our invitation to the Labor Day meal. Another blessing was hearing how the chalked sidewalk message by Amy, who attends All Saints, was seen and which drew attention to the Labor Day meal. Rev. Deal already has plans to make our presence at next year's SRU Events Day even more attractive.

Being at Grove City College's annual Ministry Fair was a blessing, too. All Saints attracted many LCMS Grove City College students. Consequently, it was just wonderful to have their students come to our table at their Ministry Fair, where they asked if we were LCMS. They were openly delighted to find we are. They were so glad to tell Rev. Deal who their home pastor was, the name of their church, and to be assured, as church member Mrs. Rosemary Rigney had suggested, that we tell the students we have members who will provide transportation to church from the Grove City College campus. It was wonderful that seven old and new GCC students did come to worship with us the following Sunday.

## CAMPUS MINISTRY

### SRU CAMPUS MINISTRY (CONTINUED)

The Labor Day student meal was another big reason for giving thanks to God. Campus ministry got to see how God really used even a smaller group for large results. Each student who came to have a delicious meal also got to talk about their faith and personal struggles. That is because campus pastor Rev. Deal made it a point to sit and talk with every student.

An international student from Pakistan talked about her faith with Rev. Deal. He listened. He invited her to learn about Christianity. He invited her to a student Bible class he will hold. She felt comfortable with the conversation with Pastor Deal, as well as with talking with church members Jill, Billie, and Joanne. She took a photograph of them to send to her mother in Turkey.

Two nondenominational students came to the meal. They, too, were greeted by Pastor. They are incredibly glad they had the chance to ask him questions. They wanted to know what our Lutheran Church believes about Communion and gender. He patiently answered them. In addition to questions, they wanted to share some of what their lives had been. This was such a great opportunity. They will come again.

Although it was quite late, Rev. Deal drove them back to their dorms so he could take their friends food we had leftover. He felt compassion for the students who would really appreciate the delicious foods. From this smaller group came a great opportunity to share faith at a deeper level. We are thankful for every opportunity to share faith and friendship with college students.





## MISSION NEWS

### HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHAPEL

*Hazelwood*

**Holy Cross is continuing to serve God in Hazelwood!**

*by Vicar David L. Wenndt*



We are now several weeks past the annual Hazelwood Community Day, which Holy Cross Lutheran Chapel hosted on August 27th. The neighborhood and church came together to have a fun day with games and prizes and lots of food! And we are still several weeks away from the Holy Cross Christmas Toy Drive where we provide, not only toys, but coats, boots, gloves and other such helpful items to ensure that the children of the neighborhood have a Merry Christmas. This means that there are no special events in the months of September-November. In some ways it can feel like this is the slow time of year, when we do not have any special events going on; but the love Holy Cross has for the neighborhood, and work in the community, never stops!



We are here to help in our community nearly every single day! Any time one of our members or volunteers are at the church they are willing to help our neighbors with their food or clothing needs. We have food distribution every other Saturday from 10-1, but our neighbors can often find fresh produce and other foods set up on the tables outside where anyone can stop and take what they need whenever it's available. We also have our community dinners every first and third Sunday starting at 4:00 p.m., where our fantastic volunteers cook our neighbors a delicious hot meal!

But we are here to care for more than just the physical needs of our neighbors, we are also still here, preaching Christ crucified and serving our neighbors with word and sacrament ministry. Services are every Sunday morning at 9:30, or we pray Matins at 9:30 Tuesday-Saturday. There is our Way of the Cross devotional service every Friday at noon, and Bible Studies on Wednesdays at noon and Sundays at 11:00 a.m. The Vicar is at the church six days a week to talk or pray with neighbors; but is often just stopped on the street, where he prays with whoever is in need of God's word and prayer.



It's true that we are in between big events here at Holy Cross, but we are still open and still here to help and love our community. We look forward to seeing each and every one of the amazing people in Hazelwood!



**Houses of Worship  
By Shirley Freyer**

**St John's Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
501 North Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15209  
412-821-6266 stjohnsmillvale.org  
Rev. Dr. Daniel A. Hahn Jr.



Worship Sunday morning at 9 a.m.; Holy Communion celebrated the 1st and 3rd Sundays and other festivals; Sunday School at 10:15 a.m. September – May; Adult Bible Classes at 10:30 a.m.

**“These [things] are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” - John 20:31**

St. John's was established May 1, 1877, after an unsuccessful beginning in 1873 in the community called Bennet, now known as Millvale — a thriving, growing town whose workers found employment in the mills and breweries of Pittsburgh. A history, written to commemorate the church's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by lifelong member, Ethel Maloney, states that in the late 1860s and early '70s, a wave of German settlers, largely from Bavaria, moved there and stamped it with a Germanic character that remains to the current day.

Ethel, at age 83, continues to faithfully support the church, and attend and participate in church activities. Serving as treasurer for more than a decade, she reported that St. John's origins are traced to a group of twenty men who separated themselves from the German Protestant congregation in Etna to embrace their Lutheran identity more fully. The congregation worshipped at a structure on Fredrick Street in Millvale that was purchased for \$750.

After a brief affiliation with a Reformed Synod, the congregation spurned the financial incentives associated with that relationship to join the Ohio Synod. Ten years later, in 1887, the congregation left the Ohio Synod to join the German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States (present-day Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod).

The early church experienced financial struggles and discord. Several pastors left because of the congregation's inability to provide for them. A tolerance for secret societies and beer-party fundraisers caused conflict. Early disputes culminated in the attempted termination of Pastor Christian Meyer in July 1887. While he remained at St. John's with a conservative minority of the congregation, the dissident majority left to form another congregation, the present-day First United Church of Christ in Millvale.

Shortly afterward, Rev. Martin Hein, pastor at Zion in Lawrenceville, was called to serve as supply pastor. “He worked with the congregation for one full year and for the first time the church enjoyed peace and harmony ... the church property was repaired ... all debts were paid, and the building of a new parsonage was begun according to the recorded history.

Candidate Otto Mass was ordained and installed in 1889 and a parish school was organized.

On November 15, 1903, the church's name was changed from the German Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Girty's Run to the German Evangelical St. John's Church of Millvale, and bi-monthly English worship services were introduced.



## HOUSES OF WORSHIP SERIES

In 1904, founding member E.T. Lippert donated a Methodist church building on the corner of North and Elizabeth Streets, and Pittsburgh industrialist Andrew Carnegie paid for half the purchase price of a new pipe organ (\$1250).

The original building was in the same plot location of the current St. John's. The left side of the building was the church, but it was not set back as it is now. The front door of the church was at the North Avenue sidewalk. On the right side of the original church building sat an existing separate residence, which was purchased and razed in conjunction with the design of the current church building. The Sunday school rooms, and equipment rooms were located on the church's ground floor. The sanctuary was on the second floor and the parsonage was at the back of the church on Spruce Street.

On August 11, 1957, the third church building was dedicated at a cost of \$325,000.

The organ is the same organ that was in the original church, but it was in the front of the church to the left of the altar. The keyboard and pipes were all visible. Prior to the demolition of the original building, the Hinners organ was dismantled, remodeled, and installed in the rear of the new building. From what lifelong member Carol Knauer Jasneski and her husband Jack have found, very few of the old organs from original churches remain. The same beautiful music that once filled the old building has been the source of accompaniment under the able fingers and feet of organist Beverly Rimmel Maurhoff since 1965.

A familiar name that many still remember is Pastor R.C. Franke, whose 27-year tenure (1919-1946) marked "a significant turning point in the history of this church." (His grandson, Richard, lives in the Prospect, Pennsylvania. A new parsonage was constructed, the name of the church was changed to its present-day designation, weekly English services and a bulletin were introduced, and a building fund for a new church was begun.

Carol tells of her grandfather coming to the United States in 1927 with the rise of Hitler in Germany. When the services changed to English, most of the older people standing in the back were still talking to one another in German, even after the new building was built in 1953.



Like several of Western Pennsylvania's historical congregations, St. John's church family is often composed of generations of relatives. Ruth Vogel Redenbaugh joined when her family moved to nearby Friday Street. "My dad was in Pastor Franke's first confirmation class, and I was in his last," she remembered. "Cousin Sandra Schueler (Purucker) and my sister Shirley and I would come down to church on Friday to prepare the altar vestments. My Mom was a Schueler," she revealed. "Actually Ron (Schueler) and Sandra and I are 'double cousins,' since brother and sister married a sister and brother.

"The one thing that makes St. John's unique, in my mind," said Jack, a member since 1964 when he began to date his wife, Carol, "is that the congregation is a family.

"We have had several people tell us that we had something special going on there. I do not believe that this is unique for a Christian congregation, but we feel and pray for each other all the time," he explained. "St. John's can be listed as a Christian family with Christian families.



## HOUSES OF WORSHIP SERIES

“Carol and I went to school together from the seventh grade through high school and never dated, yet I always had a feeling about her. We started dating after we graduated in 1963 and I began to attend services at St. John’s,” said Jack. They were engaged at Christmas 1964 and married September 11, 1965. Jack entered the Army a month later in a combat infantry division, the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division at Fort Carson, Colorado. “The Holy Spirit watched over both of us,” he said.

Jack has served as an elder for most of his years of membership, but he was also president for a short time many years ago. When Pastor White was St. John’s shepherd, it was decided to start the Bethel Bible Series and Jack became one of the teachers. He and Carol were youth group counselors. He continues to lead an adult Bible class and the couple has always been in the choir.

Currently, among the oldest members, Theresa “Flo” Silbach, is ninety-two. “My mother and her four sisters were members, so I was baptized, confirmed, married and raised my three children here,” she is happy to share. And as the youngest of twelve, she and all of her sisters’ daughters were baptized, confirmed, and married at St John's.

“My older sisters had beautiful voices, so they belonged to the adult choir,” she continued. Her daughters, too, were part of the junior choir directed by organist Bev Maurhoff, who took them to community events to perform.

“Bev directed ‘The Sound of Music,’ the first of many musicals performed at St John's,” she reminisced. Her girls and her niece appeared in the show and she and her sisters made the costumes.

One of the most popular activities at St. John’s was family night and it was perhaps Flo’s favorite. She played Dolly in the “Hello Dolly” skit and Rosie the Riveter at age 90. “We had so much fun practicing and performing in front of a packed church basement,” she said.

Over the years, Flo was part of altar guild and helped prepare the church for Sunday and holiday services. “Back then there were a lot of children who attended Sunday school and at Christmas they all took part in telling the story of Jesus' birth. All the children had a part, and our church would be full of families watching their kids,” she described.

St. John’s Pre-school was established in 1976 during the ministry of Pastor Laurence White and served hundreds of students until its closure this school year.

“We are just beginning discussions about converting the preschool space into a multi-purpose / community space that will help the congregation stay engaged in the community,” noted Rev. Dr. Daniel A. Hahn Jr., pastor since fall of 2014.

Pastor Hahn previously served as senior pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Sebewaing, Mich., for 12 years. His first call was to Holy Cross, Johnstown and Sts. Peter and Paul, Central City.

He completed his studies for his Doctor of Ministry Degree through the St. Louis Seminary while at St. John's. A final project for the degree, which is in homiletics, involved preaching a series of narrative sermons at St. John's that featured characters called Ray and Lana, and following up with a number of surveys for the congregation and personal interviews.



## HOUSES OF WORSHIP SERIES

“We have had so many pastors over my 92 years and only certain ones stand out,” said Flo. “But our current pastor is wonderful, and he is the reason people are coming back to church,” she testified.

Ethel agreed. “Newer members have been drawn by the strong leadership, teaching, and welcoming personality of our pastor who definitely connects with his parishioners,” according to Ethel.

“Some people,” she said, “joined and remain members to strengthen their faith through strong Biblically based services that adhere to the Holy Scriptures and Christ’s teachings.”

The church website proclaims the mission in bold terms. “Our mission is to serve and strengthen our congregation and community in a spirit of love through the Word of God. We do that by meeting regularly to be fed by God in the Divine Service, offering classes to learn God’s Word and apply it to our lives, and by serving God and our neighbors in a variety of ways. We believe that we are saved by God’s grace alone, through faith in Jesus Christ alone, as taught in Holy Scriptures alone. We believe that the Holy Bible is the inspired Word of God, completely true and accurate. We believe and confess the Nicene, Apostles,’ and Athanasian Creeds because they truly reflect what the Bible states.”

Those principles were what Trevor and Jennifer Kemp were looking for five years ago. Moving from the Mars/Butler area, they needed a church closer to Ross/Shaler and quite by accident, found St. John’s only 10 minutes from their home.

Before coming to Pittsburgh almost 10 years ago, however, they were Baptists and Christian Missionary Alliance. “We had spent our lives in churches that profess Christ and His death, though very steeped in decision theology,” described Trevor. “The emphasis in each week’s preaching was to get people to make a decision to follow Jesus. There was not much preaching on Biblical doctrines like original sin or a true emphasis on Jesus’ incarnation. There were no sacraments. There was an unhealthy curiosity toward and devotion to trying to understand the book of Revelation, causing some of my pastors to wrongly predict calamity. Growth in the Christian faith was strongly coupled to the outward behaviors you could demonstrate improvement in (I remember several people giving a strong opinion about salvation and smoking cigarettes, for instance), or getting in touch with God deeply apart from the written Word, with many ‘spiritual’ people claiming to have had immediate encounters with God on a frequent basis — some in mystical ways that were unfalsifiable, and others claiming they heard God speak to them.

“It was then, I discovered Luther’s Large Catechism and found a small LCMS church we attended a couple times outside of Butler. We found ourselves singing many of the same hymns that the church has sung for hundreds of years, a strong emphasis on Jesus’ incarnation, a strong theology that says God did all the work and made all the decisions to save us, and a very strong emphasis on the sacraments as being gifts to us from God to strengthen our faith and to forgive our sins.

“The worship patterns were very different. We followed a liturgy. The pastor was guided by a lectionary each week. The hymns were steeped in scripture and talk about what Jesus did for us, not songs that talk about how great we are since we found God, or songs that sound like love songs that were accidentally sent to a Christian publisher instead of a secular one.

“When we came, we found the same devotion to liturgy, the confessions, the written Word, scriptural music, Jesus’ incarnation and death, and a pastor who was working toward those and not against them or shying from them. We also found an incredible warmth in the people and have grown to love them and grieved when some of them have passed into death. I really love that we embrace our disagreements and differences, and come back again in unity, and in care for each other, in the service and at the communion rail. So here, we have found the best of the churches of our youth and have replaced the worst parts with sound Biblical theology and worship.

“What a place,” exclaimed Trevor, who is currently an elder.

**CONCORDIA LUTHERAN**

*Brentwood*

**8th Annual Toperzer Memorial Pirates Game**

On Sunday, September 11th, Concordia members attended their 8th Annual Toperzer Memorial Pirates game @ PNC Park, where a good time was had by all in spite of the majority of fans being Cardinal Supporters and the Pirates losing 4-3. Many thanks to John Toperzer Jr. for organizing this year's event, which honors the sainted memory of his late father and sister both.



**MT. CALVARY LUTHERAN**

*West View*

Mt. Calvary in West View enjoyed a guest minister in August: Pastor Paul Cwynar of Mt. Olive Church in Chippewa Township, Beaver Falls. His sermon message to the congregation was on lessons from the book of Hebrews. Pastor Cwynar was assisting at Mt. Calvary while Pastor Kuntz was at Mt. Olive on a visiting pastor assignment from the Eastern District.

Now that October is here, the congregation is gearing up for its usual fall activities. The voice and bell choirs are beginning to practice and will be performing during various Sunday services; the congregation is once again providing cookies for Meals on Wheels; and the Outreach Group is working on creative gifts for people in different organizations.





REDEEMER LUTHERAN

Oakmont

Redeemer Lutheran Church celebrated the 40th Anniversary of Pastor Jonathan Naumann's ordination. Sunday, September 18, was the anniversary date. He was ordained in England at the closing service of the annual Synod Convention in 1982 of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of England at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Harlow, England. Pastor Westgate conducted the Divine Service that anniversary day with the LSB Rite for recognizing ordination anniversaries.



The day before, Saturday, September 17, a lunch party was held in the church fellowship hall. "Thy Strong Word," which was sung at his ordination, was sung to begin the program. Then a seminary sermon of Pastor Naumann's was heard. His grandchildren present sang his favorite hymn, "Jesus, Priceless Treasure." A powerpoint of pictures over the past 40 years was shown. Then Pastor Westgate and Pastor Naumann's two ordained sons, Rev'd. Gordon S. Naumann and Rev'd. Dr. Edward A. Naumann, gave celebration messages, including the reading

of a letter from Brian, their oldest brother. Then Pastor Edward presented his father with a festschrift he compiled for the occasion, entitled *With Angels and Archangels: Essays in honour of the Rev. Dr. Jonathan Charles Naumann on the occasion of the Fortieth Anniversary of his Ordination*, available currently on Amazon. After Pastor Westgate prayed, "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" was sung, and finally Dr. Walter Naumann made a presentation. Lunch followed.



God bless and keep Pastor & Deaconess Naumann in their continued service to our Lord in the Dominican and throughout Latin America, even as He has blessed their service here and in Britain over these past 40 years.



ZION LUTHERAN

Lawrenceville

CALLING ALL VOICES

The Pittsburgh Lutheran Chorus rehearsals are every Sunday at 1:30 p.m. at Zion, Lawrenceville 237-37th St., Pittsburgh 15201. All are welcome to join. Scheduled performances will include an Evening of Praise event Nov. 19 at Christ in Forest Hills and Nov. 20 at Zion. Beginning Nov. 27, each Sunday in Advent concerts will be at various Concordia Lutheran Ministries locations. Please help us with this ministry. Times and locations will be in coming issues is the Pittsburgh Lutheran.



Everyone is invited to our traditional



# Sauerkraut Supper

*Roasted Pork Loin, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Baked Beans  
Sauerkraut, Applesauce, Dessert*

**Zion Ev. Lutheran Church**

237-37<sup>th</sup> Street ~ Lawrenceville

**Saturday, Oct. 23, 3 - 5 p.m.**

**\$10 per person**

**Kids age 12 and under - \$7**

Call 412.621.2720 for tickets.

**NO ADMISSION WITHOUT A TICKET.**

## UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

### Calvary, Murrysville

The 46th Annual Christian Art Show will be held in the Fellowship Hall at Calvary, 4725 Old Wm Penn Highway, Murrysville on Saturday and Sunday, October 22 and 23, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday, and 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sunday. Lunch will be available at the Gallery Cafe. Christian artists of all ages and skills share their God-given talents in a variety of medium.



Artists interested in entering their original artwork can obtain an entry form at the church office or by calling (724) 327-2898 or on Calvary's website: [www.calvaryLCMS.org](http://www.calvaryLCMS.org) or call Sue at (724) 327-4230 or email: [suznbobk@aol.com](mailto:suznbobk@aol.com). Preregistration deadline is Friday, October 14.



### Bethel Lutheran, Glenshaw

Oktoberfest will be at Bethel Lutheran Church, 301 Scott Avenue, Glenshaw on Saturday, October 15, from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. It will be either Dine in or Take-out, and you will have an opportunity to give a free-will offering. Proceeds will benefit Don & Caroline Rehder, missionaries to the deaf in Columbia.



### Bethel and Zion Sponsor Seminar at Christ Lutheran

Join us for a free, one day seminar on "Spiritual Conversations in a Digital World" to help equip all Christians to share their faith effectively and comfortably with others. With original research from the Barna Group, representatives from Lutheran Hour Ministries will offer fresh insights and best practices for fruitful everyday life changing conversations.

Saturday, December 3, 2022

8:00 am to 4:30 pm

Christ Lutheran Church, 400 Barclay Avenue Pittsburgh 15221

Call 412-486-5777 for reservations.



## Concordia Announces New Chaplain

President and CEO Keith E. Frndak announced that Rev. Adam C. Salinas was installed as an associate chaplain on Thursday, Sept. 8 at a special worship service in the Haven II Chapel on our Cabot campus.

Rev. Dr. Daniel A. Hahn Jr., First Vice President, Eastern District, Lutheran Church Missouri Synod conducted the installation. Pastors from our member churches who participated included Second Vice President, English District Rev. Dr. Douglas Spittel (First Trinity/Oakland), Rev'ds. Brian Bocian (St. Luke, Cabot), Brian Westgate (Redeemer/Oakmont), Bert Greenway (Grace, Penn Hills) and Robert Wacker (as well as Concordia's chaplains, Revds. Jack Hartman who preached the sermon, Ronald Cox, Lee Genter, Reholma McCants, Roger Nuerge and Duane Voorman.



He began his duties as a pastor at Concordia on September 7, 2021 to support the efforts of our Chaplaincy Services staff at Cabot, Rebecca Residence and Concordia of Fox Chapel. Previously, he was sole pastor at Golgotha Lutheran Church in Wausa, Nebraska from October 2010 to November 2017. Then he served three congregations in Montana - Zion and Saint John Lutheran Churches as sole pastor and as an associate pastor at Trinity from December 2017 to August 2019. Most recently, Pastor served as a chaplain resident at Erlanger Health System in Chattanooga, Tennessee from August 2020 to August 2021. Concordia at the Orchard will be added to his list of assigned locations.

He and his wife BethAnn have three children: Rachel, age 11; Isaac, age 9 and Daniel who is four years old.

"I want to thank everyone for all of your thoughts and prayers and for all of your continued love, care, and support that you have given to me and my family in helping us get acquainted here in Pennsylvania. I am excited to continue on this journey of life here at Concordia Lutheran Ministries serving as an associate chaplain as I spread the love of Jesus Christ to others," Pastor said.



Rev. Salinas is the sixth chaplain to cover the spiritual needs of 14 Concordia locations in western PA in addition to two full-time deaconesses. President and CEO Keith E. Frndak said, "We are particularly blessed to welcome this servant of our Lord and hope you will keep him in your prayers."

# Oktoberfest 2022

Saturday, October 1, 4 - 8 p.m.  
Haven I



**For your Enjoyment:** German Band

**For your Appetite:** German-Themed Menu

**For your Kids:** Bouncy Castle, Balloon Artist, Games, Pumpkin Painting, Free Food and much more

**For your Curiosity:** Haven I Open House

**Fireworks at 7:45 p.m.**

Flu Shots (4-7 p.m.)

For more information call 724-352-1571, ext. 8268

**www.ConcordiaLM.org** • Haven I - 112 Marwood Rd., Cabot, PA 16023

# Menu

## À La Carte Items

### Main entrées - \$6.00

- Kielbasa
- Roasted pork
- Sauerbraten
- Bratwurst
- ¼ lb. Hot Dogs (2)

### Sides - \$2.00

- German Potato Salad
- Red Cabbage
- Sauerkraut
- Spaetzle (German Pasta)
- Potato Pancakes

### Desserts - \$2.00

- Black Forest Cake
- Pumpkin Pie

### Beverages - \$2.00

- Soda, Water, Coffee, Iced Tea
- Apple Cider (hot or cold)

### Dinners - \$10.00

#### *Include two sides, dessert and beverage*

- Bavarian Style Pork Roast Dinner  
*Roasted pork with pan gravy*
- Kielbasa and Sauerkraut Platter  
*Home-cooked kielbasa braised in sauerkraut served on a hoagie roll*
- Bratwurst Platter  
*Two grilled bratwurst (or hot dogs) served with spicy mustard*
- Sauerbraten Dinner  
*German-style pot roast*

### Quick tent

- Bavarian Pretzel - \$3.00
- Chicken Tenders - \$3.00
- ¼ lb. Hot Dog - \$3.00
- Black Forest Ham Pretzel Melt - \$3.00
- Beverages - \$2.00

### Beer

- Samuel Adams Oktoberfest*
- Signature Mug - \$9.00 (*limit 2 refills*)
- Glass - \$3.00

