



# THE PITTSBURGH LUTHERAN

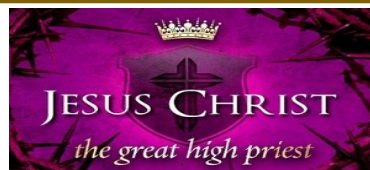
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## PALM DEVOTION

by The Reverend Dr. Douglas H. Spittel, PALM President

### "The Sympathy of Jesus"



*"Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." Hebrews 4:14-16*

Holy Lent is upon us and the Church contemplates the Word of God as our light on the road to Jerusalem, Calvary, and the Cross of Jesus. We tread upon the familiar path of confessing our sins and looking to Jesus to save us. As we do so, let us meditate upon the Word of God not only as that which directs us to our goal, but as the living Word of Jesus speaking to us along the way.

This passage from Hebrews is instructive for that purpose. The Apostle tells us that Jesus is our High Priest. This immediately conjures images of the Temple sacrifices and we are quick to draw the conclusion that Jesus is both the Priest and the Sacrifice. This is, of course, correct, but the text should draw us deeper. Here the Word tells us that He is a High Priest who *sympathizes* with us. It would be easy to pass over this word and say, "Oh, that is nice. Jesus feels sorry for us. He really understands us." But so doing misses the deeper meaning. Indeed, Jesus does pity us. After all, He wept over Jerusalem and at the tomb of Lazarus. The word *sympathize* (Greek: συμπαθέω, Latin: *conpati*) does mean "to share someone's feeling." This is what all of us can do for one another. We are able to come alongside our suffering brother or sister and share their grief or sadness. But the word *sympathize* also means "to suffer with." This is something that we cannot do. As persons, we are created to interact with each other and even share in one another's lives – sometimes intimately as in holy marriage. What we cannot do is live another person's life. We can enjoy another's triumphs, but they are not our triumphs. We can pity and care for another in their suffering and death, but we cannot suffer their sufferings or die their death.

This is the peculiar and merciful work of Jesus. He is the One who truly *sympathizes*, that is, suffers with us and for us. He is the "Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world." Jesus does not merely pity us. He does not go to the cross to show us how it is done. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, suffers our sufferings for us and dies our death in our place. In our time of need, we do not cry out to Jesus as one who will come alongside us and help us. We cry to Jesus because in Him we find the One who comes and takes our suffering and death from us. In the suffering and death of Jesus we find God's mercy and grace *for us*. "For we do not have a High Priest who cannot *suffer with* our weakness, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin." Jesus sympathizes with your weakness by taking your sufferings and being strong in your place.

We are not without blemish and our sacrifice would be insufficient. Death as the wages of sin is unbearable for us and would surely destroy us. Jesus is our all-sufficient Savior. He is the perfect sacrifice. He alone can overcome death. He offers Himself as the sacrificial lamb on the cross and leaves the tomb as the victorious conqueror on the third day. He does all of this for you. He sympathizes *for you* as only the Christ of God can.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**March**

1 to 29. Grief Support Group, Concordia's Retirement Living Facility at 1871 Highpointe Lane Allison Park, Every Wednesday from 4:00pm to 5:00pm

1. to 3. Open House, Concordia of the South Hills, Mt. Lebanon, 8:00a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

4. Concordia/Good Samaritan Hospice, Zoom Event, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. See Flyer for details.

5. Seminar and Open House, Highpoint at Rebecca,, Allison Park, 8:00 am to 4:30 p.m.

6 to 10. Open House, Concordia of the South Hills, Mt. Lebanon, 8:00a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

3 to 31. Concordia Virtual grief support group via Zoom. Every Friday from 10:00am to 11:30am. Zoom link will be sent prior to the group. Details in Upcoming special events.

**April**

23. Stations of the Resurrection presented by The Pittsburgh Lutheran Chorus, Concordia Lund Chapel, 134 Marwood Rd, Cabot, Oertel Dining Room, 613 North Pike Rd, Cabot

30. Stations of the Resurrection presented by The Pittsburgh Lutheran Chorus, Concordia of the South Hills, Mt. Lebanon, 2:30 p.m.

**May**

7. Stations of the Resurrection presented by The Pittsburgh Lutheran Chorus, Concordia at Rebecca Residence Chapel, Allison Park, Highpointe at Rebecca Chapel, Allison Park, 2:30 and 4:00 p.m.

13. Concordia Spring Fling Luncheon (formerly the Fashion Show), Butler Country Club, 310 Country Club Lane, Butler, PA, 10:00 a.m.

**Lenten Services**

March 1, 15, 29. Bethel, Glenshaw, Light Supper at 6:30 p.m., "koinonia" service, dining hall, 7:00 p.m.

March 8, 22 at Zion, Lawrenceville Light Supper at 6:30 p.m., "koinonia" service, dining hall, 7:00 p.m.



**The Pittsburgh Lutheran**

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**In Memoriam: +The Rev'd. Hans O. Andræ**

PALM commends The Rev'd. Hans Olof Andræ, who fell asleep in the Lord on 13 February 2023 at 89 years of age. He was preceded in death by his parents and three siblings. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Sylvia, three children, and five grandchildren.

Hans Andræ was born in Vimmerby, Sweden, on 24 June 1933. He was ordained a Lutheran pastor on 24 May 1959. He served four parishes in the Linköping Diocese from 1959 to 1979, interspersed with two stays in the United States. He was a Fellow of the American-Scandinavian Foundation, and he studied at Union Theological Seminary in New York City in 1965, followed by a couple months of travel throughout the United States. Hans and Sylvia were married in 1966, and they then worked at Zion Lutheran Church, Penn Hills (ELCA) for 18 months before returning to Sweden until 1979.

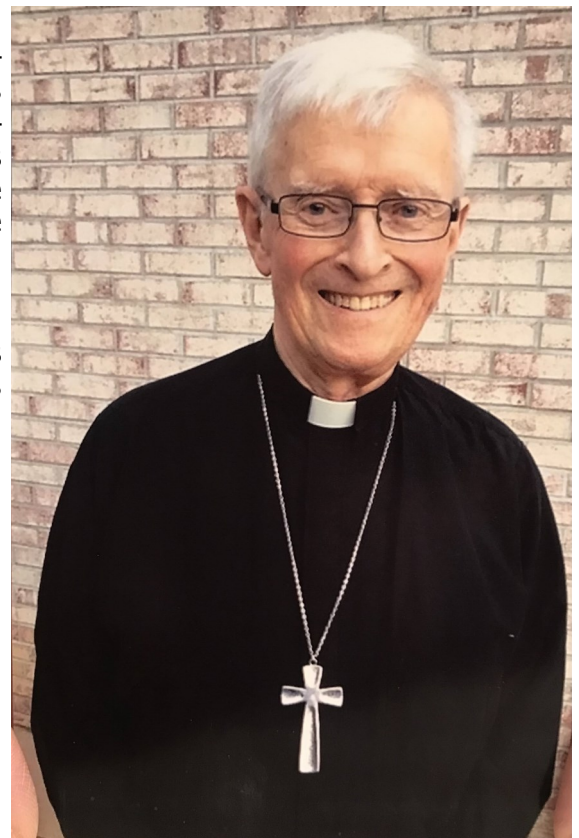
From 1979 to 1985, Rev'd. Andræ served an ELCA tri-parish in northern Maine. He was pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Jeannette, Pennsylvania (ELCA) from 1985 to 1996. He became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1988. He retired from full-time ministry in 1996, but then served as an interim pastor in eight ELCA congregations and provided pulpit supply in many other parishes. In 2008 he colloquized onto the LCMS clergy roster as a *Pastor Emeritus*, joining the First Trinity Evangelical-Lutheran congregation in Pittsburgh alongside his son, the Rev'd. Eric R. Andræ. Within the LCMS, "Father Hans" frequently preached and presided at services in PALM member churches until 2015.

Rev'd. Andræ contributed to his hometown newspaper for over seventy years and published many articles and letters to the editor in other periodicals. He wrote a booklet on the pastoral office that was published in 1979, and he translated from his native Swedish to English two works by Bo Giertz: Christ's Church: Her Biblical Roots, Her Dramatic History, Her Saving Presence, Her Glorious Future and a portion of best-selling novel The Hammer of God, also writing introductions to both books.

Rev'd. Andræ loved Christ and His Church, his wife and family, his colleagues in ministry and his parishioners, and his two nations: Sweden and the U.S.A.. Baptized on 17 September 1933, he rejoiced in being a child of God. Among his many favorite scripture passages is this: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine." (Isaiah 43:1b)

We commend Rev'd. Andræ to the care and keeping of Jesus until the day of resurrection when He will return to raise his body and all of His own unto life everlasting.

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.



## PALM MISSION

### ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN

*Bridgeport, WV*

It has been an active winter at St John's in Bridgeport, West Virginia. A congregational work group spent a weekend with Rev. Dan Lepley of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund defining and charting a course forward for our congregation. We were also blessed with the confirmations of two adults into membership. In December, we held a congregational baby shower for Pastor and Payton Lacey and in January had the baptism of their daughter, Sophia.



We have also been very busy with the Harrison County Family Support Center that was begun under our administration led by Pastor Lacey in the Fall of 2022. With a state grant, we have been able to provide family strengthening activities like family game night, parent and child playgroups, parent respite hours and pizza nights. We have established an emergency pantry as well as a location families can come to relax and find encouragement. As we continue in 2023, we will be adding classes to support families as well as outings and events, all aimed at deepening family bonds. The Family Support Center provides Pastor Lacey a high level of visibility and engagement in the community.

We wish to thank all the individual people, the English District and Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries who have provided support both financially and with prayer. Both are very much appreciated.



HOLY CROSS CHAPEL

*Hazelwood*

**Time Marches On** - Vicar David L. Wenndt Holy Cross Lutheran Chapel

As the days get longer and daylight savings time goes into effect (don't forget to "Spring forward" March 12; you don't want to be that person who comes just in time for the Benediction!) our minds are naturally drawn to the nicer weather that we're starting to experience. We think about the impending spring flowers and spring chores that are to inevitably follow. Lent is upon us, which means that Easter is rapidly approaching! While many people are excited about the warmer weather, or the approaching feast, many others lament the overarching passing of time. We miss those carefree days of our childhoods; friends or family members who are gone; even those days when we could wake up and not be in pain. And yet time marches on, it's a finite thing that we can never get back.

As we begin this Lenten season, a time of fasting, repentance, and self-denial, it's a good time to consider what's important in our lives. To prioritize what truly matters to us. Many live with regrets of the time that they lost with the people or things that really mattered to them. Consider what's important in your life. If life isn't what you want it to be, what can you do to change that? What do you need to find fulfillment in life? What can you give up to change your life? Many people don't have good answers to these questions. Studies have shown that as a culture we're growing less fulfilled and less satisfied. Studies also show that people with a strong connection to a church are, on average, happier and more fulfilled than people who aren't. I think it's not a coincidence that societally we grow unhappier as we remove ourselves more and more from the presence of God.

This Lenten season, heed the words of Joel chapter 2: "Return to the Lord your God..." While we can never get back the time that's past, we can define our futures through the lens of God and His will for us. We can embrace those blessings that God has given us, and see them for what they are, blessings from our Heavenly Father. Live in Paul's words from Philippians 4: "...I have learned in whatever situation I am in to be content... I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." As time marches on, don't look internally for meaning, but look to Him to give your life meaning.



## CAMPUS MINISTRY

### SRU CAMPUS MINISTRY

*by Augusta R. Mennell, Campus Ministry Director*

#### Jesus at the Center

I have been a campus ministry director for about thirty-five years. During this time I have learned that God has always been with us to open doors for the student ministry. Meeting the Director of Residence Halls is just one example.

As I was picking up a few groceries at the Giant Eagle store in Slippery Rock, a friendly, well-dressed shopper approached me. He stopped me to say that he remembers what campus ministry had done for American and international students twenty-five years ago when he was a Slippery Rock University student. I was stunned that he remembered. Who can remember how one felt about kindnesses shown so long ago?

This gentleman enthusiastically remembered the fact that All Saints walked the walk: we put our care for students into action. We showed our love for students, he said, by always having snacks available for students because some were hungry. We transported those who needed rides to the thrift store. We provided friendship families, who often included the students in holiday celebrations. Some friendship families still are in touch with their students.

I could not recall this man's name even though he recognized that I had had a part in campus ministry, so I asked him his name. He told me. He went on to say that he is currently the Director of Residence Halls at Slippery Rock University. I thanked him for making time to share his kind words.

The next day I called him at his office to again say thank you for his encouragement. Because All Saints campus ministry still has the same goal – to reach university students and invite them to come to All Saints for friendship and time to know of our care, I asked if he would be willing to place our flyer advertising our student meals in his residence halls. All Saints does have an invitation to our meals and events on our website. To have his willingness to put the posters all over his residence halls was just incredible. It increases greatly our opportunity to contact students.

Meeting the director is just one example of how God has met our needs through the years. Moses Greenspan is another. Moses looks like an international student because he was born in Ethiopia. But he is an American who recently graduated from Grove City College.

After Moses graduated, All Saints thought he would move away to take a job elsewhere. To our delight, he found a job in the area and remains so active in our church that he became a member. This is especially meaningful because he is working with campus pastor Reverend Jacob Deal to build stronger ties with Grove City College students. He is doing this by volunteering to teach a Bible class, under Reverend Deal's supervision, on the Grove City College campus Sunday afternoons. Rides will be given to Slippery Rock students who want to join the study. Moses is eager to help All Saints campus ministry in every way he can. He attends student meals and encourages GCC and SRU students to make time for these events. He participates in church activities, even becoming a trustee and he attends our workdays. He is so good at painting that he made an interior metal door look like wood!

Rev. Deal, the Director of Residence Halls, Moses, and Glenn Usecheck, our church Elder, plus so many others, all enable ministry to students here. Our Elder passes out copies of his favorite book, [Why I Am a Lutheran](#) by Daniel Preus. This book is very readable. It is one we pass out to everyone including students. Its point is that Jesus is the center of our lives. We are privileged to share this message with students. We are grateful that God helps the doors to remain open.



## HOUSES OF WORSHIP SERIES

### Houses of Worship By Shirley Freyer

#### St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

600 E. North Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15212 412-321-7720

Rev. Michael Schumacher, *Pastor*

*Worship Sunday at 10 a.m.; Adult Bible Class*

*Sunday School at 9 a.m.*

Rev. Michael Schumacher, pastor for the last 18 years at St. Matthew, announced 2023 is the year of the 150th Anniversary. Last August he issued a call for the first anniversary project – a Health Initiative to promote a healthy leader, healthy pastor, and healthy congregation in his 60 lb. challenge weight loss. He has endured several medical issues and needs to lose weight to reduce the high risk for hip surgery.

Pastor has lost more than 100 pounds since 2018, but the plans for a celebration have not been finalized. Perhaps the congregation will choose the feast day of its namesake, Matthew of Capernaum, Levi the apostle. Pastor has high hopes as he is concerned this “might be one of our last years.” Despite the 13 or 14 who attend Sunday worship services, he currently has three requests for adult confirmation. His background first as a called teacher following his graduation from Concordia College, Seward, Neb., as a voice and brass major provide him with the ability to lead a cappella singing without a current organist.

“While there remain a few stalwarts, our people cannot afford a pastor,” he explained. Recent history had been riddled with zoning issues and the maintenance of a huge structure. “We could no longer take care of the building because it was too massive for our stewardship.” The school has been closed since 2008 but before that time, space was shared with nearby Allegheny Center Alliance Church after its creation of Urban Impact (UI). Founded in 1995 by Pastor Ed Glover, UI was designed as a community outreach for youth in the North Side through programs in athletics, education and performing arts. With a relationship already established, the church parking lot was UI’s first purchase in 2012, followed by a building lease in 2019, and a buy the year later.

Never registered an historic landmark, each of the church’s seven stained glass windows are worth \$75,000, reports Pastor Schumacher. “Hand-painted by a German art worker family using a stain the allows light to shine outward, it’s an asset that we still enjoy.”

The outreach currently uses the sanctuary for musicals and drama productions in its goal of The Great Commission. And it is determined to restore the steeple because UI leadership believes it is a staple of the North Side according to Pastor Schumacher.

One of the most prodigious gifts God has bestowed on this congregation is that four LCMS pastors call St. Matthew their home church. The Gospel according to Matthew is the only Gospel to directly mention congregations, and its author focuses more on the community of faith. One of the best-known memory verses is that of the Great Commission. Could this be a reason four young men followed God’s call to serve Him?



## HOUSES OF WORSHIP SERIES

Rev. Clifford Koenig was a senior in high school when his father, Rev. Walter Koenig, accepted the call to St. Matthew Church and School. "Dad's father, an orphan who grew up in New York, was a pastor. And I remember upon meeting Dr. Walter A. Meier, Dad introduced me saying, 'This is my son. He is going to be a pastor.'" Young Cliff met his wife Carol at college and first chose teaching so he could get married and start a family. He taught for 11 years in the Bronx. His daughter, Cristin Fiffik, general counsel for Concordia Lutheran Ministries, was quick to remind him of his famous student, Ace Frehley, lead guitarist and co-founding member of the hard rock band, Kiss. Pastor noted Ace's dad was Sunday School superintendent. "I was called. It was in my heart and the Lord's hand led me to Concordia Seminary in St. Louis," he said. His first call was to a big church in a small town where "half the townspeople went to church with us."

The third Rev. Koenig served in Clintonville, Wisc.; Joplin, Mo.; and Kansas City, Mo., until he retired. "Three churches, just as my father had served - Pilger, Neb., where I was born; Pekin, N.Y., where Dad had a one-room school and he was the teacher as well as the pastor; and, of course, Pittsburgh," he laughed.

A humble and kind man, Pastor Cliff enjoyed telling stories of his beloved father. One of his favorites occurred during the last year of his life. "Dad was 89 and beginning to have some memory issues. He would go to chapel at Concordia and during the Benediction, he would walk outside the aisles and greet people, 'Good morning, glad you came,' just as he had done all the years of his pastorship. When he moved to Concordia there were no rooms available so one of the Oertel residents who knew him offered to share his room until one became available. He was very good with children; he was very good with the elderly and every year of his ministry he conducted both German and English services.

"Dad was very busy all week with the school children and would write his sermons on Saturday evening in his own shorthand on one side of a business envelope." He learned sign language when he served in Pekin because he served members who were hearing impaired.

When St. Matthew celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> year in the ministry, the congregation asked his son to preach the sermon. "Dad's sermons were very theological and Biblical but with a practical line or two. Mine were much more of the practical theme. Yet he praised my words and reminded the District president who was in attendance 'that's my son.'" When he came home each evening from church, he would sit down at the piano and play classical music while his wife, Rosa, finished dinner. She was the church organist, and the day Cliff's twin sisters, Lois and Louise were born, she played two services. Each of Cristen's three daughters has taken lessons on that piano that now resides in her home.

"When I graduated from law school here in Pittsburgh and had no money," Cristen shared, "Grandpa offered me \$400 for rent but Grandma interrupted his generosity, and I knew I couldn't accept it. For family gatherings, my husband would bring a case of beer, but it was never allowed in the house." Beer drinking was done only on the front porch!

Pastor Cliff was eager to reveal the human side of Walter Koenig. In his words ... he was a terrible driver and rode the brake so that a new set was an annual event. He was stubborn and refused to ever stop for directions. When it came time to take away his car keys, he walked to the polls to vote. He loved sports - everything from horseshoes to baseball - and was very competitive. At one Pirate game, Pastor Cliff remembered his dad rose from his seat and screamed "robbery," when the hitter beat the throw to first base and the umpire called him out. The greatest compliment for Pastor Cliff - when people would say they saw his dad in him.



## HOUSES OF WORSHIP SERIES

The journey to the ministry for Rev. John E. Trembulak III took a very different path. As a student at St. Matthew, he became a member on April 8, 1979, after completing confirmation instruction, and was part of the last class confirmed by Rev. Walter Koenig before his retirement.

Born in 1966, he lived on the North Side until high school. His mother was raised Catholic. Like him, his father went to St. Matthew School. But it almost three years until his Catholic grandmothers prompted his baptism at the North Avenue United Methodist Church in March 1969. "My real connection with the church began in 1976 when I entered St. Matthew School in 5<sup>th</sup> grade." There he met his best friend, Jim Murr who is also an LCMS pastor.

Although his parents did not attend services, they made sure he was in church and Sunday School regularly. A youth group, supervised by Bud Spindler, introduced him to the Meier family and others who did not live in the neighborhood. John served as president of the youth for a number of years and enjoyed CamPraise on the Concordia grounds in Cabot, as well as Pioneer Camp in N.Y. "These activities shaped my willingness to serve the Lord in His ministry," he said. "I experienced a feeling of family with the church members. We supported and encouraged one another, shared our joys and sorrows. And the bond in faith, service, and fellowship was strong and uplifting," Pastor John remembered.

Membership was well over 100 regular Sunday attenders in those days. Sunday School Superintendent Willis Voland and his Sunday School teacher Miriam Martens (Pastor Cliff Koenig's sister) played important roles in connecting him to the Lord and instilling leadership in him. "They gave me many opportunities to serve the Lord, even then. I sang in the choir with the help of Bud. I spoke at youth services thanks to Willis. I was shown encouragement by Miriam," he continued.

"Our pastor, Rev. Rudolf Kampia, must have seen something in me and my friend Jim because he encouraged us to consider entering the ministry and drove us to Concordia College in Bronxville, N.Y., his alma mater, for a tour."



St. Matthew was a strong, vibrant and active church in the '80s. He remembers Christmas and Easter Cantatas, Christmas caroling to the shut-ins (sometimes singing in German), ushering, ringing the bell to start services, dimming the lights at the sermon, decorating for Christmas and church picnics.

"So much positive influence on this North Side kid shaped who I am today and what I do," he remarked. "These members watched me grow up and always 'put up' with me. I don't know if any of them saw pastor material in me, but they supported me through my college and seminary years."

The family of St. Matthew was happy to see Pastor John marry someone he met through youth group in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, Elizabeth Johnston from Zion, Lawrenceville. And they were delighted to celebrate his ordination there in the summer of 1995.

Pastor John has served at his first call to 150-year-old Zion in Dashwood, Ontario, for the last 28 years, and has added a second congregation, Berea-By-The-Water, in Goderich, Ontario. He and his wife have four daughters, Cara, Jennifer, Laura and Hannah. Jennifer was married last year and both Laura and Hannah are teachers. "I owe much of who I am, and the faith I hold, to the family of St. Matthew. I am grateful God has led me in no small part through that family."

## HOUSES OF WORSHIP SERIES

Rev. James Murr Jr. is attached to Pastor John as childhood friends. Their early years bear much similarity. He is also connected to Pastor Cliff through family ties. His uncle Bud Krapp was married to the late Louise Koenig, Pastor Cliff's sister, and is now married to her oldest sister, Prissy.

Baptized at St. Matthew where his parents were married, he started school at St. Matthew in 2nd grade. He eventually met Pastor John and they finished 8th grade together. Even though Jim graduated from North Catholic High School, he said, "I was so firmly established in my Lutheran doctrine that it did not sway my beliefs. In fact, it was a blessing to still be in a Christian setting for high school."

Throughout high school the two remained close, both active in youth group and in the work of the church. "By 11th or 12th grade we knew what we wanted and it helped that we were friends and started that track together," he cited. Two years later, Jim transferred to Concordia, Ann Arbor, and they then met again at seminary in 1992 in St. Louis.

Like Pastor John, he acknowledged that St. Matthew was a major blessing. It provided good friends, good people, good teachers and a good experience with church life. "Members were affirming to us," he said. "It was a very lively, loving congregation and gave me a positive sense of Christianity and a good place to grow up." Pastors John and Jim shared the same experience as it related to their parents. Jim's mom and dad were believers but not regular church-goers. Born two blocks away from St. Matthew, his family moved nine times, and as far as Cranberry Twp. Until he was age 10. They returned to North Side and settled in Northview Heights.

Currently, Pastor Jim is serving his fifth congregation, Bethlehem Lutheran Church outside of Chicago, where he has been since 2013. He met his wife in 1993 at his first congregation in Havertown, Pa. They moved to Buffalo and adopted a daughter. From there, he took a call to Hagerstown, Md., and then to Winston Salem, N.C., prior to his current assignment. At age 56, he is grandfather to two boys - a 15-month-old and a 3-month-old, whom he sees almost every day. He agreed that he feels compelled to bringing Roman Catholics to a better understanding as Luther did, mostly because Catholicism doesn't understand, "It is finished!"

The fourth son of St. Matthew, Brian Bocian, became a member through its day school. He was baptized in a local Catholic church in North Side. His parents were "loosely Catholic by background but really were not practicing at the time." Like John's and Jim's parents, "They used to drop my two brothers and I off for Sunday school and then pick us up when it was over." His mom began to serve on the school's PTL. She became an assistant cook in the school's kitchen as well as a teacher's aide. Eventually the family started attending worship and became more involved. He and his two brothers attended St. Matthew from preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> grade and were confirmed there. His dad was an usher and on the Board of Trustees.

From 1982 - 2000, Pastor Walter Koenig, then the retired pastor, continued to worship along with his wife and family. "To this day, I say the Lord's Prayer with the inflection that I learned listening to him say it from the pews every Sunday sitting near us," Pastor Brian admitted.

"Rev. Rudy Kampia confirmed me. His oldest daughter, Ruth was in my class. The principal was Delores Hauser. During high school and college, Rev. Bryan Borger served as pastor. Krista Nagy was the principal by the time both of my younger brothers graduated. The congregation fluctuated between 80-120 members. Janie Snyder was the church and school secretary, and we still keep in touch to this day," he said. What drew people to this church, most often, was the people, he believes. The sermons were personal, grounded in the Word and challenging. The lay people were involved in every aspect of the worship, from reading the Scriptures, ushering, greeting, teaching, singing, playing the organ, what you find in many Lutheran churches - but this group was such a caring, loving group of believers that you could not help but feel loved.

## HOUSES OF WORSHIP SERIES

“If you wanted to just be a fly on the wall and not really do much, this wasn’t the church for you. I’m convinced our Sunday School teachers all have a special area of heaven reserved just for them – for putting up with the Bocian brothers. The three of us would crawl under the pews and head in three different directions at the same time! I remember sitting with other families during the service – my mom was probably grateful for the break. “I still keep in touch with the former pastors, most of my Sunday school teachers, youth group leaders and many of the members. All of the hymns were sung to the piano or the pipe organ. We used the 1941 (red) Lutheran Hymnal. I loved festival services when other members played their instruments as part of the worship. Bill Seitz played his trumpet every Easter and the sounds would echo gloriously through the church and blew me away.”

Young Brian served on a team of ushers in the regular rotation as early as 9th grade in high school. and was asked as a senior in high school to serve on the Board of Elders. Pastor Brian, now associate pastor at St. Luke in Cabot, remembered driving out to the country in what seemed like the middle of nowhere for hours and hours to St. Luke once a year for Track and Field Day.

“Their school seemed so massive compared to ours. My 8th grade graduating class had four students. I never imagined that as an adult I would be serving at St. Luke in Cabot and living in Butler with a family of my own.” Many members of the congregation encouraged him to become a pastor because of the ease with which he could recall and explain Scripture in ways that were easily understood and relatable. They urged youth to be readers during worship service. This, along with singing in front of the church and school plays and operettas, contributed to his comfort in front of a group. He volunteered to do the children’s messages and as early as age 12, had the first of many conversations with his pastors about entering the ministry. “Over the years I would come up with excuses and shrug it off, sort of avoiding the inevitable until much later in life, when God, after having removed all roadblocks from my life, finally had His way with me and here I am – forever grateful that the opportunity did not pass by and that God is able to use me yet to further his Kingdom.”

Rev. Bocian shared fond memories of St. Matthew. “Visiting a dear lady from my congregation who had since moved to Concordia and was battling dementia. It was a huge honor to serve this dear woman who had loved me so dearly as a child, simply as a member of the congregation and who had no children of her own.



“In the fall of 2018, I assisted with coverage one summer in the Pittsburgh area and was able to make a home visit with another member who I would sit with as a little child. It was such a sweet reunion to rekindle but also have the honor of bringing her and her daughter the Lord’s Supper.”

Another connection he revealed is that his 5th grade teacher was Elizabeth (Johnston) Trembulak. “It was her first year as a Lutheran school teacher and the year before she married JT, Pastor John’s nickname. She still jokes that she almost quit teaching after that year, but has kept an encouraging letter that he wrote to her that year.”

Rev. Walter Koenig served from 1954 – 1979 when he retired after serving in the ministry for 50 years. He joined the Church Triumphant on September 10, 1999.

Rev. Rudy Kampia served from 1980 – 1996 and is retired and living in Maryland.

Historical details of this century-and-a-half-year-old house of worship will be presented during its anniversary celebration.

## NEWS FROM AREA CONGREGATIONS

### Bethel, Glenshaw and Zion, Lawrenceville News

Bethel and Zion LWML raised \$600 for missions in Venezuela and Columbia through a Soup-R-Bowl homemade soup sale.

A Light Supper at 6:30 p.m. will precede a “koinonia” service in our dining halls with the handbell and Java Jam groups at 7:00 p.m. each Wednesday during Lent. Themes will feature a cup, a coin, a sign, a thorn, and a sponge. March 1, 15, 29 at Bethel; March 8, 22 at Zion.



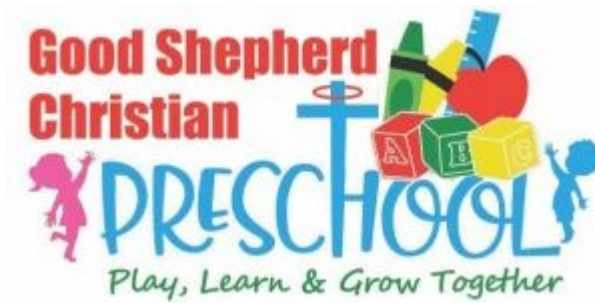
### GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN

*South Hills*

#### Good Shepherd Christian Preschool

<https://goodshepherdpittsburgh.org/preschool-main-page/>

We are already looking forward to the 2023-2024 school year! Registration for next year’s classes have begun. Classes are available for two to five years old. If you are interested in learning more about our Preschool or completing a registration, please contact the Director, Ashley Miller at [preschool@goodshepherdpittsburgh.org](mailto:preschool@goodshepherdpittsburgh.org) or 412-884-5960.



## NEWS FROM AREA CONGREGATIONS

### MT. CALVARY LUTHERAN

#### *West View*

Each Thursday, Council Vice President Jim Heinrichs sends a "Scuttlebutt" email to members and friends of Mt. Calvary to give them a preview of the following Sunday's service, and keep them informed of what's going on throughout the week. Because there's not much news to write about during the winter months after the activity of the holidays, Jim began a series, starting mid-January, of highlighting both former and current members of the congregation. He points out how important their service - which is often done behind-the-scenes - was/is on behalf of the church.

These biographical sketches are a good way to pay tribute to current members as well as those who are no longer with us, and they give everyone a chance to get to know each other better and learn about the ones who went before. We thank Jim for the time and effort he has been putting into this interesting project.

In other news, Nikkie Kuntz is planning a Games Night at the church on Saturday, March 18. Knowing how much Nikkie likes games - she always organizes ones for the annual summer picnic and Christmas party - everyone is anticipating what she might have in mind for a fun evening.

In addition, the Outreach Group is busy crafting Easter gifts for the folks at Meals on Wheels. This year's present is little tea bag holders made from spring-colored cardstock stamped and decorated by the group.



## UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

### Concordia Lutheran Ministries

Spring Support Groups: Good Samaritan Hospice will have the following grief support groups for adults this spring.

March 1st-March 29th-Every Wednesday from 4:00pm-5:00pm at Highpointe, Concordia's Retirement Living Facility at 1871 Highpointe Lane Allison Park, PA 15101.

March 3rd-31st-Every Friday from 10:00am-11:30am-Virtual grief support group via Zoom. A Zoom link will be sent prior to the group.

Registration is required for groups and will be open until February 24th. To RSVP or for more information, please call the Family Support Services administrative assistant, Brittany Foy, at 1-800-720-2557 EXT 4428. Additional support groups will be offered throughout the 2023 year.



### Concordia Open House Events

Concordia of the South Hills will host open house events Wednesday, March 1 to Friday, March 3 and Monday, March 6 to Friday, March 10 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day. The events will be held at the community, located at 1300 Bower Hill Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15243. Guests will learn more about the retirement living community, tour the campus and ask questions they may have. They can also learn more about Concordia of the South Hills limited-time spring savings discount of \$10,000 off any available two-bedroom apartment entrance fee. Free parking and refreshments will be available. Registration is preferred to help us plan, but walk-ins will be accepted. To RSVP, call Director of Marketing Christie Wahlen at 412-294-1351. Learn more at [www.Concordia-SouthHills.org](http://www.Concordia-SouthHills.org)

Highpointe at Rebecca will hold upcoming events on Sunday, March 5 at 1:00 p.m. and on Monday, March 6, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on its campus, located at 1871 Highpointe Ln., Allison Park, PA 15101. The events are open to the community, and admission and parking are free. On Sunday, March 5, the event will begin with a seminar titled "Smart Questions to Ask When Considering Retirement Communities," followed by a Q&A session and a building tour. On Monday, March 6, Highpointe's doors will be open all day from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for personalized, guided tours. Registration is required for the March 5 seminar event by Wednesday, March 1. Registration is recommended for the March 6 open house, but walk-ins will be accepted all day. To RSVP, call Admissions Counselor Julie Spirnock at 724-444-1521. Learn more at [www.HighpointeRebecca.org](http://www.HighpointeRebecca.org)

# Stations of The Resurrection

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FOCUS ON THE VARIOUS APPEARANCES OF  
JESUS DURING THE 40-DAY PERIOD  
BETWEEN HIS RESURRECTION AND HIS  
ASCENSION.

ALL THE STATIONS ARE BASED ON SCRIPTURALLY RECORDED  
INCIDENTS IN THE FOUR GOSPELS AND THE BOOK OF ACTS.

*Presented by The Pittsburgh Lutheran Chorus*

**SUNDAY, APRIL 23 – 2:30 & 4 P.M.**

CONCORDIA LUND CHAPEL 134 MARWOOD RD | CABOT 16023

OERTEL DINING ROOM 613 NORTH PIKE RD | CABOT 16023

**SUNDAY, APRIL 30 – 2:30 P.M.**

CONCORDIA OF THE SOUTH HILLS HARMONY ROOM

1300 BOWER HILL RD | MT. LEBANON 15243

**SUNDAY, MAY 7 – 2:30 & 4 P.M**

CONCORDIA AT REBECCA RESIDENCE CHAPEL

3746 CEDAR RIDGE RD | ALLISON PARK 15101

HIGHPOINTE AT REBECCA CHAPEL

1871 HIGHPOINTE LANE | ALLISON PARK 15101



## Good Samaritan Hospice Presents: The Music in Me

A Zoom Event March 4<sup>th</sup> 9:30-11:00am

We are hoping to see you at our first 2023 Youth Bereavement Care event to explore how music helps us express our emotions and grief. This is a **free event** and is for youth up to age 21 who have experienced the death of a significant person.

We ask an adult to be present with the participant at the opening of the Zoom program. Children ages 6 and under will need an adult to accompany them for the length of the program.

Please **RSVP** to Brittany Foy at **1-800-720-2557 EXT 4428** by **February 17, 2023** to receive the Zoom link and to be sure materials necessary for the event are mailed to you by the event date. We look forward to seeing you!





# Wildflower Wishes

Concordia Lutheran Ministries 2023 Spring Fling Luncheon

Saturday, May 13, 2023

Butler Country Club

310 Country Club Lane, Butler, PA 16002

10 a.m.

\$45 • Tables of 10: \$400

Basket Auction • Mystery Bags • Shopping (clothes and accessories)

## Lunch

*Chicken Romano, Sour Cream and Chive Whipped Potatoes, Glazed Baby Carrots and Trio Dessert Plate*

Performance by the Freeport High School Forté Show Choir

*All proceeds benefit the Concordia Lutheran Ministries Good Samaritan Endowment Fund, providing charitable care to residents and patients in need.*

Please call 724-352-1571, ext. 8355 to make your reservation or go online at [give.concordialm.org](http://give.concordialm.org), select "Events." Seating is limited and available by RSVP and advance payment only. No tickets will be sold at the door. Please make checks payable to: CLM Foundation and send to: 134 Marwood Road, Cabot, PA 16023 by April 28, 2023.