



THE PITTSBURGH LUTHERAN

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PALM DEVOTION

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

“Jesus Ascends to Be With Us”

We celebrate the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord in our churches on Thursday, May 18. We observe this high feast not in a maudlin, “I wish Jesus would come back,” sort of way, but precisely because on this day we rejoice in our Lord making and keeping a promise to be near and with us.

“Jesus led the disciples out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God.” Luke 24:50-53

St. Luke tells us that the act of Jesus’ ascension accompanied His giving a blessing to the disciples. St. Matthew tells us what that blessing is when he writes the following:

*Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and **make disciples of all the nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, **I am with you always**, even to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20*

The blessing was two-fold – first, that the disciples would make disciples in all the nations through preaching and the celebration of the sacraments and second, that Jesus will be with them as they go about His business. The disciples would recall that Jesus had promised this when He told them that He would send the Holy Spirit to speak to and through them and that this proclamation would never be something novel but would always be the proclamation of Jesus Christ.

*When He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for **He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you**. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore, I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you. John 16:13-15*

So Jesus’ ascension is not a “going away.” Rather, it is Jesus “being present all the time everywhere.” Jesus’ presence in proclamation and sacramental action is specifically for the purpose of bringing people to faith, salvation, and eternal life.



PALM NEWS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

May

2, 9, 16, 23, 30. Good Samaritan Hospice Spousal Loss Support, Concordia of Cranberry, 10 Adams Ridge Blvd, Mars, PA, every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

25. Alzheimer's Support Group, Concordia of Fox Chapel. 931 Route 910, Cheswick 15024, the last Thursday of each month at 1:00 p.m.

6. Concordia Lutheran Ministries presents the Kids Fishing Derby, Saxony Farm Lake, Saxonburg, Pa, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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.

June

6. Good Samaritan Hospice Spousal Loss Support, Concordia of Cranberry, 10 Adams Ridge Blvd, Mars, PA, every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

9. Strawberry Festival, Redeemer Lutheran, Oakmont, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

29. Alzheimer's Support Group, Concordia of Fox Chapel. 931 Route 910, Cheswick 15024, the last Thursday of each month at 1:00 p.m.

July

24 to 28. Mt. Calvary Vacation Bible School, Rainforest Explorers, Westview, Dinner 5:15 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Classes 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

24 to 28. Zion, Bridgeville, Vacation Bible School, God's Living Water- Covered in Jesus Grace, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.



The Pittsburgh Lutheran

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PALM Devotion Continued

*And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that **believing you may have life in His name.** John 20:30-31*

*So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and preached everywhere, **the Lord working with them** and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Mark 16:19-20*

Thus, the Church continues to proclaim the forgiveness of sins to the whole world and Jesus continues to be present with His disciples – with us!



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On behalf of the PALM Board of Directors, I would like to thank you all for your generosity during this year's PALM Sunday Appeal. A total of around \$2,500 was raised, and all of these funds will go towards the support and growth of PALM's Small Mission Grant Fund. This was the largest amount given in many years, and we so very much appreciate your support as we continue to support the work of the missions of our member congregations.

Blessings,
Richard R. Crain
Secretary



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHAPEL

Hazelwood

It's a beautiful day in this neighborhood!

-Vicar David L Wenndt

Pittsburgh's own Mr. Rogers famously used to sing on his television program: "It's a beautiful day in this neighborhood, a beautiful day for a neighbor." And indeed, we've been enjoying some beautiful days in our neighborhood. But it's easy to forget the second part of the sentiment. Modern life, with its conveniences, has often inadvertently isolated us more and more from our neighbors. To give a few examples:



The advent of cars and buses allows us to travel greater distances to stores and to work. Many people simply start their car in their garage, drive to where they're going, drive home, park in their garage, and never have to interact with the people who live around them. Now we even have delivery services which will in a matter of hours deliver whatever items we need right to our door; no need to even leave our homes. The by-product is we're interacting with people, especially our neighbors, less and less. Fewer and fewer people work in a neighborhood mill, or other mass employer. Fewer people walk to the shops in the neighborhood, see their neighbors, and have the common bond of community.



The invention of air conditioning and central heating has made our homes comfortable temperatures year round. Most people no longer need to sit on porches to escape the heat that was trapped inside. Since everyone was outside, it was another time to socialize.

Entertainment has also seen personalized innovations over the last century. Instead of entertainment having to be created live for the consumption of the people who were present, we now have televisions and phones that allow us individually to watch exactly what we want when we want. We have earbuds, so that we alone can listen to our playlist of music, hearing the exact songs we want to hear, and nothing else.



There are other examples that could be given. The point of this article is not to long for a time gone by, nor to bemoan the advancements of technology. Rather, it's to call to mind how each of these things has slowly isolated us from our neighbors. This actually directly has an impact on our churches and church attendance. Studies show that people are more likely to visit a church when they're invited by someone they know; this is far more effective than any program a church can do, or any contact your Pastor can make. Moreover, studies also show when someone visits a church, they're more likely to continue attending if they have friends and acquaintances they like to interact with. Yes, we all wish everyone would attend church every Sunday for theologically pure reasons. But we're fallen and sinful people. So take this opportunity to recognize that there are probably people that you live nearby that you don't know. Take some time to talk to them. You may find a new friend; and more than that, you may find someone who needs Christ.

CAMPUS MINISTRY

SRU CAMPUS MINISTRY

by Augusta R. Mennell, Campus Ministry Director

The Next Fifty Years

Celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of All Saints Lutheran Church and Student Center is like getting ready for a fiftieth wedding anniversary. It encourages the congregation to think back to the beginning, but more significantly it makes us wonder what the next fifty years will be like. We already know that our goal remains the same today as it was in 1977: to share the Gospel with Slippery Rock University and Grove City College students and the townspeople.

Rev. Jacob Deal, All Saints campus pastor, is helping All Saints to make plans for its fiftieth anniversary. He, the church council, and the congregational members have established a capital fund campaign to allow members to contribute in a greater way to the work at this church. It is a deliberate plan to keep the “home-away-from-home” church a place for students.

The idea of having a student ministry for students is not new. The idea of having an attractive place to worship and to come to social events for students is not new either. As a letter written by Rev. Norris C. Crook, All Saints first pastor suggested on September 27, 1978, this congregation will establish a church that teaches God’s Word to make certain that the Lords Supper and baptism are clearly understood by students; and to fully embrace the students by including them in social activities. From the beginning, students were invited to events like Christmas parties as well as to family homes for meals on the holidays. Bible studies were so meaningful that even today, the students call to ask how everything is at All Saints. Armenians, Ethiopians, Chinese and Americans prize the time they spent at All Saints, and where some were baptized.

All Saints is holding a campaign to be sure that we can provide an evangelism-fellowship outreach in the coming fifty years. We were already acting on this by beautifying our sanctuary with a crucifix which captures the attention of every student who enters the sanctuary. It boldly shows that Jesus is the center of our faith. It boldly states that this is a church that reveres the Lord. Students are drawn in by this crucifix, even students from Grove City College which is seven miles from the church.

In the old days when All Saints began, funds for everything came from volunteer labor. Men were seen building the church as they pounded in the nails into the roof. Women held street sales and made homemade pies to sell to fund everything from altar paraments to kitchen silverware. Today, quarterly volunteer Saturday workdays help to take care of work on the church building and grounds. The turnout for these workdays is impressive. Adding to that, members are supporting the capital campaign which will allow us to continue this ministry to town and gown.

The students who have come to All Saints will live in our hearts forever. They are: Moses who graduated from Grove City College, joined All Saints as a member and now teaches a Bible class with Rev. Deal on Grove City College’s campus.

Shannon, who helped cook for Rice Day meals for students, because she was so appreciative of our support when she knew so little English. She has expressed her gratitude with letters and with a loving monetary gift.

CAMPUS MINISTRY

SRU Continued

Steve, who came to worship regularly, built an electrical system enabling us to watch movies; always helped campus ministry go on campus. He is a blessing to his new church, where he is an elder.

Sam who graduates in the spring. He joined as a member. He and his wife will return to All Saints after he completes his graduate degree. They feel this is a church home.

The list is endless. The students are priceless. They are the mission field.

The next 50 years at All Saints will be the same as it was at the beginning: God's Word is first, love for sharing the word is second, and third is the wonderful pastors God has sent to All Saints. They have not shifted with the winds and neither has this congregation. They teach by word and example that God is in control; that he did it all for us on the cross. This includes our pastor, Rev. Jacob Deal, who like his predecessors has given sacrificially to All Saints. With the Lord's help, we are praying to continue mission work for fifty more years.



All Saints Lutheran Church and Student Center looks forward to the next 50 years.

CAMPUS MINISTRY

PENN STATE

by Matt Slaybaugh, DCE

Revive at Penn State — Spring Break Service Trip: Fort Myers, FL (Hurricane Relief)

We had a great trip down to Florida with 13 students and myself! We got to serve with each other, grow in our faith, and have a lot of fun together. We had four days of service projects, finished our study in the book of Hebrews, and enjoyed a fun off day. We partnered with Thrive Church in the LCMS in Estero, Florida who also has a campus ministry at FGCU. The students enjoyed learning about their church and campus ministry. Pastor John Roth was kind enough to host us Sunday and Wednesday night for food and games. The students enjoyed being able to be in a home in a relaxing environment.



This trip included a wide-variety of service projects from a supply giveaway at a local church for those in need, to kayak cleanup from hurricane debris, helping out at a Salvation Army with a variety of projects, and a local food bank. We were shocked by the hurricane devastation. Our previous hurricane relief work in North Carolina looked much different. The majority of homes in NC had flood damage rather than completely totaled.

Here was our trip timeline:

FRI - Sleepover/Dinner/Games

SAT- Travel to NYC, Time in Brooklyn,

Flight to Fort Myers

SUN- Church at Thrive, Lunch/Study, Beach,

Pastor John's House fellowship

MON- Kayak Cleanup at Wildlife Refuge (Sanibel Island),
Beach/Dinner

TUES- Supply Giveaway at Pine Island, Helped Disabled Veteran
& Restore Work at House

WED- Salvation Army in FT Myers; variety of projects: stocking
food shelves, cleaning, washing transport van for food, etc +
Pastor John's House fellowship

THURS- Food Bank & group fun activities: top golf &
jet skiing

FRI - Day Trip to Sarasota

SAT - Naples/FT Myers & Fly Home

Thank you for your prayers and support for our trip!





News and Upcoming Events from Redeemer Lutheran School

Redeemer Lutheran School is currently accepting applications for Preschool - 12th grade for the 2023/2024 school year. Please contact our Admissions Counselor, Mrs. Jackson, for a tour!

412-793-5884

Classes are filling up quickly!

Please contact us for more information and
follow us on Facebook: Redeemer Lutheran School

Please keep Redeemer Lutheran School in your daily prayers.



HOUSES OF WORSHIP SERIES

HOUSES OF WORSHIP SERIES

By Shirley Freyer

Zion Lutheran Church

3197 Washington Pike, Bridgeville, PA 15017

412/221-4776 www.zlcb.org

Rev. Dr. Edward Grimenstein, Pastor

Worship Services: Sundays, 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m.;

Wednesdays, 7 p.m.

Adult Bible Study and Sunday School for children of all ages, 9:15 a.m.



Through its 125 years, God has grown this congregation from a small neighborhood church of mostly German American families to a congregation of around 300 members with diverse ethnic backgrounds from many different communities. They have been blessed to gather together as His family around Word and Sacrament.

A celebration to commemorate 125 years of Zion's mission to equip, educate, and encourage believers in Christ, sending them into the world to share the Gospel, is planned for September 9 and 10. Zion's volunteer graphic designer Tess Carter has designed a logo with the tagline "125 years in God's grace," and Eastern District President John Pingel has been invited as guest preacher for the worship service.

Records that gave details of the first meetings of organization were written in German and, according to the current pastor, Rev. Dr. Edward O. Grimenstein, even the first baptism is in the church archives. "There are records dating back to the beginning of official church acts that I am able to transcribe into English."

Church historian, the late Norm Erbrecht, documented the founding in 1898 when a group of people led by Rev. Noll met in the C.R. Mayer Building on Washington Avenue (later known as Peterson Dry Cleaning) across from Prestley Road to establish a Lutheran Church in Bridgeville. A year later, they moved into Poellet Hall in the center of the business district on Washington Avenue, now known as Sarasnick's Hardware. A few of the names known as charter members of Zion Evangelical Lutheran St. Paul's German Church are still listed in the current directory - Erbrecht and Oelschlager, as well as the Schmidt, Herman, Myers, and Gastgeb families, who migrated from Germany.

The cornerstone for a church building on Prestley Road was laid on Thanksgiving Day 1900, and by February, Rev. H.A. Zeil became the second pastor to the newly formed congregation, dedicated June 30, 1901, and here he served until his death in 1910. The church held a German service in the morning and a service in English in the afternoon. It is said that when the time for opening the morning service arrived, the congregation assembled in its temporary place to worship, formed in procession, and marched to the door of the new church. At this time, the membership had increased to more than 200 communicant members. In an issue of "The Lutheran" dated July 11, 1901, an article appeared, written in German, describing the first service held in the new church on Prestley Road. There was a horse stable behind the church and an area for the buggies, but most people walked to church. The congregation worshipped at this location for 67 years.

When the United States declared war on Germany in 1917, the federal government issued a decree that speaking German was forbidden in public assembly. Ninety percent of the Lutheran Churches in America had German-speaking schools, which also closed at that time.

The changes to English as the accepted standard took place in the late 1930s. Early on, during the service, women sat on one side of the church and men on the other, while the confirmands and other adults sat at the front right.

HOUSES OF WORSHIP SERIES

Sisters Jane Kozak and Judy Dames, two life-long Zion members, have wonderful memories dating back to the 1940s, of what is now lovingly referred to as "the old church." Their parents, Frank & Paula Oelschlager, were children of charter members. Back then, the church building was much smaller in size and Sunday school classes were held in the church hall, and in the basement near the boiler room with makeshift classroom dividers. Confirmation classes were Saturday mornings. Local Lutheran teens met regularly for "Walther League" (a fellowship group named for the first president of the LCMS). According to Jane and Judy, "Walther League was always lots of fun ... we really looked forward to it, especially the scavenger hunts. Since most church members lived close by, we 'hunted' for everyday items at church members' homes and yards, and the winners got a nice prize." Members met often, outside of worship and Christian education, for simple, fun activities.

Clara Hayes shares those memories. "The building was smaller than our current church, but what we lacked in space we certainly made up for in Christian love and fellowship!" she exclaims.



There was just one bathroom downstairs that was used by all, and an earthen floor in the downstairs kitchen where Clara washed dishes the day before Ladies Aid night. Confirmed on May 16, 1948, she remembers Pastor Franke and Pastor Sandmann, and picnics at Carnegie Park and Scheibs Farm, the site of the current church building. And the fun at strawberry festivals in the summer, and cantaloupe halves filled with ice cream in the fall. "Clean-up afterward was simple and fun," she explained. "We crossed St. Clair Street to the bridge across Chartiers Creek where we tossed the fruit rinds into the creek."

As young women, Jane, Judy, and Clara joined Zion Ladies Aid, a service and fellowship group with monthly meetings and officers. In addition to volunteer service, Judy was the first paid secretary in the church office. "In those days I used a manual typewriter and very rudimentary copy machine," described Judy. "I was paid \$3 per hour. When preparing the bulletins, spell-check wasn't yet available and one week I made my worst mistake as secretary: I mistyped the hymn title 'Jesus, Lover of My Soul' as Jesus, Liver of My Soul. Of course, there was no shortage of members who pointed the typo out to me following the Sunday service!"

The Silver Anniversary of the church dedication was held shortly after Rev. E.W. Deussel became the pastor. The Great Depression and WWII delayed building improvement until preparation for the 50th Anniversary celebration to be held in June 1951. Members of the congregation did most of the work, including relocating the entrance to the church, building a chancel, adding to the pipe organ built with discarded parts salvaged from rebuilt organs by organist and Pittsburgh Lutheran Chorus Director Carl Schmidt, redecorating the parsonage, and landscaping the church property.

Carolyn Wible can still hear the sound of the mimeograph machine shooting out Sunday bulletins in the secretary's office above her confirmation class, then held every Saturday morning at 9 a.m. at the rear of the old church, which was once a parsonage. "On Sunday afternoons we all piled into the back of Pastor Dietrich's station wagon and headed out to Avella, where pastor held services for a small mission congregation (we had no excuse for missing parts of the sermon, as we got to hear it twice!)."

That summer they attended a week-long confirmation retreat at Camp Pioneer on Lake Erie with other local confirmands. "The part I remember most were the evening vesper services and bonfires on the beach. Each evening the final song was 'Abide with Me,'" she said. To this day, she admits she can't sing it without thoughts of those evenings on the beach long ago. Both Carolyn's daughters and families, Susie Bishop, and Carrie Lemonovich, are members of Zion.

HOUSES OF WORSHIP SERIES

It was while Rev. H.K. Dietrich Jr. was serving from 1957-1974 that ground was broken for a new church site consisting of 10 acres at 3197 Washington Pike in 1966. The property was bought in 1960 for \$27,500 and on January 28, 1968, the service of dedication hosted the Eastern District President, Rev. H.R. Frincke; as well as Rev. Paul W. Streufert, Third Vice President, of LCMS; and former pastor, Rev. R.D. Sandmann.

Its purposes and goals still stand firm today:

To spread the Gospel of Christ to the entire community

To promote peace, love, friendship, and harmony among all people of all races and nationalities

To continue to serve the members of Christ's Kingdom in this area under the traditional customs of the Lutheran Church

More than likely, Pastor Dietrich's first adult confirmand in 1958 was Zion's oldest current member, Millie Thielet. One of 10 children, her parents were immigrants from Italy. She worked at Flannery Bolt making pistol barrels during WWII and was married to Ray for nearly 50 years before he passed away in 1994. The couple had two children, Don, and Marianne. Millie is especially proud of her three granddaughters and four great-grandchildren. She was a stay-at-home mother until her children became more independent and then she believes she sewed for most everyone in Bridgeville.

The 99-year-old was a member of the altar guild and bowling league at Zion. "I've enjoyed helping to make schnitzels and volunteering for fundraising events, as well as going to Zion group outings such as baseball games and seeing the Radio City Rockettes in downtown Pittsburgh," said the former golfer and lover of music and reading.

Following in her mother's footsteps, Marianne Thielet Miller has served on the altar guild and been a member of the bowling league. The lifelong member added to her church résumé a greeting card ministry on behalf of Zion. She and her husband, Brent, Zion's current webmaster and former usher, volunteer at the spaghetti dinners and Free Coffee Fridays. He and Marianne met at Community College and married at Zion in 1989.

"We refer to the congregation as our 'Church family,'" the three agreed. "Like everyone else in the congregation, we've gone through our tough times, and we've always found support, caring and encouragement from the compassionate members of Zion," they admitted. "We've been very blessed having these people and our wonderful Pastor at Zion in our lives, and in our hearts. We genuinely love them."

In 2010, Rev. Duncan McLellan was called to Zion, and it was during his six-year tenure that Megan and Ben Meyer joined the congregation. They moved into the area in summer 2012. "Having no family in the area hailing from Iowa and Texas, it was going to be important for us to find a very solid church congregation." Ben specifically recalls talking with his wife in the hotel when they first arrived. "We agreed that we would try a couple churches and see which one would become the best fit for us. We started at Zion for our very first church visit and instantly fell in love with the church. Needless to say, we didn't have to look any further for our new church home. While we moved away from the area briefly from 2014 to 2016, we never went too long without coming back for a weekend visit to friends and church," he said.

One of the main things that attracted them was the number of young members and couples who were active in the church. Being early in their careers and new to the area, they felt it was important to not only have a strong grounded faith, but to also be around others whom they could relate to outside of the church setting. "As our family evolved and changed since we first arrived in Pittsburgh, one thing for us has not – the support, fellowship, and love from Christ and this congregation," Ben declared.

"Starting a family and seeing our two children, Lexi (9) and Lucas (7), from baptism to meaningful conversations about Jesus and the importance of having Him and the church in our lives has been wonderful. It is very important for us to be able to have that bedrock foundation for all that we do in our lives," he continued. "I look forward to the many more years of great fellowship and growth in our lives, as well as with the church in Christ."

HOUSES OF WORSHIP SERIES

Zion offers 21 different ministry opportunities, from Sunday morning greeters and nursery to small groups and fellowship events committee, youth, women's, and men's ministries, as well as Christian education with preschool, Sunday School and VBS, and leadership, facility, and communications, serving on council, trustees and elders, and prayer chain.

Barbara Fisher has been a member of Zion for 10 years and has taken advantage of several ministry opportunities. A lifelong LCMS member, she has served as greeter, activities committee, VBS, food bank, women's Bible study, Sunday morning Bible study, prayer chain, women's social events, retreats, and organizer of a Zion art show.

Having been baptized, confirmed, and married in a sister congregation in Pittsburgh, she finds Zion a warm, inclusive congregation. "Visitors never leave a service without being greeted by several members directing them to their interests and making them feel welcome," she has experienced.

Barbara is impressed with the diverse activities for all generations and feels right at home because the Holy scripture is preached and taught in its truth and purity, through words and music in a spiritual atmosphere ... thanks to ...



Installed on Palm Sunday, April 9, 2017, Rev. Dr. Edward O. Grimenstein returned home to Pittsburgh where he grew up in Verona. "My parents were not churchgoers but when I was baptized at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Oakmont, they made the promise that they would see to it that I was confirmed. And so, when I was 13 years old, they took me back to Redeemer where Bishop David Stechholz was pastor." Confirmands were required to be at worship service to take sermon notes. "I will always remember my first encounter with kneelers. I didn't know what they were and when it came time for confessions two rather portly people pulled them down and knelt right on my foot," he laughed.

He and his wife, Tevia, have eight children ranging in age from 6 to 25. He previously served as associate executive director at LCMS International Mission in St. Louis, where he directed missionary and pastoral work for 35 countries. He was an active-duty U.S. Army Chaplain for seven years after having served as a congregational pastor in two parishes. A graduate of Concordia Seminary in Fort Wayne in 1999, pastor has two master's degrees and a doctorate in preaching. He has published two books - "A Lutheran Primer for Preaching" (CPH 2015). "Speaking Boldly" (CPH 2020) was inspired by some of Zion's members about speaking gospel and law to their families. "It is not a how-to guide but designed to be an encouragement," explained pastor.

Megan and John Migyanko have been attending Zion since 2019 and became members in 2020. "How blessed we were to get plugged into a church before the pandemic hit," she noted. Since then, she has enjoyed teaching Sunday School, attending Reforfest (Reformation and Oktoberfest), woman's Bible study, bunco night, the woman's ornament exchange, and participating in bell choir.

"The first Sunday we attended Zion, the crucifix at the front of the church made quite the impression," she mentioned. "In the sermon that day Pastor said something to the effect of 'it might be jarring to some, but it is the whole reason we are here.' And those words and that crucifix continue to make an impact on me each Sunday. The death and resurrection of Christ are the 'why' to what drives every part of Zion's Christ-centered, grace-filled ministry. "

The couple has been greatly humbled by the kindness shown to them since they began what Megan refers to as their fostering journey. The welcome spirit shown to their foster kids has been the most beautiful display of Christ's love. "To all the members that have prayed for us and come along side us, we are so appreciative," she affirmed. "The impact these Christian women and mothers make in this congregation matters. I pray in the years ahead Zion will continue to flourish in its women's and children's ministries, and that we all continue to come along side one another in a spirit of togetherness. I hope to see that the impact of raising a child in a community of believers can lead to a Christ-centered, grace-filled life," Megan professed.

HOUSES OF WORSHIP SERIES

During the ministry of Zion's twelfth pastor, Rev. Wayne Paul Hoffman, a Pre-school was opened in the 1980s. Its mission remains – programs that teach the love of Christ Jesus to our children. And its former director remains. Peggy Glasser with 41 years of experience, currently teaches Stepping Stones Classes.

According to Tracey Harris, current director, "As a parent, I know one of the hardest things to do is to take your child to a new school, leave them with unfamiliar faces and wonder how they are adjusting to a new environment. Most of us have been at Zion for several years together," the 14-year member said. "We are a family, and you can be certain that your child will be cared for as the newest member of our family," she described. Tracey and husband Dan have two children, Ryan, and Sydney. The Pre-School teaches children ages 2 to 5 in these classes: The Small Steps and Pre-School two days each week; Pre-Kindergarten three days; Pre-K Plus four days; and Stepping Stone five days weekly. It provides six certified teachers who combined have a total of 112 years of experience, plus an additional 13 staff members.

That family attitude is expressed through Facebook comments - "Our family is in our 3rd year at the Zion Preschool. We are beyond happy with the quality of the teachers, administration staff, classroom decor and lessons. We also love that their fundraising efforts are family centric and all about creating events for families to be a part of the school."

And it's the source of one of Pastor Grimenstein's favorite projects. "We first arrived near the end of the school year so that summer was spent developing a creative approach to teaching Bible stories to children who haven't learned how to read yet," he considered. With four chapel services each week in the sanctuary, he searched for teaching tools to show them Noah's ark, for example. "We acted out the building of the ark with repetition of the tasks and creation of rhymes and songs - saw, saw, saw; pound, pound, pound; paint, paint, paint," he said. "When they see it and get it in their hands, they have fun, and they remember."

The purchase of Betty Lukens' "Through the Bible in Felt" provides mounted 3x5 background felt boards on wheels, felt overlays, 12-inch felt figures and objects, memory verses, scripture references, even coloring pages. Members volunteered to cut out more felt people. And because there were no people of color, they bronzed those with dark hair to be more culturally inclusive. Each week four children are chapel helpers, and it is their responsibility to help Pastor with the felt figures.

"I remember my mom keeping my Kindergarten book and that spurred another idea," pastor noted. "At the end of the year we create a book for our 180 students of each lesson as a way to remember these stories for a lifetime."

"It's costly and time-consuming," he considered. "But we emphasize reinforcement as teachers receive the chapel schedule at the beginning of the year to incorporate the subject in their lesson plans.

"We know it's working because when we pray, we say the first line and the children repeat it," he said. Last summer during VBS, the director began to pray, and the kids repeated what she said. Not aware this was how they learned to pray, she was initially confused by the repetition and realized the words needed to be simplified.



HOUSES OF WORSHIP SERIES

"All of these pleasant memories have been shared with so many lifelong Zion friends ... some are in heaven now. We have been together for up to 90 years, and some of our parents and grandparents were Zion members from the church's beginning. Zion has always been our guiding light, and we are blessed to be members of such a God-fearing and loving congregation of Christians," shared Jane and Judy.

What keeps them at Zion? "It all comes down to sound Bible-based teachings," Brent explained. "First and foremost, our church's theology is clearly based on what Christ did for us, not what we've done. The central focus of every sermon is 'Law and Gospel' - we're all sinners, but we are forgiven and saved by faith in Jesus," said Marianne.

When asked about the challenges during COVID, pastor approached it with a positive attitude. "It afforded a time to re-evaluate our programs and reset some goals."

Over the years, through all of life's ups and downs, God has always been with Zion, keeping the members' faith strong. There have been some hard years but as Pastor Grimenstein reminded all, "Churches can be redeemed. Christ doesn't throw things away. God has been merciful to Zion for the past 125 years. He will continue to be gracious to them for another 125 years," Pastor Grimenstein assured.

*The Pittsburgh Lutheran is edited and designed by
Mary Lou Rilee, Megan Migyanko and Nancy Koester, members of Zion.*



NEWS FROM AREA CONGREGATIONS

GRACE LUTHERAN

Penn Hills

On Palm Sunday, Pastor Berton Greenway celebrated his 30th anniversary at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Penn Hills. Pastor Greenway was installed at Grace on April 4, 1993. Lynne and Pastor arrived in Penn Hills with two daughters, Rachel and Courtney. Andrew and Luke came later, both being born here in Pittsburgh.

This year also marks Pastor Greenway's 35th year in the ministry. He was ordained at Peace Lutheran Church in Smyrna, Delaware on July 17, 1988. Pastor's father-in-law, the Rev. Geroge Dolak, was the preacher at both of those services. Along with Pastor and Lynne's four children, three of whom are now married to wonderful spouses, they have also been blessed with six wonderful grandchildren, one of whom awaits us all in the glories of heaven above.

We give thanks to God for his gifts and pray that God will bless our pastor and family in the days and years to come. O Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, and His mercy endures forever!



NEWS FROM AREA CONGREGATIONS

MT. CALVARY LUTHERAN

West View

Members and friends of Mt. Calvary enjoyed a Games Night at the church on March 18. Planned by Nikkie Kuntz, those in attendance enjoyed pizza, popcorn, and lots of snacks throughout the evening. Games included Left Right Center, Yahtzee, Dominoes, and some games of trivia, among others. Some of the winners were rewarded with gift cards. It was a fun evening to break up the solemn season of Lent.



A group from the church gathered at the church April 8 for the annual cleaning of the altar and sanctuary. The Outreach Group got an early start by polishing the brass cross, candlesticks, offering plates, etc., at their Tuesday meeting. The group was then thankful to learn that Jennifer Skinner's Girl Scout Daisy Troop 52841 cleaned the wooden floor under the church pews.

In the weeks prior to that, other work and improvements were done around the church, along with some aesthetic moves. The cross on top of the Blessings Box was restored and the AC units in the sanctuary were cleaned and made ready for summer. The Gethsemane window above the altar was restored, and the sanctuary doors were trimmed and shaved to fit without binding.

Mt. Calvary is grateful to everyone who does so much to care for the Lord's house and keep it in good repair.

Vacation Bible School this summer! The program is titled Rainforest Explorers and the dates are set for July 24 to 28, with a light dinner offered before the program for children and parents/sponsors. Classes will be for youngsters 4 to 11. Registration and dinner will be from 5:15 to 6:00 p.m., with classes running from 6:00p.m. to 8:00 p.m.



UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

REDEEMER LUTHERAN

Oakmont

MARK YOUR CALENDARS – STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

A Strawberry Festival will be held at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1261 Pennsylvania Ave Oakmont, PA 15139, on June 9, 2023 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.



Concordia Lutheran Ministries

Alzheimer's Support Group

[Alzheimer's Support Group](#) will be on the last Thursday of each month at 1:00 p.m. at Concordia of Fox Chapel. 931 Route 910, Cheswick 15024. Please RSVP to Kelly or Sharon at 412-767-5808.

Spousal loss support group

Good Samaritan Hospice, a mission of Concordia Lutheran Ministries, invites all to attend grief support gatherings at Concordia of Cranberry (10 Adams Ridge Blvd, Mars, PA 16046). Spousal loss support group sessions will be every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. beginning May 2nd and will last 6 weeks. For more information and registration please contact: Family Support Services Admin Assistant: Brittany Foy 1-800-720-2557 Registration is now open!



Concordia Lutheran Ministries Acquires Bethlen Communities

Cabot, Pa. – Bethlen Communities, a faith-based, non-profit continuing care retirement community located in historic Ligonier, Pa., officially joined the Concordia Lutheran Ministries family of locations and services today.

Now called Concordia at Bethlen, the well-established service organization has been caring for the needs of others since 1921. Located on 140 acres, Concordia at Bethlen consists of 44 retirement living cottages, 72 personal care units and 96 skilled nursing units. Also on campus is the Graceful Aging Wellness Center, a fitness center that is open to the public.

Bethlen Communities' in-home care services – home health care, companion care and hospice care – will now also be operated by Concordia. The new agencies will be called Concordia Home Health of Bethlen and Concordia Hospice of Bethlen.

Current Executive Director Molly Stiles will remain at the helm. The organization's new Board of Directors will include representatives from the American Hungarian Churches, which founded and supported Bethlen for the last century, as well as local community members.

Concordia is satisfying bank debts for the Bethlen organization and initially infusing \$2.5 million for capital improvements and to stabilize operations.

Concordia Lutheran Ministries President and CEO Keith Frndak said, "Concordia Lutheran Ministries is a mission-driven organization, and we are always looking to help other Christian missions continue their work. Concordia and Bethlen began for similar reasons – helping children in need – and both our missions expanded over the years to align perfectly in providing health care. We look forward to serving the people of Ligonier and Westmoreland County for many years to come."

Founded in 1881, Concordia Lutheran Ministries is a faith-based Aging Services Network. As one of the largest nonprofit senior care providers in the country, the organization serves 50,000 people annually through in-home care and inpatient locations in western Pennsylvania, eastern Ohio and Tampa, Florida. Throughout its system, Concordia offers adult day services, home health care, hospice, medical and rehabilitation services, memory care, personal care, assisted living, respite care, retirement living, skilled nursing/short-term rehab, spiritual care and medical equipment.

Since 2009, 10 senior care/living facilities and a number of home health and hospice agencies have joined the Concordia family, as Concordia has worked to become a "Christian consolidator" in the industry, to protect and preserve organizations with Christian roots and to aid in the long-term support of Christian health care ministries.

Concordia is a Recognized Service Organization of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS). Seventeen LCMS members and pastors comprise Concordia's Parent Board of Directors and represent 28 regional LCMS member churches.

Learn more about Concordia at www.ConcordiaLM.org.



Spousal Loss Support

Brought to you by:
Good Samaritan Hospice
Bereavement Coordinator: Christina Reuschlein, MSW

Good Samaritan Hospice, a mission of Concordia Lutheran Ministries, invites all to attend grief support gatherings at Concordia of Cranberry

(10 Adams Ridge Blvd, Mars, PA 16046).

Why Grief Group? Grief is a process as old as the beginning of time, and so many people assume we are all born with some natural coping mechanisms to get us through. The reality is many of us need some guidance and direction. To experience a significant loss such as that of a life partner, we often do not know where to turn for direction.

Getting involved in grief discussions can help you make better sense of your journey and light your path. A grief group can possibly be the compass you need to provide the right direction towards peace and healing.



For more information/ registration please contact:

Family Support Services Admin Assistant: Brittany Foy

1-800-720-2557

Registration is now open!!!

Sessions will be every Tuesday at 10:00- 11:30 beginning on

May 2nd and will last 6 weeks

Stations of The Resurrection

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, 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



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, 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.

Kids Fishing Derby

Saturday, May 6, 2023

8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Saxony Farm Lake

Addy Boy Lane, Saxonburg



No entry fee

Open to all kids 14 and under

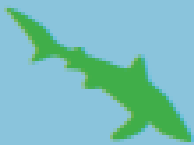
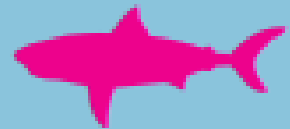
Free refreshments

Bait provided by Concordia

Prizes all day

Participants must have an adult chaperone

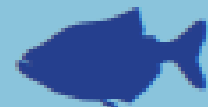
Bring your own fishing pole and lawn chair



Concordia

Lutheran Ministries

We put our Faith in Caring



Call Concordia Public Relations for more information at 724-352-1571, ext. 8268. Register by scanning the QR code or by visiting the Events section of the Concordia website:

www.concordialm.org/events/2023-fishing-derby/

