

PALM News	1-3
PALM Mission	4-5
Campus Ministry	6-7
School News	8-9
Congregation News	10-11
Special Events	12
Concordia News	13-17

#### **PALM DEVOTION**

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

#### "The Great Contention"

"Death and Life have contended in that conflict stupendous; The Prince of Life who died, reigns immortal." Victimae Paschali, 11th Century Sequence Hymn for Easter

This month begins in the darkness of Passiontide and then blossoms into Easter. It is a jarring juxtaposition of death and life. Jesus is mocked, spat upon, flogged, crucified, and dies. He is humiliated by the authorities and the jeering crowd. He is wept over by his Mother, the holy women, and the one disciple who remained. The rest of His friends abandon Him. He alone takes the weight of our sins to the cross. He alone dies for the salvation of the world. He alone is buried in the bosom of the earth behind a stone and a seal. Good Friday and Holy Saturday are dark days as we weep through the Lamentations in grief over our sin and that of our children.

But in the darkness of Holy Saturday evening, a fire is kindled, a candle is lit, and words of hope echo through our churches. The hope spreads like the fire, jumping from candle to candle and heart to heart. Soon the church is brightly lit, and the celebrant proclaims, "Christ is Risen!" to which we respond in faith, "He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!" From lament to joy, from despair to hope, the Church rises from Her mourning, puts on her wedding garment, and celebrates the living presence of Her Groom. In an instant, everything changes.

Where there was a sealed tomb of death, there is an open and empty tomb where death no longer has dominion. Where there was the lament over sin, there is the joy of forgiveness. Where there was condemnation, there is life and salvation. Where there was darkness, there is light.

A great conflict has taken place. Not our struggle with opposition, oppression, and disorder, but the conflict of Jesus



Christ with our sin and death. We observe. We are spectators. We give no help or contribution. And yet, we are the recipients. It is we who benefit. As Jesus Christ has died for our sin, so we are forgiven. As Jesus Christ is risen from the dead, so we are given life and salvation. Jesus has done it all and He has done it all for us!

"God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

Ephesians 2:4-10

#### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

# April

To view the Easter week schedule for Bethel, Glenshaw, and Zion Lawrenceville, please see the Upcoming Special Events section of this issue.

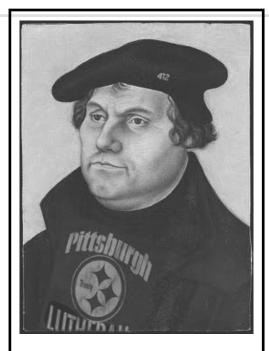
- 1. Christ Lutheran's Easter event, Christ Lutheran Church, Forest Hills, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- 2. Annual Christian Seder Meal, Bethel Lutheran, Glenshaw, 4:30 p.m.
- 16. Christ Lutheran 90th anniversary celebration, Christ Lutheran Church, Forest Hills, after worship.
- 23. Stations of the Resurrection presented by The Pittsburgh Lutheran Chorus, Concordia Lund Chapel, 134 Marwood Rd, Cabot, Oertel Chapel, 613 North Pike Rd, Cabot 2 and 3:30pm
- 27. and 29. Redeemer Lutheran School presents Cinderella, RLS Campus, Penn Hills. contact School for tickets and times.
- 29. Stations of the Resurrection, presented by the Pittsburgh Lutheran Chorus, Concordia of Monroeville, 4363 Northern Pike, 1:30 p.m.
- 30. Stations of the Resurrection presented by The Pittsburgh Lutheran Chorus, Concordia of the South Hills, Mt. Lebanon, 2:15 p.m. and 3:15pm

# May

- 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.

# 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.



# The Pittsburgh Lutheran

**Published by**Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries (PALM)

#### **Editors**

Nancy Koester, Mary Lou Rilee, Megan Migyanko

The Pittsburgh Lutheran is published 10 times per year.

All inquiries, comments or suggestions should be addressed to the Editors at:

<u>pittsburgh.lutheran.editor</u> @gmail.com.

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

#### **PALM Officers**

Rev. Douglas Spittel, President Justin Spittel, Treasurer Rick Crain, Secretary

#### **PALM Website**

http://www.palmpa.org

# The Reverend Eric R. Andræ, STM Speaking on:

# Nådemedelskristendom: The Church and Bo Giertz's Means-of-Grace-Christianity

at the North American Lutheran Seminary (NALC)

311 Eleventh St., Ambridge, Penn. 15003

# Thursday, March 30, 6:00-7:30pm

Bo Giertz (1905-1998) – author of the famed novel The Hammer of God – served as a rural parish pastor, occasional preacher to the royal court, bishop of the Gothenburg diocese in the Church of Sweden, Vice President of the Lutheran World Federation, and prolific writer on just about every subject imaginable. It would be no overstatement to say that Giertz – in productivity, accessibility of style, and influence – is the Swedish, pastoral, confessional Lutheran parallel to C.S. Lewis. What can we learn from Giertz's view of Word and Sacrament as being foundational for and central to the Church's life and our faith in Christ, and how does that relate to community and to the mission to "Go forth"?

No registration required No cost Open to the public



# 2023 PALM Sunday Appeal



Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries (PALM) supports regional missions that unite local congregations of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. PALM supports student, homeless, blind, deaf, children's ministries, and others. PALM also publishes and circulates The Pittsburgh Lutheran.

PALM has a Small Mission Grant Fund to address the short-term needs of the growing missions in our region. Grants up to \$500 are available to new PALM congregational mission endeavors on a rolling basis throughout the year.

The 2023 PALM Sunday Appeal shall help fund PALM's Small Mission Grant Fund. Please consider a one-time or recurring gift to support PALM. All the funds raised in this way shall be given to the support and growth of the Small Mission Grant Fund.

Donations can be made through Palm Sunday, April 2nd, by check (to "Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries", memo line "PALM Sunday Appeal"), or online at <a href="https://www.palmpa.org">www.palmpa.org</a> .

#### PALM MISSION

# **HOLY CROSS CHAPEL**

Hazelwood

April Joy - Vicar David L. Wenndt Holy Cross Lutheran Chapel

No one is quite sure when the annual tradition known as April Fools Day got its start. Some historians speculate that it started in France in 1582, when they transitioned from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar; supposedly people who failed to make the switch and celebrated New Years on the previous Julian date were declared "April Fools". Some historians speculate that it began in ancient Rome at the end of March as a celebration where people would dress in costumes and mock fellow citizens and government officials. Other historians link the start of the celebration with Medieval times, and the spring equinox, where everyone who was expecting changing weather from winter to spring was a fool. No matter where it got its start, April Fools is a fun, largely harmless tradition that many continue to celebrate with pranks and jests.

Laughter is good. Frivolity among friends and family help not only lighten the mood, but raise people's spirits. There's an old adage that laughter is the best medicine; and often it's true. Laughter can raise people's spirits, and help improve their outlook on any situation. However, laughter itself is a fleeting thing. No one can, nor should, laugh forever. However, laughter can improve one's mood and move a person toward happiness. But happiness itself is a difficult thing for many. There are many things that keep people from happiness; that rob people of joy. Sometimes it's stress; life or family situations; health or financial problems.

For some people, there is simply no joy to be found. Life, for whatever reason, is a miserable slog toward inevitable death. As tragic and nihilistic as this is, it's all too common for many people. The question is: where does joy come from? While laughter can bring happiness, those are both fleeting. "Happy" is defined as "feeling or showing pleasure or contentment." One cannot always feel pleasure or contentment. As situations arise even moment to moment, pleasure and contentment fade.

True joy. Lasting joy is something much harder and deeper to find. As many people are concerned that the world is hurtling towards chaos, be it an international war, financial difficulty, or the grind of daily life, joy seems hard to find outside of oneself. Yet joy from oneself is exceedingly rare. So where does one look for joy?

Jesus. God made flesh for us who died and rose again for us. Learning about our Savior, and what He has done for us shifts where joy comes from. The world may go through chaos and difficulty? But what is the world but frail and flighty? Internally we may have difficulty, struggles and sadness. But joy comes from something bigger and greater than I am or could ever hope to be. As we enter Holy Week and Easter, Christians know that this is where our joy comes from. That this season, and the Paschal Triduum is the heart of that joy. Take this opportunity to be in church. Revel in the joy that Christ gives to His redeemed people!

#### CAMPUS MINISTRY

#### **SRU CAMPUS MINISTRY**

by Augusta R. Mennell, Campus Ministry Director

# Reaching the Unaffiliated

"The religiously unaffiliated are the fastest growing religious group in America," says an article in the April edition of <u>The Lutheran Witness</u>. This is exactly why All Saints Fellowship's campus ministry is so grateful to God for allowing us to be on campus to share the Gospel. We appreciate every opportunity possible to share the Gospel with Grove City College and Slippery Rock University students.

Our February student meal was filled with opportunities to share God's word through the friendship, the conversation, and the board games introduced at this meal. We shared with a Sri Lankan former student at SRU. Then we reassured three Japanese students who were nervous about trying American food. And then we shared with an American graduate student, Jonathan, who wants to make a difference in Slippery Rock borough government.

Aru, a Sri Lankan international who graduated five years ago, stunned us by walking in unannounced to visit. When he was a student here, he and several international friends had attended student meals and had come in for advice, as well as to get rides to the stores. Their photos are in one of the several church photo albums of church activities over the years. One photograph shows them obviously feeling very much at home in our undercroft.

Aru's visit was very special because he stayed for the whole afternoon to talk about life, his job, his wonderful wife Irene from Peru, and his conversion to Christianity. And that seems to be what he really came in for: he wants to learn more about Christianity. He asked if he could have a footnoted Bible to keep. We gladly gave him a <u>CPH NIV Self-Study Bible</u>. Nothing is more thrilling than to have a former student who had been raised by a caring Buddhist family request a Christian Bible. He also wants to learn more about personal relationships.

He decided not only to return the next day for more conversation, but also to stay to attend the student meal so that he could introduce his wife to the place that had been home while he studied at SRU. He beamed as they came into the meal. It was like old times.

The best part of the student meal is that Aru learned from campus pastor Rev. Jacob Deal about Rev. Edward Naumann's ministry. Rev. Naumann is the Director of SALM, the South Asia Lutheran Mission. It seemed like a miracle because Rev. Naumann's ministry is available to people like Aru, who want to learn more about Christianity. Rev. Naumann even has Bibles and catechisms in Tamil, Aru's native language. I explained to Aru that he should find an LCMS church to really learn God's Word. Rev. Deal then helped Aru and Irene to locate an LCMS church near their home in Las Vegas, Nevada.

#### **CAMPUS MINISTRY**

Three Japanese students came to the meal. They were pleased to be invited, but felt a little nervous about trying American food, in this case pizza, homemade meatballs, and other American dishes. We encouraged them, and they did try the American food, and they liked it. Their plates were empty when they left! They will be first on the list to be called for the next meal, and will be encouraged to bring friends. They don't know much of anything about God, but we hope that, like former Japanese students Satoru and Kenzaburo, they will read the Bible one day.

Another result of the meal is the connection with an American graduate student named Jonathan. The first time we met him was when he asked us to attend a Slippery Rock borough meeting to consider the borough's decision to deal with the most prominent vacant city lot in town. We made it a point to attend the meeting, which really pleased Jonathan. We later met him once or twice at worship because he is a little bit interested in the Lutheran faith.

When Jonathan attended the February student meal we were happy to see him. Although he was riveted to a competitive game of chess, he made time to ask Aru about his connection with an SRU professor who has become expert in showing local businesses how to improve their outreach to the community. This is the very help Jonathan needs to provide practical ideas for the borough leaders and local businesses. At the meal, they shared information and for this Jonathan is very appreciative. He thanked us for the introduction to Aru and said he might return again for worship. We pray he does, so that he can hear God's Word which will help them to grow in faith.



Reverend Jacob Deal, All Saints Campus Pastor, welcomes international students attending Slippery Rock University to the All Saints Fellowship monthly student meal.



# News and Upcoming Events from Redeemer Lutheran School

Redeemer Lutheran School is currently accepting applications for Preschool – 12<sup>th</sup> 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!



\*\*Our Middle/High students will present the musical "Cinderella" April 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. To purchase tickets, go to mkt.com/rslpittsburgh. Ticket orders are due by April 20<sup>th</sup>. Don't wait, our shows generally sell out!

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

Please keep Redeemer Lutheran School in your daily prayers.

#### **SCHOOL NEWS**

# ZION LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

Bridgeville

by Tracey Harris, Preschool Director

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below,
Praise Him above ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

The Doxology has always been one of my favorite songs to sing. When my children were young, we would sing this before they went to bed. At our end of year program I always include an acapella version of the Doxology during our video presentation showing the children praying.

So why not teach the preschool children to learn and sing it too? And that's exactly what we did. After chapel and when kids praise concludes, we always say the Lord's Prayer, and now we have added the Doxology. It's taking some time, like the Lord's Prayer did, but they are getting it, and really starting to sing it with confidence and joy.

We sometimes think that preschool children are too young to learn things that they may not fully understand...but that's ok. Our goal is to plant the seed, and then watch it grow. Who knows....maybe they will take it home with them and teach it to their family or friends. Even preschoolers can be disciples and share God's word.



#### **NEWS FROM AREA CONGREGATIONS**

#### **CHRIST LUTHERAN**

Forest Hills

So, the **79th** P.A.L.g.S. golf outing is on. We had a Great turnout for the last couple outings let's have that continue. Many of you have participated in the past. We have appreciated your support and look forward to seeing you again. We are also excited about seeing any new golfers that wish to join us. We hope to have 75 plus golfers. So, we need **YOU**. Proceeds go toward tuition for students at Redeemer Lutheran School.

Mark your calendars for **Saturday**, **April 29**, **2023**. It will be held at Victory Hills Golf Course in Elizabeth, PA with a **9:00 a.m. SHOT GUN** start, a hot dog at the turn, and a buffet dinner afterwards with prizes.

The cost is \$90.00 per person. Please call to sign up 412-271-7173. We would like to have as many golfers as possible and have fun and fellowship all at the same time. If you are not a golfer or cannot attend the outing but would like to show your support by sponsoring a hole you may send a donation in any amount to Christ Lutheran Church, 400 Barclay Ave., Pittsburgh, PA. 15221 Memo: Golf Outing.

Thank you! Hope to see you there.



#### **NEWS FROM AREA CONGREGATIONS**

# MT. CALVARY LUTHERAN

West View

After a three-year hiatus, Mt. Calvary is planning to hold Vacation Bible School again 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.

Members and friends of Mt. Calvary enjoyed a Games Night March 18. Watch for details next month.

In preparation for Easter, members of the congregation are meeting the Saturday before Palm Sunday to clean the church, including wiping the pews and polishing all of the brass and changing the altar linens.



# **ZION LUTHERAN**

Bridgeville

Zion is excited to announce Vacation Bible School from July 24-28. More details coming soon!



#### **UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS**

#### Bethel, Glenshaw

Bethel Lutheran will be holding their annual Christian Seder Meal on Palm Sunday at 4:30 p.m. Reservations are needed by calling 412-486-5777



#### Christ Lutheran, Forest Hills

Christ Lutheran is planning a 90th anniversary celebration on April 16 after worship. We will have a special speaker and then a catered lunch and brief history of the church. If you want to come to this special event, call the church office so we may reserve a spot for you. We hope to have an even bigger celebration in 10 years!

Christ Lutheran's Easter event will take place April 1 from 10AM-Noon for children. Come and join in!



# Bethel Glenshaw, and Zion, Lawrenceville

# **SUNDAY OF THE PASSION**

### Palm Sunday, April 2

Holy Communion celebrated by Rev. Donn Woolweber 9:00 A.M. - Bethel Ev. Lutheran Church, 301 Scott Ave., Glenshaw 15116 Seder Dinner - 4:30 P.M. 11:30 A.M. - Zion Ev. Lutheran Church, 237-37th St., Pittsburgh 15201 Lunch following Worship.

# Maundy Thursday, April 6

Holy Communion celebrated by Rev. Donn Woolweber 6:30 P.M. - Bethel Ev. Lutheran Church

# Good Friday, April 7

NOON - Zion 6:30 P.M. - Bethel Guest Cellist Katya Janpoladyan Instructor, Pittsburgh Youth Concert Orchestra

# THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

# Easter Sunday, April 9

Holy Communion celebrated by Rev. Donn Woolweber 9:00 A.M. - Bethel, 11:00 A.M. - Zion

# 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, APRIL 23 – 2 & 3:30 P.M.** 

CONCORDIA LUND CHAPEL 134 MARWOOD RD | CABOT 16023
OERTEL CHAPEL 613 NORTH PIKE RD | CABOT 16023

SATURDAY, APRIL 29 – 1:30 P.M.

CONCORDIA OF MONROEVILLE | 4363 NORTHERN PIKE | 15146

SUNDAY, APRIL 30 - 2:15 & 3:15 P.M.

CONCORDIA OF THE SOUTH HILLS

1300 BOWER HILL RD | MT. LEBANON 15243

PERSONAL CARE DINING ROOM

HARMONY ROOM

**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

#### **CONCORDIA NEWS**

# **Deaconess Accepts Call at Concordia**

Concordia Lutheran Ministries Director of Chaplaincy Rev. Jack Hartman recently announced that Deaconess Zoe Huelsman accepted a call to join the Chaplaincy Staff.

Zoe was commissioned and installed on Friday, March 3 at Concordia's Haven I Chapel by Rev. Dr. Daniel A. Hahn Jr., First Vice President, Eastern District, LCMS.

Zoë worked in communications and project management for a decade before attending Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. She was prompted to pursue diaconal ministry after the suggestion of Rev. Eric R. Andræ, Campus Pastor, First Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. Oakland/Shadyside. He catechized her, highlighting the role each of us has in encouraging individuals to consider ministry. Zoë is married to Norman, a web developer and son of a LCMS pastor. When Zoë is not working, she enjoys running and puns. "It has been a joy to learn from and serve alongside the chaplaincy staff at Concordia Lutheran Ministries. I am humbled and grateful to officially join this team as we bring the hope of the gospel to the residents and staff of CLM," Zoë said.

President and CEO, Keith Frndak says, "We are particularly blessed to welcome this servant of our Lord as we continue to expand our mission."

For more information on Concordia chaplaincy services, call 724.352.1571, ext. 8234. Visit on the

Web at www.concordialm.org.

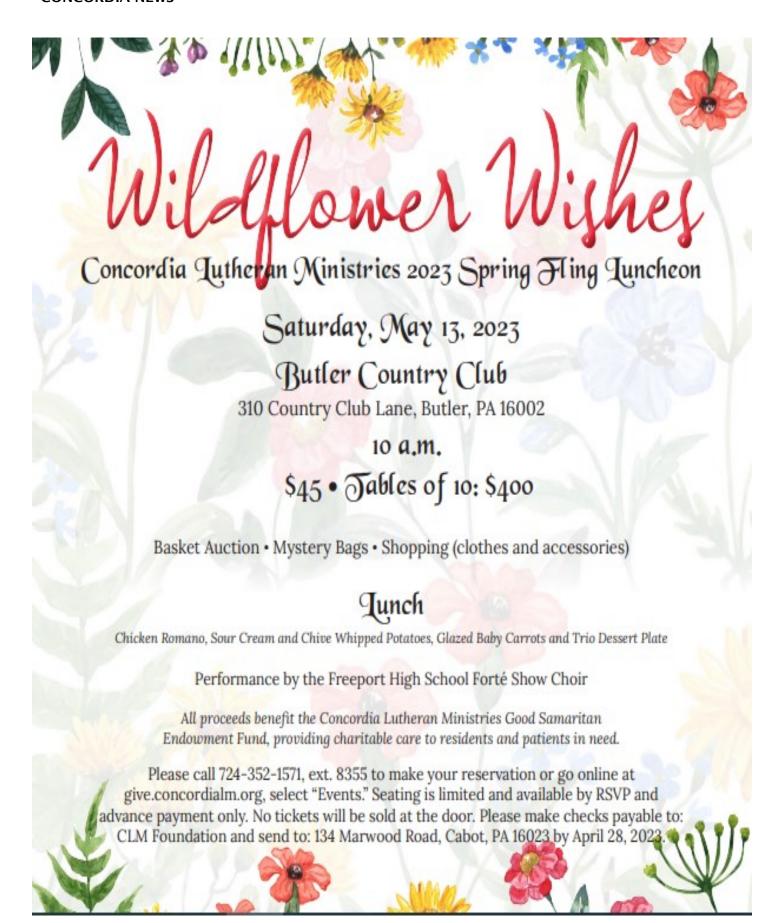




Left Picture: Left to right: Rev. Dr. Daniel A. Hahn Jr., First Vice President, Eastern District, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, Pastor, St John's Ev. Lutheran Church in Millvale and member of the CLM Board of Directors who conducted the rite of Installation; Rev. Dr. Douglas H. Spittel, Second Vice President, English District, LC-MS, Senior Pastor, First Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church in Oakland and Deaconess Huelman's Internship Supervisor who was a lector; Rev. Jack Hartman, Director Chaplaincy Services, CLM and liturgist at the service; Rev. Eric Andrae, Campus Pastor and Outreach Minister, First Trinity who preached the sermon; and Rev. Dale Huelsman, Emeritus, LCMS Ohio District, lector, and Zoe's father-in-law.

**Right Picture:** Back Row Left to Right: Rev'ds. Jared Townley, Pastor, St. Luke, Cabot; Roger Nuerge, CLM Chaplain; Brian Bocian, pastor, St. Luke, Cabot; Duane Voorman, CLM Chaplain; Jack Hartman; Dale Heulsman; Donn Woolweber, pastor, Bethel, Glenshaw & Zion, Lawrenceville; Dan Hahn; Dan Strussenberg, CLM Chaplain; Lee Genter, CLM Chaplain; Ron Cox, CLM Chaplain

Front row Left to Right: Rev'ds. Joshua Mackey, Pastor Good Shepherd of the South Hills; Ben Berteau, lead pastor, St. Luke, Cabot; Adam Thompson, pastor, Ascension, McCandless Twp.; Douglas Spittel; Zoe; Eric Andrae, Joel Dieterichs, CLM Chaplain and Adam Salinas, CLM Chaplain



# Kids Fishing Derby

Saturday, May 6, 2023 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saxony Farm Lake

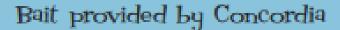
Addy Boy Lane, Saxonburg



No entry fee

Open to all kids 14 and under

Free refreshments



Prizes all day

Participants must have an adult chaperone

Bring your own Fishing pole and lawn chair







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/





Voice: 724-352-1571 Toll Free 1-888-352-1571 Fax: 724-352-2740 www.concordialm.org

134 Marwood Road . Cabot, PA 16023

February 14, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

It is the policy of Concordia Lutheran Health and Human Care, which includes the facilities of Concordia Home in Cabot, Concordia at Ridgewood Place, Concordia at the Orchard, Concordia Physician Practice and Harmony Physical Rehabilitation, to promote equal opportunity and non-discrimination. In compliance with the provisions of Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1975, the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act of 1995, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Family Medical Leave Act of 1993, Section 1557 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (2010), and all requirements imposed thereto, to the end that no person shall on the grounds of race, color, national origin, handicap or disability, creed, ancestry, sex, religion, age or genetic information, be excluded from participation or discriminated in the provision of any care or services.

Concordia Lutheran Health and Human Care is an equal opportunity employer and will continue to comply with all state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination in employment. The non-discrimination policies of Concordia Lutheran Health and Human Care apply to all patients, residents, applicants, and employees at all its facilities and locations.

Please file this notice with your records.

Sincerely,

With & Faceleth Keith E. Frndak President & CEO