

ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

201 E. JUNIATA STREET, ALLENTOWN, PA 18103

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Hospital Code - #300 Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 10:00am - 1:00pm

God's People: Believing, Caring, Loving, and Serving

AUGUST 2026 NEWSLETTER



The Pastor's Corner...

As August dawns upon us, I'm shocked by the reality that summer is just about over! Some of us are trying to squeeze in that one last vacation or get outside for just a few more minutes. We'll soon be transitioning back into the swing of our fall routines.

How did this happen? Wasn't it just yesterday that fishing season opened, that we planted our garden, that we celebrated graduation? And I love the longer days when the sun was showing its brightness in the sky.

A Psychologist said that time seems to pass more quickly when we get older because we experience fewer "firsts." When we experience new things, time seems to stand still while we're living those times. After we've repeated those events over and over, they don't phase us as much anymore. And before we know it, months have passed, seasons have changed, and it's time to start that annual cycle again.

Every moment that we spend on this earth is a gift from God. We shouldn't allow this time to trickle through our fingers. We have 24 hours today and seven days this week to use, however we please.

At the end of this summer, we take the opportunity to reflect on how we used our time. Did we set aside time to pray? Did we serve others? Did we give back to God?

Have I been a good steward of the time that was given to me? Maybe I need to make some changes in my life and get more involved. There's no better time than right now to find ways to serve God in our church and to those around us. And that's what it means to be a good steward!

As those lazy, hazy days of summer, give way to the routine of fall, let's remember to keep God in our heart, in our minds, and on our lips as we continue our stewardship journey.

In our Father's hands,
Pastor Lynn



Sunday School will resume on Sunday, September 20th at 9:00am All children ages 3 and up are welcome to attend. Your teachers can't wait to see you all again and catch up with you on what you did all summer, get to know you (if you are new) and light refreshments will be served.

Know of anyone who wishes to be confirmed? Wish to start classes for their 1st Communion? Want to be a NEW Member or reaffirm your faith? See Pastor Lynn or ask the church office.



A message from your Council President

As the summer season comes to a close and school, work, and regular routines begin again, it is the perfect time to renew our commitment to what matters most. Before the busyness of life fills our calendars, let us make Sunday worship the foundation of our family's weekly routine.

Sunday is the Lord's Day. It is a day set aside to gather with our church family, hear God's Word, receive His gifts of grace, lift our voices in praise, and be strengthened for the week ahead. When we begin our week in God's presence, we are reminded that Christ is the center of our lives and that His love and guidance are with us in every circumstance.

So rather than trying to fit worship into an already busy schedule, let us build our schedules around worship. By making Sunday a priority, we teach our children and grandchildren that faith is not just one part of life, it is the foundation upon which all of life is built.

As we enter this new season, we invite you to return with joyful hearts to God's house. Come and be renewed, encouraged, and inspired as we grow together in faith. Let us make Sunday the foundation of every week, trusting that when we place God first, He will faithfully lead us through all that lies ahead.
See you in worship.

In Christian Service,
Thomas F Rieger
Council President

**With
God
ALL THINGS
ARE
Possible**

REMINDER:
Worship Services will begin at 10:00am
on Sunday, September 20th.



*Roosevelt School will again use our facility as a place to go in the event of a disaster. They have supplied us with a certificate of insurance.

*A BIG Thank You to the anonymous donor of the NEW dishwasher. We appreciate your kindness and it will be used regularly. It also looks great!! Many Blessings to you.

*Now that the roof over the sanctuary is complete, we are focusing on the flat roofs. We are looking into several ways to fund this project. We will keep the congregation updated.



**St. Mark School
Supply BINGO!!!!
Sunday, August 9th**

Immediately following coffee hour. Snacks and drinks will be served and then it's BINGO time!!! St. Mark children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews are all invited to play!!! Join in the fun!!! Win school supplies!!! We hope to see you there!!!



Want to be a part of the
St. Mark Prayer Warriors??

Prayer is the most powerful thing
we have, and it costs nothing.
We are asking people to supply
their cell phone number or email

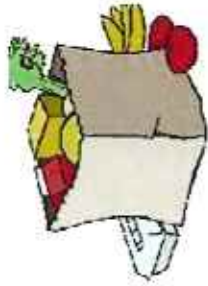
address so we can get prayers out fast to all who are in need. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthex.

Red Robin YUMMMM! FUNDRAISER!!
We receive 20% donation from Red Robin
from the night of the event.

- Show the fundraiser flyer, email, text, website or social post to your server in the restaurant, or
- Add the fundraiser to your cart ("Fundraiser To-Go") if you're ordering online (find this at the bottom of the menu categories on our online ordering homepage or mobile app).

Place, Date & Time:

Red Robin, 1875 Airport Rd, Allentown, PA. 18109
Wednesday, August 26, 2026 5:00pm - 9:00pm
A Flyer is included with the newsletter, or they can be found on the table in the Narthex.
Please take along with you and pass them out to family and friends!!!



The Open Door Food Pantry

For the month of June, we served 71 households which consisted of 160 adults, 78 children and 54 elderly (60+) for a total of 292 people.

This is such an important mission and helps so many of our neighbors.

For the month of August our suggested donations are items that can be used with ground beef. We received 100 (1 pound) packs of ground beef from Second Harvest and would like to have items to go with the ground beef to make a meal. Suggestions are hard taco shells or taco kits and hamburger helper. Canned corn is also a popular item and we have not been able to order it from Second Harvest.

As always, we appreciate all donations....
Thank you!

Wishing everyone a wonderful
rest of your summer!!

Sandy



ST MARK ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC and WORSHIP SERVICE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13th @ Emmaus Community Park, Pavilion #2 (T. Miklencic Dr., second entrance to the park, near the pool)
10:00am worship service followed by the picnic.
Bring along chairs, bingo prizes for \$5 and under, quarters and a baked good or two for the cake walk (always the popular game) we will have bean bags and games/crafts for the children. It's a covered pavilion. It's always a great event!! A sign-up sheet for attendance and food is at the back of Luther Hall. St. Mark will supply the main dishes. Rolls will be needed and if you bring a side dish, please bring a utensil to serve.

Thank You!!



JULY Happenings

Craft – The Craft was led by Terri.

Participants created and decorated clay pots, followed by planting a flower in the pot to take home and enjoy. They all loved that it was a real plant for them to take care of.

Knitting/ Crocheting – They continue each month with participants creating lap robes to stuffed animals. Pastor Lynn takes the completed lap robes with her when visiting the homebound. They all have been touched by this gesture of generosity.

Luncheon - Our luncheon was the annual carnival. The heat didn't stop us. We moved many things inside for the day. We kept participants hydrated, they ate lots of Snow Cones, spent time in air conditioning and enjoyed the day. Thank you to everyone who braved the heat, donated their time and the food for the day. There are pictures we shared from the carnival on the next page.

Special thanks to all the youth of our congregation that came out and helped. The unconditional kindness shown to the Sharing life participants by our youth always makes me proud to be a member of St Marks. We are blessed!!!

Looking Ahead – The craft for August will be led by Sharon, and they will be making bookmarks with dried pressed flowers.

August will be our pizza luncheon. We are always in need of water for all events. Thank you to all who have donated water in the past. You can bring cases to the church anytime the office is open. If you wish to help pay for the pizza, please see Sue Krasley.

We wish to Thank everyone who helps each month.
We Thank You for helping to continue and grow this amazing ministry.

Many Blessings,
Sue Krasley and the Sharing Life committee.

A GREAT DAY AT THE CARNIVAL!!
It was HOT but lots of fun!!



Give it up for Jen Larimar who did 85 Hoolas
WITHOUT a single drop!!!! Way to go!!!!



REMINDER:

2026 IronPigs Baseball with St. Mark Friday,
August 28th – Buffet on the Berks Patio,
Gates open at 5:30pm, \$30.00 per person,
food served from 5:15-8:00. If you have not yet paid
Sue Krasley for this event, please do so by Sunday
August 23rd THANK YOU!!!



August BIRTHDAYS!!!
We want to wish
you a Very, Blessed
Happy Birthday!!

Tammy Walbert – August 8
Pastor Lynn Shoemaker – August 20
Debra Deifer – August 23
Darryl Miller – August 24

Share your birthday with us, please call the
church office. We would love to see you on our birthday
list.

SAINT MARK BLESSING BOX....

*The essential products such as soap, shampoo,
toothpaste, deodorant, feminine hygiene products,
and other daily necessities to support individuals and
families in our area who are experiencing hardship.
You may place the items in the labeled box in the
Narthex. Items are being taken from the box, we
would like to always have items to replace the items
taken.*

*We invite you to prayerfully consider contributing
what you are able. Through these small acts of
generosity, we live our Christ's call to love our
neighbors and serve those in need.*

Green Recycle Clothing Bin

Don't forget to place all old recyclable clothing, bed
sheets, purses, backpacks and shoes can be placed in
the **Green Bin** in the Parking lot, we receive a donation
for every pound they pick up. The month of July was a
hefty one for the bin we made \$107. That is a lot of
clothing NOT going to a land fill, GREAT JOB!!!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!

Preparations have begun!!!

80's Luncheon Invitations have been sent.

Friday, August 14th 12:00pm

If you are 80 + years of age and want to be a part of our
80's Celebration and we missed you. Please reach out to
the church office. It is just one of the wonderful events we
have here at St. Mark and all who attend can't say
enough about it. Please RSVP by Monday, August 10th
to the church office or see Terri Harkins



Volunteer Position
Financial Secretary – Vacancy –
Beginning January 1, 2027

St. Mark is currently looking for someone to assume
the Financial Secretary beginning January 01, 2027.
This position is currently held by Anita Vandergrift
who informed Council of her decision to step down at
the end of the year. We thank Anita for her many years
of faithful service to this congregation and also to
Edie Stout who assisted Anita from time to time.

What is the function of the Financial Secretary?

The Financial Secretary shall receive and keep record
of all income from contributing members and other
sources and distribute periodic statements to
contributing members. The Financial Secretary shall
also forward to the treasurer the amounts of offering
in each category of giving so that the accounts of this
congregation may be kept accurately. The financial
secretary shall supply all records to the Audit
Committee upon request.

If you are interested in this position, please reach out
to our Council President, Thomas Rieger for more
information.

WOW - SUMMER WORSHIP SERVICES:

St. Timothy Lutheran Church, 140 S. Ott Street,
Allentown. 2026 Worship on Wednesdays begins at
7:00pm. Across the street at our Welcome Worship
Center Pavilion (inside if weather is unfavorable).

ALL ARE WELCOME OLD AND NEW FRIENDS.
It is always a JOY to worship together.

THEMES: Homelessness & Hunger

The weeks for Hunger will be August 5 & 12.

August 5 - The JCS Band, St. Luke's Lutheran
Church, Allentown **SPEAKER:** Pr. Maritza Torres
Dolich Community Org.: Second Harvest Food Bank
August 12 - Grace Notes Gospel Big Band, Lehigh
Valley **SPEAKER:** Pr. Bud Daneker Community Org.:
Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank

August 19 - St. Timothy Lutheran Church
ANNUAL MIXED BERRY FESTIVAL 6-7:30pm
Members of the Lehigh Valley Folk Society will be
playing for the Mixed Berry Festival! **PLEASE JOIN US**
FOR GOOD MUSIC, THE WORD & FELLOWSHIP Each
Week a Freewill Offering Will Be Taken & those
Funds will be given to the presenting Community
Organization.

WOW! Is right!! Rick from St. Timothy's said the
Marked by Grace Service had the most crowd over 70
people and the largest in donations for Holy Trinity
Memorial Lutheran Church and their Church Hunger
Ministry in Catasauqua. **THANK YOU** to all who
attended or participated!! Way to Show Support for
each other at St. Mark and the Community!!



Altar Guild, Lectors, Ushers, Acolytes and videographers are asked to perform their duties each Sunday. PLEASE FIND A REPLACEMENT AND

NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE, IF YOU CANNOT JOIN US ON YOUR SCHEDULED SUNDAY.

Summer Series National Parks and God

August 2nd, 2026 – 10th Sunday after Pentecost

Yellowstone Park – Old Faithful

Genesis 2:4-17

Psalms 117:1-2

Matthew 14:13-21

August 9th, 2026 – 11th Sunday after Pentecost

Canyonlands – Made of Stones

Mark 1:1-4

Psalms 121

Matthew 14:22-33

August 16th, 2026 – 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Petrified Forests – Trails of Time

Ecclesiastes 3:1-14

Psalms 104

Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

August 23rd, 2026 – 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Arches – Solid Connection

Proverbs 17:17 3:5-12

Psalms 24:10

Matthew 16:13-20

August 30th, 2026 – 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Borders – Big Bend

Genesis 1:3-5

Psalms 78:54

Matthew 16:21-28

September 6th, 2026 – 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 33:7-11

Psalms 119:33-40

Romans 13:8-14

Matthew 18:15-20



We are streaming "LIVE" during the service via Facebook each Sunday.

You can access the service on Facebook, user or not, at the following web address: www.facebook.com/stmarkallentown Please be patient while the page loads.

REMINDER: Summer Services begin at 9:30am.
We hope this helps a bit with the warmer weather. Dress according to the weather. Stay Cool!!

Reminder to Everyone

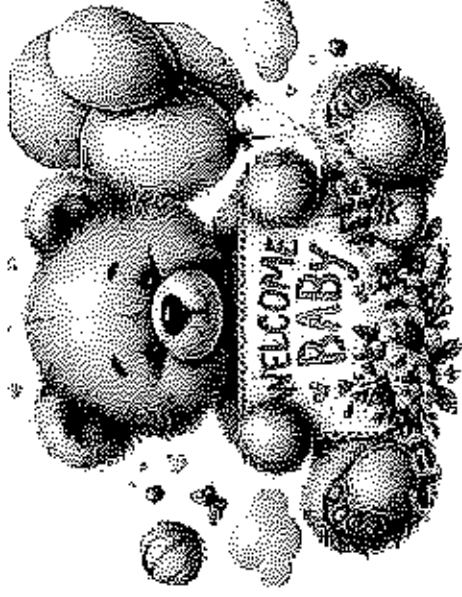
Please remember to secure the door when exiting the building to make sure the lock has secured. During times of humidity the doors do not always close and lock automatically. Thank You!



Friday, August 21st is the deadline for the church office to receive all Newsletter Information for September.

**ST MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA
TREASURER'S REPORT FOR JUNE 2026
(Subject to Audit)**

	MONTH OF JUNE	6TH MONTH BUDGET	6TH MONTH ACTUAL 2025	6TH MONTH ACTUAL 2025
BUDGETED CURRENT INCOME	\$9,953.50	\$98,258.00	\$53,476.31	\$51,433.48
BENEVOLENCE	\$39.00	\$622.00	\$87.00	\$1,049.29
TOTAL BUDGETED INCOME	\$9,992.50	\$99,080.00	\$54,563.31	\$52,482.77
NON-BUDGETED INCOME	\$51,019.25	\$0.00	\$59,026.57	\$30,730.24
TOTAL INCOME	\$61,011.75	\$39,080.00	\$123,589.88	\$83,213.01
BUDGETED CURRENT EXPENSES	\$57,818.00	\$89,165.00	\$113,846.61	\$74,166.30
BENEVOLENCE	\$141.25	\$816.00	\$1,647.50	\$2,413.28
TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENSES	\$57,959.25	\$89,981.00	\$115,494.11	\$76,599.58
NON-BUDGETED EXPENSES	\$943.00	\$0.00	\$11,631.79	\$8,691.04
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$58,902.25	\$89,981.00	\$127,125.90	\$85,290.60
MONTHLY ACTIVITY SUMMARY		RECEIPTS	EXPENSES	
	BALANCE 6/1/2025			BALANCE 6/30/2025
CURRENT OPERATING FUND - TRUIST	\$4,062.15	\$61,011.75	\$56,002.25	\$6,171.65 +
BUS MONEY MARKET - TRUIST	\$79,207.32	\$39.18	\$47,936.79	\$25,308.71 +
QUAINT OAK BANK	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL OPERATING FUND	\$77,269.47	\$61,050.93	\$103,939.04	\$31,481.36
NORTHEASTERN PA SYNOD	PROCEEDS	INTEREST	PAYMENTS	LOAN BALANCE
SYNOD LOAN				\$0.00



IT'S A GIRL!!!!

CONGRATULATIONS to Matthew and Tatiana Rieger!!!

Born: July 25th Sophia Grace
6lbs. 14.8oz. 18 1/2 inches long

Welcome to the world, little princess; may your life be filled with grace and sunshine.
May every giggle of your baby girl fill your home with warmth and love.
Wishing your family God's deepest blessings and endless joy with this precious new gift.
May God bless your little angel and keep her safe in His loving arms every day.



Red Robin® will give

20% OF FOOD SALES*
BACK TO

ST MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

Show this flyer or simply mention the fundraiser to
your server to have your sales counted.

FUNDRAISER DETAILS

1875 Airport Road, Allentown, PA 18109

August 26, 2026 5PM – 9PM

If ordering online, please follow these instructions:

- 1** Start your order at redrobin.com/order and select the restaurant above.
- 2** In the menu, go to the category labeled "Fundraisers (To-Go Only)" and click on that item.
- 3** Click the "add" button, and then "add to bag."
- 4** Add your meal items and check out.
- 5** Arrive at Red Robin, come in, say hi, grab your food and be on your way! If your location has curbside pick-up, we can bring it to your car tap!

*Donation based on all eligible net dine-in and to-go food sales only. Excludes sales from catering (at select locations), 3rd party ordering and delivery sites, alcohol, gift cards, retail, tax and gratuity. Offer void if flyer is distributed in or near the restaurant during fundraiser day & hours.

Red Robin.





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www.saintmarkallentown.org
Watch us on Facebook user or not, at:
www.facebook.com/stmarkallentown
Hospital Code: 300

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Worship 9:30am Pressure Cuilt Ministry	3 Worship/Music Meeting 6:00pm	4 National Sister's Day 	5 Sharing Life Craft/Needlework 1:00pm-3:00pm	6	7	8
9 Worship 9:30am Coffee Hour sponsored by Church Council *School Bingo following the coffee hour * Parish Life Meeting	10 Open Door 10:00am – 12:00pm	11 Widows' Club 1:00pm Perkins Lehigh St	12	13	14 80's Luncheon 12:00pm	15
16 Worship 9:30am	17 Open Door Food Delivery 10:30am	18 Sharing Life Pizza Luncheon 12:00pm – 3:00pm	19 Open Door 4:00pm – 6:00pm	20	21	22
23 Worship 9:30am	24	25	26 RED ROBIN FUNDRAISER Airport Rd 5pm-9pm *don't forget to show the flyer when ordering	27 	28	29
30	31	September 1				
					4	5

Serving Our Church August 2026		
August 2 nd , 2026 – 10 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30am Worship/Pressure Cuff		
Lector/Communion Assistant: Linda Kline	Ushers: Brenda Covely Tom Rieger Roxann Rieger Kathy Walker Zachary Walker	Council on Duty: Darryl Miller Videographer: Tom Rieger Acolyte: Aliyah Wragg
August 9 th – 11 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30am Worship <i>Coffee Hour</i> <i>Sponsored by Church Council/Back to School Bingo</i>		
Lector/Communion Assistant: Brenda Mann-Orben	Ushers: Brenda Covely Tom Rieger Roxann Rieger Kathy Walker Zachary Walker	Council on Duty: Darryl Miller Videographer: Terri Harkins Acolyte: Patrick Merkle
August 16 th – 12 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30am Worship		
Lector/Communion Assistant: Carol Hartigan	Ushers: LuAnn Bresnak August Ruth Bill Ruth Sam Wragg Josephine Wieder	Council on Duty: Linda Raad Videographer: Kathy Walker Acolyte: Zander Wragg

August 23 rd , 2026 – 13 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30am Worship		
Lector/Communion Assistant: Tammy Walbert	Ushers: LuAnn Bresnak August Ruth Bill Ruth Sam Wragg Josephine Wieder	Council on Duty: Dan Christman Videographer: Dan Christman Acolyte: Wyatt Trautman
Altar Guild: Terri Harkins and Linda Gier		
August 30 th , 2026 – 14 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30am Worship		
Lector/Communion Assistant: Laurie Rompilla	Ushers: Doris Brezan Tammy Walbert Linda Gier Terri Harkins Sandy Biery	Council on Duty: Gloria Hottenstein Videographer: Tom Rieger Acolyte: Aliyah Wragg
Altar Guild: Linda Kline and Linda Raad		
September 6 th , 2026 – 15 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30am Worship/Pressure Cuff		
Lector/Communion Assistant: Linda Kline	Ushers: Doris Brezan Tammy Walbert Linda Gier Terri Harkins Sandy Biery	Council on Duty: Josephine Wieder Videographer: Tom Rieger Acolyte: Patrick Merkle
Altar Guild: Linda Kline and Linda Raad		



NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Building Community from InsideOut

Submitted by Stacey Burke, NEPA Synod Director of Communications



"God is a creative God. Don't be afraid to tap into the gifts God's given to you." Those words from Pastor Rashon "Woody" Santiago capture the heart of the InsideOut ministry, a community-centered ministry based at Advent Lutheran Church in West Lawn PA, where she currently serves as transitional pastor. Rooted in relationships, creativity, and collaboration, InsideOut is reimagining what it means to gather, connect, and serve. For Pastor Woody, ministry is about creating spaces where people can be known, heard, and valued. Whether around a game table, a shared meal, or a Bible study, InsideOut invites people into conversation, encouraging them not only to hear God's Word, but also to share their own experiences, perspectives, and faith with one another.

Every Wednesday evening at Advent Lutheran Church, people gather for a shared meal followed by an InsideOut Bible study. Rather than simply hearing a lesson, participants are invited into conversation, sharing their own experiences and perspectives while learning from one another. Pastor Woody believes these conversations create opportunities to experience God's love through community while reminding participants that everyone has something to contribute.

That same spirit extends beyond Wednesday evenings. Through community meals, video game nights, partnerships with local nonprofits, and creative gatherings, InsideOut creates welcoming spaces where people of all ages can build relationships, learn from one another, and experience God's love in community. Pastor Woody describes it as a place where people are welcomed for who they are before anything else. Whether someone is a lifelong church member, new to faith, or simply looking for connection, everyone has a place at the table.

Community video game nights are another way InsideOut creates spaces where people feel welcome. While children and youth gather around the games, parents, caregivers, and neighbors build relationships, creating connections that extend well beyond the evening's activities.

That welcoming spirit extends beyond the walls of the church through partnerships with organizations such as Café Esperanza and other community groups. Pastor Woody believes ministry is strongest when congregations and organizations work together, sharing their gifts to meet both spiritual and physical needs. One example of that community-centered approach is a growing suitcase ministry that provides suitcases, duffel bags, and backpacks for children entering foster care. After witnessing a child packing their belongings into a trash bag, Pastor Woody felt called to respond by collecting luggage that offers dignity and hope during an already difficult transition. What began as a simple response to one child's experience has grown into a ministry that has collected more than 1,300 suitcases through partnerships with congregations from multiple mission districts.

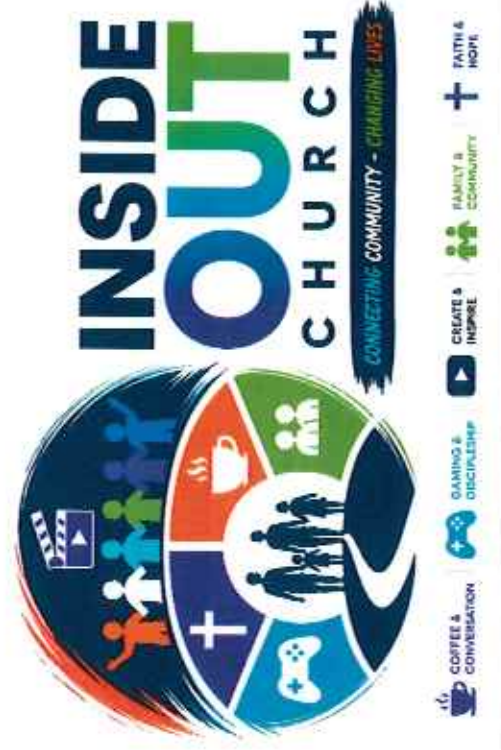
The suitcase ministry is only one expression of InsideOut's broader vision. Looking ahead, Pastor Woody dreams of expanding InsideOut into a community gathering space where people can celebrate birthdays, learn together, play basketball, create media, partner with nonprofits, and simply spend time with one another. At the heart of every dream is the same goal: creating places where everyone belongs.

Pastor Woody sees InsideOut not simply as a program, but as a calling. "God put this on my heart to do," she said. She believes some of the most meaningful moments happen when people have the opportunity not only to hear God's Word, but also to share how God is at work in their own lives.

Ministries like InsideOut are strengthened through the shared ministry of congregations across the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod. Through Mission Support, congregations invest in relationships, collaboration, and creative expressions of ministry that help communities experience God's love in new and meaningful ways.

Learn more about how one conversation at Synod Assembly sparked a collaboration between congregations across multiple mission districts, resulting in hundreds of suitcases being collected for children entering foster care by reading the companion story on the synod's website.

To learn more about the ministry and future partnership opportunities, watch for upcoming stories in the synod's communications or reach out to Pastor Woody at Advent Lutheran Church.



Help Make Ministry Possible

Through Mission Support, congregations share resources, support leaders, and expand ministry. Thank you for helping strengthen congregations, support leaders, and launch new ministries. Learn more about Mission Support and how your congregation can support at godsllove.org/missionsupport.