

ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

201 E. JUNIATA STREET, ALLENTOWN, PA 18103

Phone: 610-797-6440 Fax: 610-351-6114

Email: office@saintmarkallentown.org www.saintmarkallentown.org

Hospital Code - #300 Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon

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

MAY 2024 NEWSLETTER



What Do You Think??

What has happened at St Mark in the last two months? The first week of March and April were consumed by deaths and funerals. These were not people who claimed to be members or came only at Christmas and Easter. They were people actively involved and shared in the life of our congregation. You knew them, laughed with them, cried with them, shared their ups and downs with them – and now? Well. You might think their time had come and I guess mine will too. We don't like to think that way. It is too harsh -- too final. So many -- so fast..... Give us a breather Lord -- Please?

We see the empty seats they used to occupy. We don't hear the rustle of their bulletin or their spoken Lord's Prayer and other prayers OUT LOUD during the service. We have lost the familiar beat of their singing, be it off key sometimes, but sung with real meaning. We took the time for pleasantries some Sundays or asked about their families. We never expected them to suddenly -- not be there.

What do you think? Where is St Mark Church going? I heard the sadness in your voices. I heard the dismay you expressed for our future. It was not without cause. The immediacy at the cemeteries can give us all pause to stop and question. Where is St Mark going?

And then we follow with Sunday, April 14th where seven new members are excited to join you in your journey with the Lord. What happened at St Mark? The Holy Spirit took the hearts and minds of folks in the community and drove them – I really mean DROVE them to St Mark Church. This happened over the months before we had the funerals. God is way ahead of us. You have heard and maybe said – “If a door closes, open another.” When I casually asked each of them alone what brought them to St Mark, they all gave me the same answer. “I can't explain it. I just found myself driven to come to St Mark.”

What do you think? These seven new members felt the Holy Spirit nudging them to worship and get involved at St Mark. They started coming Sundays in December and earlier. Two have joined the choir. They also joined Parish life and have been helping out with Open Door.

The Holy Spirit is way ahead of us and because of God's planning ahead we will continue to grow and thrive at St Mark. It is exciting to see the way the Holy Spirit moves people toward God's purposes.

Now, we hear the rustle of the bulletins, the spoken Lord's Prayer and other prayers OUT LOUD during the service of our newer members. We have lost the familiar beat of the singing of those who reside in heaven, be it off key sometimes, but now we hear the singing of those who have joined our chorus with us.

We will take the time for pleasantries some Sundays and ask how they are doing. We will encourage them to become involved in our ministries. We will celebrate the joy of the Lord's Supper in communion with one another.

And we can answer the question: **What do you think?**

You can answer it with a resounding, “I think the Holy Spirit is very busy at St Mark and beyond.” it is exciting to be at St Mark and be a witness to the work of our almighty God!

Pastor Ginny

*“I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me.”
Philippians 4: 13 (NRSV)*

Don't be a Nobody



**A Message from
your
Council President!!**

Dear Church Family,

As we prepare to celebrate the dual blessings of Pentecost and Mother's Day, we are reminded of the abundant grace and love that God pours out upon us each day.

Pentecost, the wondrous day when the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles, marks the birth of the Christian Church and the beginning of our mission to share the Gospel with the world. It is a time to reflect on the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives and to renew our commitment to living as faithful disciples of Christ.

Likewise, Mother's Day offers us an opportunity to honor and celebrate the incredible women who have shaped our lives with their love, wisdom, and strength. Whether they are biological mothers, adoptive mothers, grandmothers, or mother figures, we are grateful for their selfless devotion and nurturing care.

As we celebrate Pentecost and Mother's Day this year, let us give thanks for the ways in which the Holy Spirit and maternal love have enriched our lives. Let us also remember those who may find this season difficult, whether due to loss, estrangement, or other challenges. May they find comfort and solace in the presence of God and the support of their church family.

On this special occasion, let us extend our heartfelt appreciation to all the mothers in our congregation. Your love, sacrifice, and dedication are truly a reflection of God's love for us, and we are grateful for the countless ways you enrich our lives and our faith community.

As we gather together to worship and fellowship, may the Spirit of God fill us with joy, peace, and unity, and may we continue to be inspired by the example of maternal love and care as we seek to be agents of God's grace and compassion in the world.

Happy Pentecost and Mother's Day to each and every one of you!

With love and blessings,

Thomas F. Rieger
Council President

**2024 Council Members
and Financial Officers**

Council/Financial Officers:

Tom Rieger - President

Dan Christman - Vice President

Linda Raad - Secretary

Roxann Rieger - Treasurer

Anita Vandergrift - Financial Secretary

Council Members and liaisons to:

Sandy Biery - St Mark Adventurer's

Carol Hartigan - Parish Life

Gloria Hottenstein - Worship and Music/
Widow's Club

Rick Krasley - Sharing Life

DJ Landis - Open Door Food Pantry

Linda Miller - Sharing Life

Bill Walker - Property

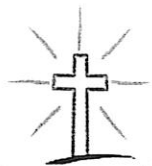
Josephine Wieder - Christian Ed/
Sunday School/Youth

Above is the list of individuals to reach out to if you have any comments or concerns, for each committee or program here at St, Mark.



HIGHLIGHTS.....

- The Youth will be visiting Good Shepherd on May 19th
- Council will Meet and have a Retreat on May 22nd at 6:00pm
- The annual Synod assembly will be held on June 8, 2024 in Wyomissing this year. Josephine Weider has offered to attend. We are still seeking 1 male who would like to attend as well. If this is something you may you would like to do, please see Tom Rieger.
- The *tentative* date for the Church Picnic will be September 15th more information to come.



The St. Mark Community Closet

We are now accepting Spring and Summer lightly used clothing at this time. We are in need of Children's Clothing. We have almost no children's clothing. Please share that we are in need. You may drop it off at any time. If the office is closed, please place the bags under cover at the front door or the parking lot door in the rear of the building.

Thank You!!



FOOD PANTRY

The Open Door Food Pantry

March was a very busy month for the Open Door food pantry! We served 89 households (which may be a record monthly high). These households consisted of 215 adults, 99 children and 57 elderly (60+).

We are very saddened by the passing of Ted Smith. Ted passed away on April 1st. He was a faithful volunteer for many years at the food pantry. He always had a smile and would always "sneak" extra food into our participant's bags especially if they had children! You will be greatly missed Ted!

For the month of May our suggested donation items are cereal and granola bars. As always...ALL donations are greatly appreciated. We would not be able to keep our doors open without the generous congregation here at St Marks.

Think Summer!!

Sandy

Anybody Can

Sharing Life

Happenings From the Month of APRIL...



Our April Easter luncheon included ham, corn, green bean casserole, pineapple stuffing and homemade desserts. The activities were bunny scramble words, hidden bunny tail, pass the bunny tail and Bingo. Jennifer, Tina, Sandy D., and Cathy led the games. Prizes included Easter themed prizes, gift cards and candy. Thank you to everyone that donated prizes and this month especially the hams.

Crafts- Brenda and Charlie helped participants create jewelry Knitting/ Crocheting continue to work on individual projects and enjoy each other's company.

Looking Ahead:

Mental Health Walk May 3rd 9 am to 2 pm, Danny Rice Fields 100 West Lehigh St Bethlehem pa. St Mark will have an outreach table at the walk. Currently there are 600 people registered, if you have nothing to do May 3rd come join us. There will be entertainment, venders, and speakers.

We will celebrate Cinco de Mayo at May's Luncheon.

On April 3 a meeting was held with Pastor Carrie from Neffs Union UCC Church, after a member reached out to us about starting something similar to Sharing Life.

It was determined that there was a need in this area, and we would go forward with this. The name will be Sharing Hope (this was chosen by Sharon Maletsky, a member of Neffs. She verbalized that Neffs Church always gave her hope.)

On May 23rd we will begin this ministry along with Neffs , UCC (Sharon Maletsky) See attached

Thank You,
Sue and the Sharing Life Team



Sharing Hope

(A sister initiative of Sharing Life)

Spend some time with us to
unwind and renew.

On the beautiful grounds of
Union United Church of Christ, Neffs PA

5550 Route 873, Neffs

Lunch and Activities and Give Aways

Thursday, May 23rd

(Rain Date: June 6th)

12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

For more information and to RSVP contact

Connie @ chammann9718@ptd.net

or call 610-737-9718



We felt a great amount of loss in the Month of March and April. But we will get through this with God's help.

Romans 8:28 – *And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.*

St. Mark wishes to send their condolences to The Werkheiser/Rieger Families. The Lord called Doris L. Werkheiser home on Thursday, March 28th.

St. Mark wishes to send their condolences to The Smith Family. The Lord called Theodore "Ted" Smith home on Monday, April 1st

St. Mark wishes to send their condolences to The Heiney Family. The Lord called Harold "Butch" Heiney home on Tuesday, April 2nd.

St. Mark wishes to send their condolences to The Seitz Family. The Lord called Phyllis Seitz home on Thursday, April 11th.

St. Mark wishes to send their condolences to The Glose/Moyer Families. The Lord called Jean Glose home on Sunday, April 21st.

Please keep all these families in your thoughts and prayers in the days and weeks ahead.



Thank you so much for your surprise birthday party and shower of cards for me. I appreciate your thoughtfulness. You never cease to be about others in all you do.

It was such a nice opportunity to spend part of the day with you.

God's blessing to each one of you,
Pastor Ginny



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

Josephine Wieder – May 3
Brenda Moll – May 4
Cheryl Keck – May 7
Elizabeth Brndjar – May 12
Marcus Rompilla – May 25
Christopher Raad – May 28
Ian Cunningham – May 29

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



Sunday, April 14th
We Welcomed Seven
New Members into
Our St. Mark Family.

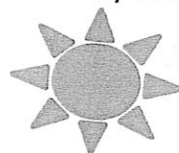
Nikki Jo Bradford
Brenda Lee Covely
Jennifer Ann Fenstermacher
Rose Marie Fenstermacher
Thomas William Kline
Darryl Gene Miller
Sally Ann Miller

We are excited and grateful to welcome you all!!

Be a Somebody

May 19th Pentecost Sunday!!!

WEAR RED TO CHURCH AND CELEBRATE PENTECOST!!!! Sponsor a 4½" pot Red Geranium in Memory or in Honor of a Loved one. The cost is \$6 a plant. The Plants will then be planted on the church grounds. Form enclosed, please return with payment by Monday, May 13th



We will go upstairs to Luther Hall for Services beginning Sunday, June 9th

Stewardship



TIME AND TALENT SUNDAY WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 28TH. A PRESENTATION FROM PARISH LIFE TELLS THE STORY ABOUT FOUR INDIVIDUALS NAMED **EVERYBODY, SOMEBODY, ANYBODY AND NOBODY**. YOU MAY HAVE HEARD IT BEFORE? THIS IS THE STORY:

*THERE WAS AN IMPOTANT JOB TO BE DONE
AND EVERYBODY WAS SURE THAT SOMEBODY
WOULD DO IT.*

*ANYBODY COULD HAVE DONE IT, BUT
NOBODY DID IT.*

*SOMEBODY GOT ANGRY ABOUT THAT,
BECAUSE IT WAS EVERYBODY'S JOB.*

*EVERYBODY THOUGHT ANYBODY COULD DO
IT, BUT NOBODY REALIZED THAT EVERYBODY
WOULDN'T DO IT.*

*IT ENDED UP THAT EVERYBODY BLAMED
SOMEBODY WHEN NOBODY DID WHAT
ANYBODY COULD HAVE.*

OVER THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS, IN PREPARATION FOR TIME AND TALENT SUNDAY, OUR CHURCH COMMITTEES SHARED A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF WHAT THEY DO. WE HOPE THAT FINDING OUT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE COMMITTEES WOULD ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO VOLUNTEER. REMEMBERING THAT, **ANYBODY CAN DO IT!** **EVERYBODY WILL BE A SOMEBODY WHEN THEY SERVE** ON A CHURCH COMMITTEE. LET'S SERVE AND GROW OUR CHURCH AND ENSURE THAT WE WILL **NEVER BE IN THE POSITION THAT NOBODY WAS THERE TO HELP.** SERVING ON COMMITTEES IS FUN AND REWARDING. PLEASE COMPLETE A TIME AND TALENT SHEET!

Everybody

St. Mark Cemetery Association:

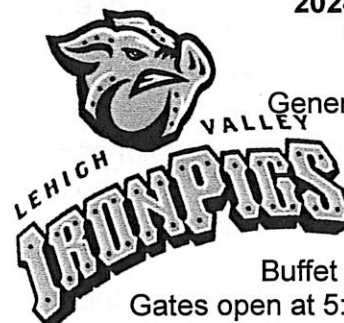
We need your help! Looking to get involved.

The St. Mark Cemetery Association needs to fill 1 more board seat with representatives from St. Mark Lutheran to bring us up to the 5 seats required from St. Mark Lutheran. Edie Lindenmuth has agreed to be a member and has already attended her 1st meeting this past April. St. Mark UCC has five representatives serving. Board Meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month at 2:00pm at the office located at 103 W Lexington Street Allentown, PA 18103. Meetings can last 20 to 30 minutes each month. If you are interested, please see Tom Rieger Council President, or contact the Cemetery Office at 610-797-4221 and speak to Larry Dotter.

Did you know? Are you doing any Estate Planning?

The St. Mark Cemetery Association has burial plots available for purchase.

The Cemetery is located at 103 W Lexington Street, Allentown, PA. Please contact the St. Mark Cemetery Office for additional information and prices at 610-797-4221.



2024 IronPigs Baseball with St. Mark

Sunday, July 14th –

General Seating game starts at
1:05pm. \$12.00 person,
ticket comes w/ \$2.00
food voucher.

Friday, August 30th –

Buffet on the Berks Patio,

Gates open at 5:45pm, \$30.00 per person.

All are invited to join us. Bring a friend! Sign-up
sheets are on the glass case in the Narthex.

Questions about this event please see, Sue Krasley.



Sunday, May 12th Celebrate Moms, Grandmom's, Great-Grandmom's, etc. Show them how much we love and appreciate them. God Bless them all.

**ST MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA
TREASURER'S REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2024
(Subject to Audit)**

	MONTH OF FEBRUARY	2ND MONTH BUDGET	2ND MONTH ACTUAL 2024	2ND MONTH ACTUAL 2023
BUDGETED CURRENT INCOME	\$11,853.09	\$12,310.00	\$18,508.38	\$18,049.50
BENEVOLENCE	\$957.26	\$540.00	\$957.27	\$265.00
TOTAL BUDGETED INCOME	\$12,810.35	\$12,850.00	\$19,465.65	\$18,314.50
NON-BUDGETED INCOME	\$9,361.31	\$0.00	\$10,458.31	\$3,752.54
TOTAL INCOME	\$22,171.66	\$12,850.00	\$29,923.96	\$22,067.04
BUDGETED CURRENT EXPENSES	\$13,192.48	\$37,240.83	\$23,165.63	\$21,822.86
BENEVOLENCE	\$757.50	\$535.00	\$915.00	\$615.00
TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENSES	\$13,949.98	\$37,775.83	\$24,080.63	\$22,437.86
NON-BUDGETED EXPENSES	\$6,157.66	\$0.00	\$6,157.66	\$1,339.22
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$20,107.64	\$37,775.83	\$30,238.29	\$23,777.08
MONTHLY ACTIVITY SUMMARY	BALANCE 2/1/2024	RECEIPTS	EXPENSES	BALANCE 2/29/2024
CURRENT OPERATING FUND - TRUIST	\$5,861.68	\$22,171.66	\$20,107.64	\$7,925.70 +
QUAINT OAK BANK	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL OPERATING FUND	\$5,861.68	\$22,171.66	\$20,107.64	\$7,925.70
NORTHEASTERN PA SYNOD	PROCEEDS	INTEREST	PAYMENTS	LOAN BALANCE
SYNOD LOAN 2% for 7 yrs	\$8,939.58 39TH	\$56.49	\$1,500.00	\$7,496.07

Do you know about the Parish Life Ministry??

The Parish Life Committee is a combined ministry for Social Ministry, Stewardship, and Outreach committees. We meet once a month to plan a variety of church activities including fellowship programs such as the Over 80's luncheon, Time and Talent, The Giving Tree, Stewardship, Christmas Ingathering, Lap Robes, Prayer Ministry, Outreach Programs and various skits performed at Worship Services.

Our committee members, Charlie and Brenda Orben, Carol Hartigan, Cheryl Geary, Sally Miller and Pastor Ginny enjoy getting together to share ideas on how to grow and inspire awareness for our current activities and develop new ideas for future programs.

We look forward to having you join us at one of our monthly meetings which is always in a relaxed and joyful setting. Please see one of our existing committee members for information about our next Parish Life Meeting. We would love to have you join us!



Masks are optional while inside the building. Masks are available at the entrance if you wish to wear one. The pews/chairs will remain sectioned off or separated for social distancing. Please contact the church office if you believe to have been in contact with anyone who has COVID-19 or you, yourself has tested positive once attending church. We are streaming "LIVE" via Facebook on Sundays.

Altar Guild, Lectors, Ushers, Acolytes and videographers are asked to perform their duties each Sunday. Please find a replacement if you cannot join us on your scheduled Sunday.

May 5th, 2024 - 6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 10:44-48

Psalms 98

1 John 5:1-6

John 15:9-17

May 12th, 2024 – 7th Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

Psalms 1

1 John 5:9-13

John 17:6-19

May 19th, 2024 – Day of Pentecost (Don't forget to wear red)

Acts 2:1-21

Psalms 104:24-34, 35b

Romans 8:22-27

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

May 26th, 2024 – The Holy Trinity

Isaiah 6:1-8

Psalms 29

Romans 8:12-17

John 3:1-17

In the event of cancellation of Sunday School and our worship service due to inclement weather, please tune into WFMZ TV Channel 69, visit wfmz.com, check the St. Mark Facebook page or website. If we are recording a "LIVE" worship service and you live close/near to the church, you are always welcome to attend while we are recording the "LIVE" worship service and worship along with us.



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.



Friday, May 24th is the deadline for the church office to receive all Newsletter Information for June.


Welcome Pentecost



May 2024

St. Mark Lutheran Church
201 E Juniata St
Allentown PA 18103
610-797-6440 fax 610-351-6114

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
5 Sunday School 9:00am Worship 10:00am Pressure Cuff Ministry	6	7 Widows Club Luncheon 1:00pm - Perkins	8 Sharing Life Craft/Knit Day 1:00pm - 3:00pm	9 LV Mental Health Walk 100 W Lehigh St Bethlehem 9:00am-2:00pm	10	11
12 Happy Mother's Day Sunday School 9:00am Worship 10:00am Coffee Hour Sponsored by The Widow's Club	13 *Office Closed Red Geranium Orders Due to Office	14 *Office Closed Open Door 10:00am - 12:00pm	15 *Office Closed Sharing Life Cinco de Mayo Luncheon 12:00pm - 3:00pm	16 *Office Closed	17	18
19 PENTECOST SUNDAY Sunday School 9:00am Worship 10:00am	20	21 Open Door Food Delivery 10:30am	22 Council Meeting 6:00pm	23 Open Door 4:00pm - 6:00pm Sharing Hope Open House UUC of Christ, Neffs 12:00pm-2:00pm	24	25
26 HOLY TRINITY Sunday School 9:00am Worship 10:00am	27 *Office Closed 	28	29	30	31	June 1

During Terri's Vacation Mail and Phone Messages will be checked and if important passed to the appropriate person or persons. Thank You.

Serving Our Church May 2024		
May 5 th – 6 th Sunday of Easter 9:00am Sunday School/10:00am Worship Pressure Cuff Ministry		
Lector/Communion Assistant: Linda Kline Altar Guild: Terri Harkins and Linda Gier	Ushers: LuAnn Bresnak Carol Hartigan Linda Kline Sue Krasley Josephine Wieder	Council on Duty: Sandy Biery Videographer: Tom Rieger Acolyte: Raiden Thakrar
May 12 th – 3 rd Sunday of Easter 9:00am Sunday School/10:00am Worship Welcome New Members Coffee Hour-Sponsored by Council		
Lector/Communion Assistant: Brenda Mann-Orben Altar Guild: Linda Kline and Linda Raad	Ushers: LuAnn Bresnak Carol Hartigan Linda Kline Sue Krasley Josephine Wieder	Council on Duty: Linda Miller Videographer: Terri Harkins Acolyte: DJ Landis

May 19 th – 4 th Sunday of Easter 9:00am Sunday School/10:00am Worship		
Lector/Communion Leader: Carol Hartigan Altar Guild: Linda Kline and Linda Raad	Ushers: Doris Brezan Tammy Walbert Linda Gier Terri Harkins Linda Miller	Council on Duty: Carol Hartigan Videographer: Kathy Walker Acolyte: DJ Landis
May 26 th – 5 th Sunday of Easter 9:00am Sunday School/10:00am Worship		
Lector/Communion Assistant: Tammy Walbert Altar Guild: Roxann Rieger and Edie Lindenmuth	Ushers: Doris Brezan Tammy Walbert Linda Gier Terri Harkins Linda Miller	Council on Duty: Dan Christman Videographer: Dan Christman Acolyte: Zachary Walker
June 2 nd – 5 th Sunday of Easter 9:00am Sunday School/10:00am Worship		
Lector/Communion Assistant: Linda Kline Altar Guild: Roxann Rieger and Edie Lindenmuth	Ushers: Doris Brezan Tammy Walbert Linda Gier Terri Harkins Linda Miller	Council on Duty: Linda Raad Videographer: Tom Rieger Acolyte: Patrick Merkle

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The Rev. Nelson Quiñones, Dean
The Rev. Jean L. Huber, Assoc. of the Bishop
Elizabeth Leibenguth, Mission District Chair
Linda Gery, Newsletter Editor

610-653-5858
610-704-5133
484-550-0057
610-395-5535

Lutheran Deacons and 6261 Ministry

Mark your calendars for the
**Lehigh Mission District
Spring Assembly**
at the Lutheran Center on
Sunday, May 5, 2024 at 4 PM.

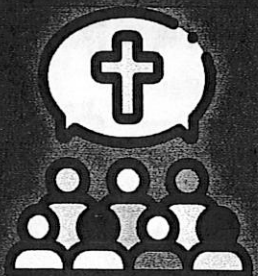
Our guest speaker is
Deacon Kathleen "Kat"
Tigerman. Deacon Kat is
the Director of Evangelical
Mission of the Northeastern
Pennsylvania Synod.

The topic of discussion is
Lutheran Deacons and
6261 Ministry. Join us to
learn what is a deacon's
ministry and how it relates
to the Synod's 6261 Ministry.

Pastors, synod assembly
delegates, church members,
and friends are all invited.

Let us know that you are
planning to attend by
emailing the LMD Dean at
nlsqns@gmail.com.
Refreshments & sandwiches
will be provided.

See you at the Cinco de
Mayo LMD Spring Assembly!



THE HEAVENS DECLARE

the glory of God

June 2024 LMD NL news
will be due May 13, 2024.

Solar Eclipse 2024

Dear Lehigh Mission District,

About two weeks ago I was asked, "Oye, what do you think of the solar eclipse? Dicen que el mundo se va a acabar. They say the world is going to end."

I shared that the last solar eclipse I saw was in 2017 with my son. We took cereal boxes and aluminum foil. We poked a pinhole through the box to see the reflection of the solar eclipse inside the box. I assured this person that we will be here to see another eclipse and that our children will see many more.

Whether it was faith or fear from the combined long week of rain that followed the 4.0 magnitude earthquake felt from New Jersey, some Christians expected that the total solar eclipse was going to usher in an apocalyptic or an eschatological end of the world.

Some Christians, of course, believed that they would be taken up to heaven in the rapture before the end of the world, as if only Christians have a local direct line to God to deliver us from any fate to come.

On the morning of the solar eclipse, I listened to Ismael Rivera's album Eclipse Total. There were four eclipses in 1975 - the year the album was released.

As the hour was approaching, I went to the Fellowship Hall where the Ladies Aid and volunteers were baking the annual cinnamon bun at the church.

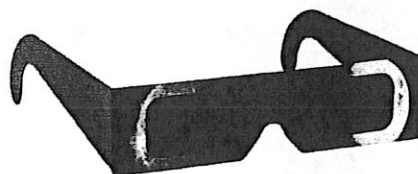
One church member had set a timer to halt production of the sticky buns so that they could step outside and capture the solar eclipse. It was a bit cloudy, but we got a chance to see God's creation.

We had a fun time watching the eclipse together. We included the Martin Luther statue in the fun by placing a pair of UV glasses on Luther.

Certainly, creation can bring fear and awe at the wonders of the galaxy. In the words of the Psalmist, "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." *Psalm 19:1 NIV*

Happy post solar eclipse.

The Rev. Nelson Quiñones,
Lehigh Mission District Dean



Please support these upcoming events:

EAST ALLENTOWN COMMUNITY YARD SALE *To benefit youth activities*

St. Peter's Lutheran Church
(1933 Hanover Ave East,
Allentown, PA 18109)
Saturday, May 18, 2024
8 AM – 1 PM
Rain or Shine

Youth tables will be
located inside the gym.

Refreshments available for
purchase.

Park in our Tacoma St. lot,
East side of the church.

Questions or space
reservations, call the
church office at
610-432-8762.
(tables/chairs NOT included)



SUMMER INGATHERING 2024

We would like to collect the
following items to help
support Holy Trinity
Lutheran Church
(Catasauqua) with their
outreach program for youth
in the community:

- Individual salty snack bags
- 16 oz water bottles
- \$10.00 Wal-Mart gift cards

We will be collecting items
through the end of May.

Please contact Pam Page
at 610-360-0226 or
ppage619@gmail.com if
you would like to help or if
you have any questions.



Community Free Dinners St. John's Lutheran Church (1028 Church Street, Fogelsville)

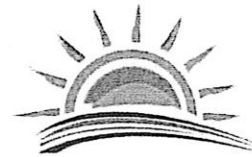
Dinners will continue the 3rd Friday, every
other month (except November, when it will
be held on the 2nd Friday) from 5-7 PM.
Next meal: May 17th. Free dinners are
served "to-go", while supplies last.
All are welcome.



SPRING DANCE: Saturday, May 4, 2024
Dance to the music of the Hanover
Township Society for the Preservation of
Big Band Sound in America from 7-10 PM.

St Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church
(140 South Ott Street, Allentown)
\$15/person - all proceeds benefit Lehigh
Conference of Churches.

Tickets are available at the church office
(610-435-6512 x 200) or from Rick Focht
(610-393-8914).



OPERATION SUNSHINE
1933 Hanover Ave, Allentown, PA 18109
Phone: 610-435-9155
Open: Mon 11-3 and Wed. 11-3
Email: LMDopsunshine@aol.com
Website: www.LMDopsunshine.com
Paula & Dick Skelly, Co-Trip Coordinators

*Operation Sunshine is a non-profit fellowship
opportunity within our Mission District,
run solely by volunteers.*

All single-day trips for 2024 are currently **SOLD OUT!!!**

We have been experiencing cancellations
and encourage you to put your name
on our waiting list.

Please see the attached newsletter for details.

Operation Sunshine is proud to announce:
**2024 Multi-Day trip to the GREAT
SMOKY MOUNTAINS OF TENNESSEE.**
September 15-20, 2024

*Please see the attached flyer for a
complete rundown of the itinerary and costs.*



CROP Thank You!

Thank you for helping our 2023 Greater Allentown
CROP Hunger Walk raise a grand total of **\$31,437** to
help our neighbors in need locally and around the globe!



As a result of your faithful efforts, the Allentown Area
Ecumenical Food Bank and Lehigh Conference of
Churches Kitchen will each receive **over \$3,929** for their
vital ministries. And our food insecure neighbors who
have survived floods, drought, war, and other disasters
are receiving life-giving assistance.

Please Save These CROP Dates!

Greater Allentown **CROP Hunger Walk:**
Sunday, Oct. 13, 2024, 1:30 p.m.,
with registration beginning at 1:00 p.m.
at St. Timothy Lutheran Church,
140 S. Ott St., Allentown, PA 18104

To register your team and/or yourself, or to learn
more about the life-saving work of Church World
Service, go to: crophungerwalk.org/allentownpa

CROP Pizza Party/Kick-off:

Sunday, Aug. 25, 2024, 1:30-2:30 p.m.
(to receive materials, ideas, and inspiration for
yourself and your congregation)
at St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Allentown

Many Thanks to Our Generous Sponsors!





NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

SYNOD NEWS



WE ARE CHURCH TOGETHER

2024



TOP STORY

STORYTELLING ENGAGEMENT

Experiments in Ministry

A story from the Central States
Synod

**As you read this story, what connects with you?
What experiments are occurring in your synod
and congregation?**

How often have you heard folks in congregations lament that they just don't have the resources or learning opportunities they need to be strong leaders and vital congregations? The Central States Synod wondered how it could help address those needs and make access easy. That led to the beginning of the Ministry Lab. The synod envisions the lab as a place to ask questions, learn, work with different "tools" or resources, and experiment to see what works. A lab is not just a depository for resources; it's an active place where one can gather and engage with others.

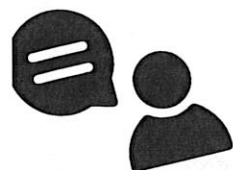
When visiting congregations, attending conferences or meeting partners, staff and leaders in the Central States Synod diligently listen to folks to identify common needs and areas of growth so that they can equip and support ministry. The goal of the Ministry Lab is to provide ***"resources and tools so that we may live out God's purpose, united with Christ, as we walk the way of Jesus."***

Ministry Lab

The lab has three areas of focus: *good order*, meaning leadership, policies, building use, stewardship and meeting protocol; *means of grace*, including biblical interpretation, worship, communication and welcoming; and *living faith*, such as community engagement, social statements, collaboration and technology. Since the Ministry Lab began in fall 2023, it has offered opportunities focused on Scripture interpretation, ideas for worship and preaching during Advent, and leadership development. People learn through active engagement, not passive observation, so the Learning Lab is always lively. Some opportunities are "one and done" whereas others consist of multiple sessions.

Moving forward, the Ministry Lab is excited to offer an open conversation with the Rev. Susan Candea, bishop of the Central States Synod, about the upcoming ELCA social statement *Civic Life and Faith*, a Collaboration Lab in May and a Communications Lab in the fall. Anyone anywhere can check out and learn from the Central States Synod Ministry Lab. [See what's available now!](#)

Remember that a portion of offerings given to Central States congregations becomes Mission Support for the synod and allows staff and leaders to address congregations' needs and interests through the Ministry Lab, today and into the future.





BEAR CREEK CAMP

Join us for May Play Day
and Family Work Day

MAY PLAY DAY & WORK DAY

Saturday, May 4th

9:00 am - Work Day Begins

11:00 am - May Play Day Begins

Rec hall open (foosball, ping pong, etc.)

Nature center open

Hiking/exploring

Main camp tour

12:00 pm - Free Lunch for All!

1:00 pm - Gathering in the Courtyard

Q&A about BCC Summer Camp

1:00 - 3:00 pm - Activities Continued

Guided hike on Lenape Trail

Camp store open

Rec hall open

Boating

Join us for an open house day at BCC, Saturday, **May 4th from 11am-3pm!** Explore camp, meet staff, boat, hike, craft, and fellowship with our camp community. Cookout lunch is available to all and there is no cost.

Prior to May Play Day, starting at 9:00am, everyone is invited to help with projects around camp as we prepare for summer. All skill levels are welcome and lunch is provided.

Registration for both May Play Day and Family Work Day is available at the link below. Pre-registration is appreciated, but not required.

