



ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH
201 E. JUNIATA STREET, ALLENTOWN, PA 18103

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Hospital Code - #300 Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:30am –
1:30pm

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

MARCH 2026 NEWSLETTER



The Pastor's Corner.....

Dear Friends in Christ,

I want to say how grateful I am that you care about your faith and St. Mark. I am grateful for our participation with faith whether you live near or far, whether you get to church or join us online.

Why am I feeling like this? I listen to how my grandchildren are busy participating in musicals and theater. All I can say is "No wonder families are busy."

Ask any parent what one thing keeps them from worshipping regularly, and they'll say, "We're too busy." I believe it! I can't imagine what it is like for those whose kids do multiple extracurriculars. But we do have many families worshipping regularly. Families still usher, play with the bell choir, or read lessons. Parents and children help out selling raffle tickets, tackle hunger by collecting canned goods, and put warm clothes on the Giving Tree.

Being busy is not always a bad thing. We need stimulating things to do, and it's so fun watching our children participate in these activities. I remember sitting in an auditorium waiting for my grandchild's dance performance to begin. If you've ever had to do this, there are a lot of performances throughout the evening, and I was bored. Until my granddaughter's dance began. I was no longer bored.

That's the price we pay sometimes. We have to take the time for the prize.

What about our own physical and emotional health? When do we find time for ourselves? What about our spiritual health? We have difficulty finding time for ourselves let alone time with God. Try being with God while multitasking or running from one thing to another. Notice God in your midst.

Let's take one step closer to God. Try something that will bring you peace this Lenten season. Something to replenish your soul. Try exercising or a designated prayer time. Sit at a window with a nice cup of coffee and notice God. Take a walk. Woodwork or knit. Find peace in these moments.

This time for yourself doesn't have to be about God. It doesn't have to accomplish anything. It just means getting off the fast track for a little bit. Enjoy the calm. Notice things around you. Focus on the colors or sounds. Listen to your thoughts but don't feed the worries. Then maybe you will notice that God is with you and always has been.

Blessings,
Pastor Lynn





A message from your Council President

As we enter the holy season of Lent, I write with a simple and heartfelt invitation: come home to worship.

Lent is a sacred journey — forty days that lead us from ashes to the empty tomb, from repentance to rejoicing, from reflection to resurrection hope. On [Ash Wednesday](#) we are reminded that we are dust, and to dust we shall return. Yet we are also reminded that we are marked with the cross of Christ forever. That promise has not changed. God's mercy has not faded. And His invitation has not expired.

Perhaps life has been busy. Perhaps the weeks have slipped by more quickly than you expected. Perhaps you have been carrying burdens quietly and wondering where to lay them down. Lent is a gentle season of return — return to prayer, return to community, return to the Word, and return to the Lord who never stopped holding on to you.

The prophet Joel speaks God's gracious call: "Return to Me with all your heart." That call is not spoken with condemnation, but with compassion. It is not a demand, but an embrace. In worship we hear again the promises of forgiveness. We gather at the cross and are reminded that Christ carried what we could not. We come to the table and are fed with grace. We lift our voices together and remember that we do not walk this journey alone.

Whether you have been present each week or absent for a season, this invitation is for you. There is a place for you here. There is a word meant for your heart. There is a community ready to welcome you.

Join us on Wednesdays and Sundays throughout Lent as we walk this sacred road together. Come as you are — with your questions, your hopes, your weariness, and your faith. Come and receive what only God can give: mercy that is new every morning and love that never let's go.

Let this be the season we draw nearer to Christ and to one another. Let this be the season of coming home.

We look forward to worshipping with you.

In Christ's love,
Thomas F Rieger



HIGHLIGHTS.....

***Approved February 15th, 2026 as the Annual Congregation Meeting Minutes.**

***A motion was made to hold the Annual Church Picnic in September. Parish Life will reach out to Linda Gier to coordinate a date at Emmaus Park.**

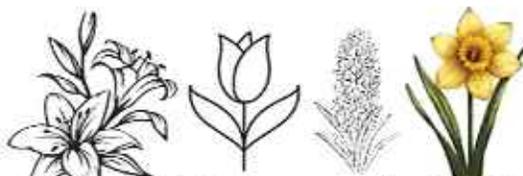
***The 2025 Audit has been completed, and the certification was submitted to the Synod.**

***Property is putting together a list of issues that need to be addressed. They will collect bids and prioritize the list.**

***Pastor Lynn will be making home visits to families as well as to the homebound or sick.**

***Have any fundraising ideas??? See Tammy Walbert, our fundraising Coordinator!!**

***Want to help with the Easter Breakfast, see Linda Gier or Terri Harkins. They are looking for help setting up, serving and cleaning up.**



Easter Flower Order forms can be found in the newsletter. We are using Lehigh Valley Home and Garden Center this year. The cost is \$7.00 per plant for Tulips, Hyacinth and Daffodils. \$10.00 per plant for white lilies. NEW this year you can sponsor a palm vase for \$10.00 We will have them on display in the church for Palm Sunday and after. If you wish to sponsor them, please see Terri or call the church office. The deadline to order Easter Flowers is Sunday, March 15th

+Easter is a reminder of God's intimate presence, offering a "warm embrace" of love and the promise that with Him, nothing is impossible.

+Just as spring brings new life, Easter symbolizes a fresh start, allowing people to let go of old burdens and begin again with hope.



The Open Door Food Pantry

Hopefully by the time you are reading this the snow has melted and temperatures are warmer! Our total number of households served for the month of January was 64. These households consisted of 152 adults, 68 youth and 46 seniors.

Thank you to everyone that brought items of food to the raffle basket...we filled up 2 shopping carts! Also thank you to all who brought items for the youth to build the "souper" bowl creation.

All the donations are greatly appreciated and keep our shelves full.

For the month of March, the requested items for donation are evaporated milk and canned corn. These items are both very popular at our food pantry and although we are usually able to order corn from Second Harvest, it was not available this month.

Blessings to all!
Sandy



2026 IronPigs Baseball with St. Mark

Friday, June 19th – General Seating gates open at 5:30pm. \$13.00 person, ticket comes w/ \$2.00 food voucher.

Friday, August 28th – Buffet on the Berks Patio, Gates open at 5:30pm, \$30.00 per person, food served from 5:15-8:00. 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. Pray for nice weather it's always a FUN TIME!!!



Play Ball.



Happenings From February...

February - New Year New You returned, Special Thanks to Lehigh Career and Technical Institute Cosmetology Program. They provided free haircuts and manicures to our participants. We also opened our Clothing Closet for all who attended. We filled every spot available. Participants enjoyed yogurt parfaits and other healthy snacks while waiting for their appointments. The students were treated to pizza, salad and soda.

Crafts/knitting crocheting- was not held this month due to New Year New You.

Fundraising - The Basket raffle was held this month, Sharing Life manned all the food items as our annual fundraiser. Over \$1,700.00 was made. Thank you to all who helped make soups, baked goodies, volunteered their time and especially Rick Krasley for running the kitchen.

We are looking at selling Sharing Life Logo shirts in the future, no date as of yet.

Looking Ahead: Next month we will be celebrating St Patrick's day with a surprise activity (Not Bingo) and shepherd's pie. The craft has not been determined yet.

We continue to need volunteers to help on Craft Day, the volunteer would assist the participants with their craft. They would not be responsible for the craft itself. This is the first Wed of each month.

Advocacy alliance continues to assist us with volunteers each month and buying some food for our events. Thank You Advocacy!!

Many Blessings,
Sue Krasley and the Sharing Life committee.



St. Mark Winter Raffle was a huge success!!
We made \$1690.00 and the Winners were:

- 1st Place \$1000: John Anderson
Sold by: Deb Deifer
- 2nd Place \$250: Terry Brown
Sold by: Terry Brown
- 3rd Place \$125: Michael Walters
Sold by: Tammy Walbert
- 4th Place \$75: Dolly Werkheiser
Sold by: Roxann Rieger
- 5th Place \$50: Doris Brezan
Sold by: Tammy Walbert
- Congratulations to all the winners!!!



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

- Patricia Golley– March 6
Edie Stout– March 6
Anthony Orlando – March 7
Linda Dutko – March 9
Deb Green – March 13
Edwin Wieder – March 24

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

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.



Great Job again Sunday School Youth and their teachers!! This is very cool!! And Thank You to all who donated the canned items for the Food Pantry!! We also collected \$53.93 from the loose change on February 8th for Hunger!!

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. To date we have made over \$150 for just filling the bin.

Lenten Giving Tree



2026 is Chicks and Goats!!

Help a family spread their wings. When chicks grow up to become chickens, their eggs not only provide an ongoing supply of protein-rich meals, they can also help start a small business and generate a steady source of income.

Goats can go where other animals can't, surviving in some of the world's most challenging terrain. Goat's milk provides nutrition for children and their families, and goats are quick to reproduce—which means a family can pass this life-saving gift onto others.

Every Gift makes an IMPACT!!

A special envelope (please write your name on the envelope) is included with the newsletter to help make a difference in someone's life. No matter how big or how small, it will make a difference in the lives of those in need. We will collect for chicks and goats until Easter Sunday, April 5th!!

Let's make this year appeal un-baa-lievable!!!

PARISH LIFE.....

THANK YOU TO ALL THAT ATTENDED THE GOONIES MOVIE NIGHT. IT WAS WELL ATTENDED AND EVERYONE HAD A GREAT TIME. WE LOOK FORWARD TO PLANNING ANOTHER MOVIE NIGHT IN THE FUTURE.

THE GOONIES

FRI. FEB. 13

AT ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN Church
Luther Hall

6:00 PM

Goonies Never Say Die!



Debra Deifer is still collecting old eye glasses and all kinds of can tabs. They benefit The Pennsylvania Association for the Blind. There is a basket in the Narhex on the table to place your items. Thank You!!!



St. Mark Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 4th at 10:00am, outside on the front lawn. Event Coordinators are asking for donations of wrapped candy, boxed chocolate bunnies and small prizes of all kinds, for all ages. Place all donations in the office in the box marked Easter Egg Hunt or you may make a monetary donation to Kathy Walker. They will also be selling baked goods, breakfast and Hot dogs during the event.

Thank You!!

The Egg Hunt is for Ages Pre-k and Up. Come Join in the FUN!!!

Sunday, March 8th

at 2:00am

Don't forget to
turn your clock

Forward.



Spring Forward
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME



From the Basket Social Committee

We would like to Thank everyone....

Donated to the Basket Social

All who went and got us Gift Cards

All who baked

All who volunteered during the event

All who helped set-up, and clean-up

All who donated food items for the kitchen

All who worked the kitchen

If we missed anyone, SORRY!!! IT takes an army to make this happen and we had it!!! THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH!!

Although the weather wasn't cooperating, it didn't keep the people away. We had lots of HAPPY WINNERS!! We made over \$3000 for St. Mark!!!



LENT

A Prayer for Lent.....

Search Me, Lord, This Lent

I ask you to speak to me now. In the quiet aloneness of my time with you, search me for any selfish motives or sins I cling to that are sapping me of the life you desire. Prepare my heart for what you would have me forgo, and strengthen me to seek you instead. Amen

Palm Sunday, March 29th

If you can't make the Palm Sunday Service at 10:00am and would like Palms. They will be available at the church on Monday, March 30th to Wednesday, April 1st from 10:00am - 12:00pm. Please come to the ramp door for pick up.

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

	MONTH OF JANUARY	1ST MONTH BUDGET	1ST MONTH ACTUAL 2026	1ST MONTH ACTUAL 2025
BUDGETED CURRENT INCOME	\$5,695.41	\$6,348.00	\$5,695.41	\$7,287.33
BENEVOLENCE	\$4.00	\$132.00	\$4.00	\$2.00
TOTAL BUDGETED INCOME	\$5,699.41	\$6,480.00	\$5,699.41	\$7,289.33
NON-BUDGETED INCOME	\$1,416.24	\$0.00	\$1,416.24	\$984.03
TOTAL INCOME	\$7,114.65	\$6,480.00	\$7,114.65	\$8,273.36
BUDGETED CURRENT EXPENSES	\$10,798.86	\$14,850.00	\$10,798.86	\$12,589.13
BENEVOLENCE	\$81.25	\$121.00	\$81.25	\$0.00
TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENSES	\$10,880.11	\$14,971.00	\$10,880.11	\$12,589.13
NON-BUDGETED EXPENSES	\$222.40	\$0.00	\$222.40	\$484.61
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$11,102.51	\$14,971.00	\$11,102.51	\$13,073.74
MONTHLY ACTIVITY SUMMARY	BALANCE 1/1/2026	RECEIPTS	EXPENSES	BALANCE 1/31/2026
CURRENT OPERATING FUND - TRUIST	\$10,107.57	\$7,114.65	\$11,102.51	\$6,119.71 +
QUAINT OAK BANK	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL OPERATING FUND	\$10,107.57	\$7,114.65	\$11,102.51	\$6,119.71
NORTHEASTERN PA SYNOD	PROCEEDS	INTEREST	PAYMENTS	LOAN BALANCE
SYNOD LOAN				\$0.00

BASKET RAFFLE PICTURES.....





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.

March 1st, 2026 – 2nd Sunday in Lent

Genesis 12:1-4a
Psalm 121
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17

**March 4th, 2026 – 2nd Mid-Week Service
7:00pm**

March 8th, 2026 – 3rd Sunday in Lent

Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 95
Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42

**March 11th, 2026 - 3rd Mid-Week Service
7:00pm**

March 15th, 2026 – 4th Sunday in Lent

1 Samuel 16:1-13
Psalm 23
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

**March 18th, 2026 – 4th Mid-Week Service
7:00pm**

March 22nd, 2026 - 5th Sunday in Lent

Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 130
Romans 8:6-11
John 11:1-45

**March 25th, 2026 – 5th Mid-Week Service
7:00pm**

March 29th, 2026 – Palm Sunday

Matthew 21:1-11 Procession of Palms
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 26:14—27:66

April 2nd, 2026 – Maundy Thursday 7:00pm
April 3rd, 2026 – Good Friday 7:00pm
April 4th, 2026 – Egg Hunt 10:00am
April 5th, 2026 – Easter Sunday 10:00am
Easter Breakfast 8:30am



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.

**If you DIDN'T PICK UP THE new 2026 Usher schedule come see Terri in the office. Thank You!!!



Did You Know???

**Joseph, Guardian of Jesus
Thursday, March 19, 2026**

Though the Bible tells us little about the husband of Jesus' mother Mary, we know that he was a carpenter or builder by trade. He is also shown as being devoted both to God and to Mary and Jesus. It is assumed that he died before Jesus became an adult.



Happy St. Patrick's Day!!!
Tuesday, March 17th

FOR EACH PETAL ON THE SHAMROCK, THIS BRINGS A WISH YOUR WAY:
GOOD HEALTH, GOOD LUCK, AND HAPPINESS FOR TODAY AND EVERY DAY.



Friday, March 20th is the deadline for the church office to receive all Newsletter Information for February.

Numbers 6:24-26 NIV

“The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.”

T O W A R D M A K E
Y O U Y O U L L G L
M O S R O T L I H O
Y O U H V U H O G R
I G M G I R L O R D
Y T O I B N K F A D
B H H V F P E A C E
G E I E T H E C I A
B L E S S A P E O N
M F A C E N Y O U D
W X V A N D H I S T



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 610-797-6440 fax 610-351-6114

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sunday School 9:00am Worship 10:00am Parish Life meeting after worship	2 Worship/Music Meeting 6:00pm	3 Sharing Life Craft/Needlework 1:00pm-3:00pm Light Supper 6:00pm Mid-Week Service 7:00	4	5	6	7
8 Sunday School 9:00am Worship 10:00am Coffee Hour sponsored by The Widow's Club	9 Open Door 10:00am – 12:00pm	10 Light Supper 6:00pm Mid-Week Service 7:00	11	12	13	14
15 Sunday School 9:00am Worship 10:00am	16 Open Door Food Delivery 10:30am	17 Sharing Life Luncheon 12:00pm – 3:00pm Light Supper 6:00pm Mid-Week Service 7:00	18	19	20	21
22 Sunday School 9:00am Worship 10:00am Council Meeting after worship	23	24 Light Supper 6:00pm Mid-Week Service 7:00	25	26 Open Door 4:00pm – 6:00pm	27	28
PALM SUNDAY 29 Sunday School 9:00am Worship 10:00am	30	31 Sharing Life Craft Day/Needlework 1:00pm-3:00pm	April 1	2 Maundy Thursday Service 7:00pm	3 Good Friday Service 7:00pm	4 Easter Egg Hunt 10:00am
Easter Morning April 5 Breakfast 8:30am Worship 10:00am	6	7	8	9	10	11

Serving Our Church March 2025		
March 1 st – 2 nd Sunday in Lent		
9:00am Sunday School/10:00am Worship		
Lector/Communion	Ushers: LuAnn Bresnak June Ruth Bill Ruth	Council on Duty: Darryl Miller
Assistant: Linda Kline	Sam Wrags Josephine Wieder	Videographer: Tom Rieger
Altar Guild: Terri Harkins and Linda Gier		Acolyte: Zander Wrags
March 4 th , 2026 – 2 nd Mid Week Service		
6:00pm Light Supper/7:00pm Worship		
March 8 th – 3 rd Sunday in Lent		
9:00am Sunday School/10:00am Worship		
<i>Coffee Hour Sponsored by the Widow's Club</i>		
Lector/Communion	Ushers: LuAnn Bresnak June Ruth Bill Ruth	Council on Duty: Linda Raad
Assistant: Brenda Mann- Orben	Sam Wrags Josephine Wieder	Videographer: Terri Harkins
Altar Guild: Terri Harkins and Linda Gier		Acolyte: Patrick Merkle
March 11 th , 2026 – 3 rd Mid Week Service		
6:00pm Light Supper/7:00pm Worship		
March 15 th – 4 th Sunday in Lent		
9:00am Sunday School/10:00am Worship		
Lector/Communion	Ushers: Doris Brezan Tammy Walbert	Council on Duty: Bill Walker
Assistant: Brenda Mann- Orben	Linda Gier Terri Harkins Sandy Biery	Videographer: Kathy Walker
Altar Guild: Linda Kline and Linda Raad		Acolyte: Zander Wrags

March 18 th , 2026 – 4 th Mid Week Service		
6:00pm Light Supper/7:00pm Worship		
March 22 nd , 2026 – 5 th Sunday in Lent		
9:00am Sunday School/10:00am Worship		
Lector/Communion	Ushers: Doris Brezan Tammy Walbert	Council on Duty: Dan Christman
Assistant: Tammy Walbert	Linda Gier Terri Harkins Sandy Biery	Videographer: Dan Christman
Altar Guild: Linda Kline and Linda Raad		Acolyte: Patrick Merkle
March 25 th , 2026 – 5 th Mid Week Service		
6:00pm Light Supper/7:00pm Worship		
March 29 th , 2026 – Palm Sunday		
9:00am Sunday School/10:00am Worship		
Lector/Communion	Ushers: Brenda Covely Tom Rieger	Council on Duty: Sandy Biery
Assistant: Laurie Rompilla	Roxann Rieger Kathy Walker Zachary Walker	Videographer: Terri Harkins
Altar Guild: Roxann Rieger and Edie Lindenmuth		Acolyte: Zander Wrags
April 2 nd Maundy Thursday - 7:00pm Worship		
April 3 rd Good Friday - 7:00pm Worship		
April 4 th Saturday, Egg Hunt 10:00am		
April 5 th EASTER SUNDAY (No Sunday School)		
8:30am Breakfast/10:00am Worship		



NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Feeding Body and Soul at Hope's Table

Written by: April Mulvey, Synod Authorized Outreach Ministry (SAOM) leader at Hope's Table

Hope's Table: 601 N Front St Reading, PA 19601

Every Tuesday the doors open around 4:30 in the afternoon. During those chilly winter months, our guests are greeted by Sara, who pours each a cup of hot chocolate. Anita is back in the kitchen, where the aromas of the night's dinner are wafting through the hallway. Scott is preparing his music and Judy is either mingling with our guests or helping Anita. As I am preparing the table for worship, I am talking with everyone and listening to the chatter in the room. Before dinner is served, I go around the room asking everyone for prayer requests and the guests fill me in on the happenings of the week. Welcome to Hope's Table.

My journey to serving at Hope's Table is slightly unconventional. I did not grow up in the church. In fact, the first time I attended a church service (outside weddings and funerals) I was sixteen years old because I grew up in a dysfunctional family system. My first exposure was when my grandmother took me to her church. I grew up in a home that did not show the love and compassion of the Gospel of Christ, and I carried that into my adult years. I ended up in a 12-Step recovery program, but I was still missing "something."



That "something" was the God piece in my life and it was not until I got involved in a church and with people who loved me unconditionally, and told me God loved me even more unconditionally, did my life drastically change to the path that put me where I am today being the SAOM leader at Hope's Table. My background in life allows me to relate to the guests that walk into the doors of Hope's Table in ways that are truly personal and empathetic, and I can connect with them and their needs in times of pastoral care because I know some of the struggles they endure. I relate to the brokenness, the loneliness, the desperation, because I was once there too, but the power and love of God have done miraculous things! It put me back together.

That is part of my hope for Hope's Table. We are not *just* a food ministry. We not only feed the body, we nourish the soul as well. We come together, even if it for only one hour a week, and break bread together, and although we are not defined as a "congregation" by the ELCA, we are a community of the *ekklesia*. Church, since the pandemic, may need to be redefined and ministries like Hope's Table help pave the way for that re-define.



If someone is curious about how to get involved with Hope's Table, my best advice would be to come and check us out! Show up! Come and see us in action on Tuesday. Come and sit with our guests and get to know them. Come and volunteer to serve dinner and then we can get you scheduled for service work. Come and see just how blessed we are to be in their presence.

Hope's Table has taught me so many lessons about myself and about the world over this past year. I have learned more about the structure of the synod and church this year and how all those smaller cogs in the wheel have to be put into position and work in unison, or the grander machine does not work. It is not just about one single church or ministry; there is a grander picture at play—like a drop in a bucket of water that sends ripples over the surface. There is much, much more to leadership than the worship at Hope's Table. The decisions we make do not just affect us. They affect the synod, and the ELCA, as a whole.

Having support from the synod has left an immense positive effect on me throughout this whole journey. In those moments when I may doubt myself, or not believe in myself, the synod staff have all uplifted me and given me support. The synod has also supported the mission of Hope's Table as vital to the community, proving once again, that God's people are seen and their needs are heard; that they are not ignored except on a Sunday morning. This continues to demonstrate that my service is properly placed.



I am excited to serve as Hope's Table's SAOM leader and the possibilities and doors that will open for us. I am also excited to be attending the Fresh Expressions National Gathering 2026 at the end of February with other colleagues from NEPA Synod in Ocala, Florida. It is proving to be an inspiring year. I have big dreams for Hope's Table! And why should I? I serve an even bigger God who has done amazing things.

Three Gatherings Across the Synod - Each event runs 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. with three speakers focused on its theme.

Learning Ministry Days



Register at godslove.org/LMD26

Mar 7, 26 - "How Do We Lift Every Voice: Exploring Worship, Music and Family Ministries" (Atonement Lutheran, Wyomissing)

Apr 25, 26 - "How Can We Walk Together: Mental Health and Spiritual Wholeness" (Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit, Emmaus)

Sept 19, 26 - "Who Do We Trust: Truth, Scams and AI" (Zion United Lutheran, Brodheadsville)



VOLUME 31
ISSUE 3
March
2026



Lehigh Mission District
mailing address:
PO Box 10
Old Zionsville, PA 18068

The Rev. Thomas D. Busted, Dean
The Rev. Jean L. Huber, Assoc. of the Bishop
Mission District Chair
Linda Gery, Newsletter Editor

610-966-3834
610-704-5133
TBD
610-395-5535

2026 Rostered Ministers Gathering Reminders:

Wednesday, March 11
10:30am at the Lutheran
Center, Rev. Dr. Roger
Timm - Reengaging ELCA
Social Teaching on Abortion

Tuesday, March 31
at the Lutheran Center
Annual Chrism Mass and
luncheon (see *synod news*
for updates and to RSVP)

Sunday, May 3
4pm at the Lutheran
Center, Lehigh Mission
District - Annual Spring
Assembly

Thursday, June 4 -
Saturday, June 6
at Split Rock Resort
NEPA Synod Assembly

July/August - on break
See you in September!



2026 NEPA Synod Assembly
June 4-6, 2026
Split Rock Resort
(428 Moseywood Rd,
Lake Harmony, PA 18824)

The Synod Assembly is the annual
gathering of the synod's congregations,
pastors, and leaders to worship,
conduct business, and discern the
church's mission together.

Registration runs April 7-May 11



April 2026 LMD NL news
will be due March 16, 2026.

Please email any information to
lmdnewsletteredit@icloud.com

A Collaborative History of the Lehigh Mission District, part 2

19th Century

According to Preston A. Laury's *The History of the Allentown Conference of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania* (Kutztown Publishing Co., 1926) the Allentown Conference formally came into existence at a meeting January 2, 1894. Before that, this territory was first part of the Macunshy [sic.] District (1783), then the Easton District (1801), then the Second District/Conference. Congregations were organized by the conference into pastoral charges, many of which existed and fluctuated well into the 20th century.

When "New Measures" such as the "anxious bench" and revivals infiltrated Lutheran churches, Lutheranism in the United States began to schism into conservative/orthodox and Americanizing/New Measures factions, eventually formalized into two competing denominations. The Ministerium of Pennsylvania joined the more conservative General Council and established a seminary in Philadelphia with conservative faculty who left the seminary at Gettysburg. The New Measures Lutherans joined the General Synod which was associated with the seminary at Gettysburg whose president was Rev. Samuel Simon Schmucker, formerly a Ministerium pastor. His Americanized Augsburg Confession further split Lutherans into orthodox and Americanizing factions. Significantly, St. Paul's in Allentown left the Ministerium of Pennsylvania and joined the General Synod in the 1870s. However, before leaving the Ministerium it established other Lutheran congregations in the city including St. John's English (37 S. 5th Street). St. Paul's and other General Synod congregations' role within local Lutheranism diminished as Ministerium/General Council congregations sought dominance in the territory. These "other Lutherans" weren't incorporated back into the life of the local Lutheran church body until the second half of the 20th century through a series of denominational mergers and reconfiguration of jurisdictional boundaries.

...to be continued

The Rev. Thomas D. Busted,
Lehigh Mission District Dean



Clean Comedy Show

at St. Peter's Lutheran Church
(1933 Hanover Ave, Allentown)

Funny Together comedians present an evening of clean comedy on Saturday, March 21st in the gym.

Doors open at 6:30 PM and the fun starts at 7! Kitchen will be open offering snacks and goodies for purchase.

See attached flyer for details.



Spring Fling Dance

featuring the Hanover Big Band at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church (140 S. Ott Street, Allentown)

Saturday, April 18th, 7 to 10 PM in the Fellowship Hall (enter from rear parking lot)

All are welcome to this evening of fun and dancing!

Dress is casual. Tickets are \$15/person. They may be purchased by calling the office (610-435-6512 x200) or are available at the door.

See attached flyer for details.



A season of reflection, renewal and preparation.



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.

Registration for more shows opens on 2/15!

If you are interested, we encourage you to put your name on a wait list for any sold-out shows.

Please see the attached newsletter or visit the website for more info.



www.theneighborhoodcenterallentown.com

344 N. 7th Street, Allentown, PA 18102

Phone: 610-434-5799

The Neighborhood Center is dedicated to providing early childhood education, specifically designed for our Early Learners, to prepare them for kindergarten. We also offer an Elementary Program and a Teens Program that meets regularly after school and during the summer.

A gift today will provide safe after-school activities, homework help, warm meals, and a place where kids know they belong. You truly make it possible for us to keep serving the children who need us most.

Family Promise of Lehigh Valley (FPLV), a 501(c)(3) organization that provides shelter, meals, and case management to children and families experiencing or at risk of homelessness in the Lehigh Valley.

Our partner congregations are the backbone of our mission. As a volunteer-driven organization, our work wouldn't be possible without the support of congregations like yours. We'd be grateful for the opportunity to share this ministry with your church or your mission team. Please contact us for more information.



1346 W. Hamilton Street, Allentown PA 18102

Phone: 610-351-1368

Email: Director@FPlhighvalley.org

www.FPlhighvalley.org



CHRISTMAS, BIRTHDAY, or ANNIVERSARY

GIFT IDEA: DONATE ANYTIME at

www.crophungerwalk.org/allentownpa

LIKE us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/AllentownCROPWalk/>

CROP MINI-WALKS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

THANK YOU to ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH-EMMAUS!

On Sunday, October 26th, 23 children and adults participated in the 2025 St. John's Lutheran Church-Emmaus CROP Hunger Walk during the Sunday School hour, raising over \$750 to help our food-insecure neighbors near and far.

THANK YOU for helping to raise **OVER \$28,700** through our **2025 Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk** to help our food-insecure neighbors in the Allentown area and beyond!

As a result of your generosity, the **LEHIGH CHURCHES' CONFERENCE KITCHEN** and the **ALLENTOWN AREA ECUMENICAL FOOD BANK** will be receiving **more than \$3,585 each** for their vital ministries with neighbors experiencing food insecurity in our area.

And **CHURCH WORLD SERVICE** will be able to help many more of our neighbors who are struggling in the aftermath of floods, fires, droughts, and other disasters throughout the United States and the world.

Many Thanks to Our Generous Sponsors!

