



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

NOVEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



**The
Pastor's
Corner.....**

Dear Church Family,

Approaching Thanksgiving, a good number of people take some time to look back at the year, to look back upon their life, and to recognize the things in which they are thankful for.

I know that as I do this, I can see a lot of the ways in which God has blessed me. You know, Saint Paul, in many of his letters to the different churches he started, begins with some form of a thank you. Probably the most memorable one, at least for me, comes out of his letter to the Philippians. Sitting in a jail cell with very meager living conditions, Paul begins his letter to them, "I thank my God every time I remember you." In the midst of Paul's struggle, in the midst of being confined, in the midst of not being able to do ministry the way he would like to do it, Paul looks at all the ways the people of the Philippian Church continued to bless him. But not only him, but also the people of God back in Jerusalem. I am by no means saying that I'm confined or that I'm living in meager conditions, but I do understand Paul's struggle of not being able to do ministry the way in which he would like to do it, in the way in which it should be done. There are times in which I feel the same way. And yet in the midst of everything going on, you still continue to uphold me and remember me.

In working on this newsletter, and reflecting back on all things, and in all the ways, God has blessed us, and looking forward to Thanksgiving, a hymn kept coming to mind. This hymn, written by Henry Smith, is titled, "Give Thanks," or maybe better known as "Give Thanks With A Grateful Heart." Like with most songs, there is a story behind this hymn.

Henry Smith wrote this great hymn as he struggled in his life. He had trouble finding work after graduating from college. Smith suffered from a degenerative condition that eventually left him legally blind. Yet, while at his church in Williamsburg, Virginia, his pastor inspired him with a reference to how Jesus made himself poor to make others rich through him. Throughout the hymn, Smith is giving thanks to God for the precious gift of Jesus. He sees that God's side of the equation of life, the blessings God freely bestows on us, outweigh, whatever is on the opposite side, whatever the heartache, the struggle we find ourselves in. And so, with Smith, with each other, with Paul, with the writers of the Psalms, we give thanks to God.

We all have so much to be thankful for! I pray that you take a moment to pause, to reflect and see the great things which God has blessed you with. As you and I recognize these blessings, may we joyfully return things to God.

God's blessings to you and a blessed Thanksgiving to you from me.

Blessings,
Pastor Lynn



A message from your Council President

In the month of November, we celebrate All Saints Sunday, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving and Christ the King Sunday. We have so much to be thankful for and we are so blessed.

As we move through this season, it's a wonderful time to pause and reflect on the many blessings God has poured into our lives. Each day, we are surrounded by reminders of His goodness — in the beauty of creation, the warmth of fellowship, and the simple joys that fill our hearts. James 1:17 reminds us, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above and comes down from the Father of lights."

When we recognize God's blessings, our natural response should be gratitude — not just in words, but in action. True thankfulness overflows into the way we live and how we treat others. Being a blessing means allowing God's love to flow through us to those around us. Whether it's offering a helping hand, sharing a kind word, praying for someone in need, or giving of our time and resources, we become instruments of His grace.

In a world often filled with need and hardship, even the smallest act of kindness can shine the light of Christ. Galatians 6:9-10 encourages us, "Let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not... let us do good unto all men."

As we give thanks this season, let's also remember to be the reason someone else gives thanks. God blesses us not so we can hold tightly to what we have, but so we can share generously. A thankful heart becomes a giving heart — one that reflects the love of Christ in all things.

May we each take time this week to thank God for His endless goodness and look for ways to bless others in His name.

"O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good: for His mercy endures forever." — Psalm 107:1

In Christian Service,
Thomas F. Rieger
Council President

CHURCH COUNCIL

HIGHLIGHTS.....

- Council approved a new copier lease with Topps Business Solutions, and have sent out the notice to Toshiba that we will not move forward with them.
- Council meet on October 15th and discussed the many ways to approach Stewardship within St. Mark.
- Adventures will be going to Marble Chowder House on Saturday, November 8, 2025. We will meet at the church at 1:00 pm to carpool with lunch at 2:00 pm.
- Youth Group Soup and Chili Fundraiser is Sunday, November 9th @11:15 am in Luther Hall We hope we sell out like in the past. All are welcome.
- If you have any ideas for a fundraiser that you would like to share and help with please reach out to the church office.
- Council approved a proposal made by Terri Harkins to place a Recycle Clothes Bin at St. Mark. Local Schools have them and the information was shared with us by Sara Belkoff, who told us about the one at Trexler Middle school. It is fully insured. They maintain it at all times. It is for **RECYCLED ITEMS ONLY**. Things that would normally be thrown in the garbage to be placed in a landfill. (What we do with the items from clothes closet that we can't put out for people to take) They monitor it and empty when full. We will receive 10 cents per pound. If at any time it becomes an issue/problem we will ask them to remove it. The bin holds over 100 pounds so if we keep it full we will receive a monthly income of around \$100 or more. Enclosed is a flyer as to what can be placed in the bin. Share with your family so we can keep it full and generate an income.

Thank You!

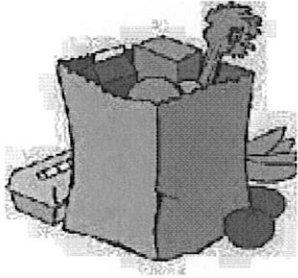


All children ages 3 and up are welcome to join Sunday School it begins at 9:00am each Sunday.

There are a few NEW students this year who have joined in the fun and adventures with our Sunday School teachers and helpers.

On Sunday, October 26th they all joined in the fun of a Halloween Party and pumpkin carving afternoon. There were over 10 children, parents and teachers joining in the fun!!

More surprises and adventures to come in the next 2 months!!



The Open Door Food Pantry

Happy Fall everyone! In the month of October we served 78 households which consisted of 177 adults, 89 children and 54 elderly. As I am writing this the federal budget and state budget both have not been passed. What this means for our food bank is that we will not be able to order much food from Second Harvest. It also was recently reported that beginning in November, food stamps/EBT will be paused until the federal budget is passed. This could also result in us being busier.

We are so very thankful for all of your donations (food and monetary). For the month of November our suggested donations are oatmeal and hot cereal.

Please say a prayer that these budgets get passed!

Sandy



Happenings From the Month of October...

Our craft activity was provided by a local crafter, Carly participants created canvas pumpkins using recycled puzzle pieces. We utilized our new system of RSVP'ing for the craft. An alternate craft was provided for those that did not RSVP since the pumpkin craft was limited to 15 people. We had 3 people that did not RSVP. This is much better than usual.

Luncheon: We had a Halloween party where many participants came in costumes and a contest was held with gift cards as the prizes for the best costumes. Some other games included guessing the amount of candy in jars. Our food for the day was (Beef Chili, Chicken Chili and vegetarian chili) served with rice and chips. We also used the new process of RSVP'ing for this activity. If you RSVP'd your name went in for a raffle for a wawa gift card. The people that called ahead had first seats and were served first. This also went well, we had 100 people that responded ahead. There were 11 that came without an RSVP. We were able to serve everyone and in a much more organized manner.

Looking ahead: October 21 is Harvest Full of Hope, Brenda, Charlie and DJ will be at our outreach table at the conference. We will be handing out pinecones with bird seed on attached is a tag with our church information.

November 20 we are having 10% donation night at Texas Roadhouse (See Attached) you must give the server the flyer or have it on your phone. Texas Roadhouse will provide a raffle basket for us to raffle and Sharing Life will have a few additional baskets to raffle that evening.

Thanksgiving We are in need of turkeys for our Thanksgiving luncheon, they can be brought in anytime and left in the freezer in the kitchen. We will need them by November 15th at the latest. Thank You!!!

Blessings,
Sue Krasley and the Sharing Life Committee.



All Saints' Day

As we observe All Saints Day Sunday, November 2nd, please remember those who have gone before us.

Nancy D. Bauer
Margaret M. Deifer
Joyce F. Gabaree
Linda Lee Miller
Anna Faye Moyer
Joseph J. Nemesch, Sr
Gertrud E. Stroble
Joan G. Werkheiser

All will forever remain in our hearts.

St. Mark Adventurer's

The Adventurer's are going to Lunch on Saturday, November 8th at **Marblehead Chowder House** in Easton. We will carpool to the restaurant for anyone who needs a ride. If you would like to carpool, meet us here in the church parking lot by 1:00pm for a 2:00pm reservation. If you are interested in attending, please sign-up on the sheet at the Adventurer's table in the back of the church or call the church office to let Terri know you are interested.



Harvest Home 2025

November 9th up to
and including
November 16th

Please bring non-perishable food items to be placed at the altar. All food from the display will go to the St. Mark Food Pantry.



Thank You to everyone who purchased a coupon and helped in selling them as well.

IT'S HERE!!!! IT'S HERE!!!!

Soup & Chili Fundraiser!!!



Sunday, November 9th, 2025

11:15 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

(or until soups/chilis sell out—which is has the last two years so come EARLY!)

Luther Hall, St. Mark Lutheran Church
201 E. Juniata St., Allentown, PA

Warm up with soups and chilis available for purchase in a bowl to enjoy in Luther Hall or pints and quarts to take home.

They freeze well too so you can stock up for the winter!

Also selling hot dogs, snack bags, beverages and baked goods!

All proceeds benefit the church!



November BIRTHDAYS!!!

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

Waltraut "Wally" Miltenberger – November 4
Tina Kantong – November 9
Elisabeth Herrmann – November 17
Larry Dotter – November 19
Linda Gier – November 21
Diane Weidner – November 22

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

Happy Veteran's Day.



Ali Dandridge – US Marine
Emily Gonzalez – US Navy
Terry M. Klingaman – US Marine
Ronnie Moyer – US Army
Ed Wieder – US Navy

Please do not forget all who are serving or have served, Tuesday, November 11th, 2025
The church office will be closed in observance.



2025
Lehigh Mission District
Christmas Ingathering

St. Mark Church along with 23 Churches in the Lehigh Valley are beginning to collect items for the Lehigh Mission District Christmas Ingathering.

The 2025 Ingathering information can be found in an insert along with this newsletter. We will collect the items until Sunday, November 30th. This year St. Mark is collecting for Topton Home, and Daybreak. If you gave a wrapped gift last year Carol will be reaching out to you again this year, with the gender and child's age. Thank You to Sandy Dillaway and Carol Hartigan for attending the Ingathering meeting in September at St. John's, Emmaus. We look forward to your continued support in this yearly Ingathering project for others that are less fortunate than we are.



Pointsettia order forms are enclosed in this newsletter. **Red, White, Pink and Marble are the color choices for this year.** The plants are \$11 each orders are due by **Sunday, November 30th**

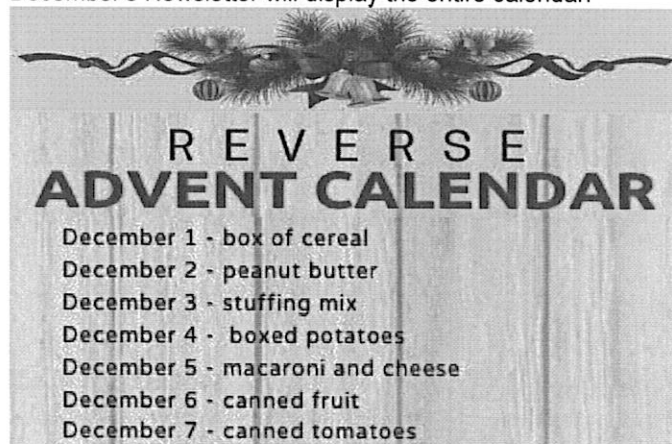
If you have any questions, please see Tom Rieger or Terri Harkins.



Debra Deifer has asked if you could bring in your old eye glasses and all kinds of can tabs. They benefit The Pennsylvania Association for the Blind. There is a basket in the Narhex to place your items.
Thank You!!!



We are looking forward to our season of Advent. Let us help those less fortunate than we are. Please consider a Reverse Advent Calendar to help with the St. Mark Food Pantry. Take the list along with you on your next shopping trip so it is right at your fingertips. Below is the first week just to get you started. December's Newsletter will display the entire calendar.



Add to your calendar:

Christmas Eve is Tuesday this year. We will hold the Candlelight Service at 7:00pm with a Pre-Lude of Music ahead of the service. Followed by a Holiday Fellowship in Luther Hall sponsored by Parish Life.

If you wish to participate in the Prelude of Music Christmas Eve or join the choir for the Christmas season, please see John Harkins.

CHOIR rehearsals are
Wednesday's @ 6:00pm

Christmas Eve Social: Anyone willing to bake, make something, or donate, please see Terri Harkins, Linda Gier or Pat Golley.



St. Mark/Sharing Life Basket Social
Saturday, January 31st, 2026
And Sunday, February 1st, 2026!!
We will also be looking for bakers.
If you wish to contribute, please see Terri Harkins, Linda Gier or Sandy Dillaway. Thank You!!



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.

November 2nd, 2025 – All Saints Sunday

Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18

Psalms 149

Ephesians 1:11-23

Luke 6:20-31

November 9th, 2025 – 22nd Sunday after Pentecost (Harvest Home)

Job 19:23-27a

Psalms 17:1-9

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

Luke 20:27-38

November 16th, 2025 – 23rd Sunday after Pentecost (Harvest Home)

Malachi 4:1-2a

Psalms 98

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Luke 21:5-19

November 23rd, 2025 – Christ the King Sunday

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Psalms 46

Colossians 1:11-20

Luke 23:33-43

November 30th, 2025 – 1st Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5

Psalms 122

Romans 13:11-14

Matthew 24:36-44

****If you would like to Usher or be an Acolyte please reach out to Roxann Rieger or the church office.**



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!!!!

Daylight savings ends at 2:00am on Sunday, November 2nd, don't forget to turn your clocks back an hour. You don't want to show up an hour early for church now, do you. LOL!!



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





2025

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:

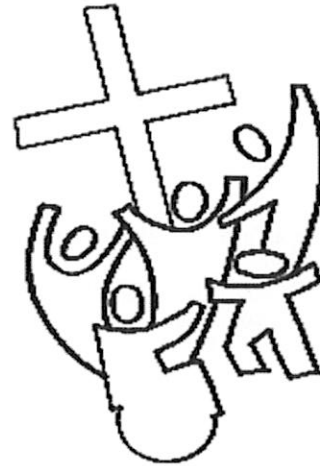
www.facebook.com/stmarkallentown

Hospital Code: 300

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Sunday School 9:00am Worship 10:00am Pressure Cuff Ministry All Saints Sunday	3	4 Sharing Life Craft/Knit Day 1:00pm - 3:00pm Choir 6:00pm	5	6	7	8 Adventurer's Lunch 2:00pm Marblehead Chowder House
9 Sunday School 9:00am Worship 10:00am Soup/Chili Fundraiser 11:15am Luther Hall Harvest Home	10 Office Closed Open Door 10:00am - 12:00pm 	11 Widows Club Luncheon 1:00pm - Perkins Choir 6:00pm	12	13	14	15
16 Sunday School 9:00am Worship 10:00am Harvest Home	17	18 Open Door Food Delivery 10:30am	19 Sharing Life Thanksgiving Luncheon 12:00pm - 3:00pm Choir 6:00pm Council Meeting 6:00pm	20 Open Door 4:00pm - 6:00pm	21	22
Christ the King Sunday 23 Sunday School 9:00am Worship 10:00am Trees and Greens going up after the service	24	25	26 Office Closed Choir 6:00pm	27 Office Closed 	28	29
30 Sunday School 9:00am Worship 10:00am 1st Sunday of Advent	December 1	2 Sharing Life Craft/Knit Day 1:00pm - 3:00pm	3	4	5	6

Serving Our Church November 2025		
November 2 nd – All Saints Sunday Sunday School 9:00am/10:00am Worship Pressure Cuff Ministry		
Lector/Communion Assistant: Linda Kline	Ushers: Doris Brezan Tammy Walbert Linda Gier Terri Harkins	Council on Duty: Bill Walker
Altar Guild: Sue Krasley, Makayla Krasley, and Josephine Wieder	Videographer: Tom Rieger	Acolyte: Wyatt Trautman
November 9 th – 22 nd Sunday after Pentecost Sunday School 9:00am/10:00am Worship Soup/Chili Fundraiser 11:15am Luther Hall		
Lector/Communion Assistant: Brenda Mann-Orben	Ushers: LuAnn Bresnak Carol Hartigan Linda Kline Sue Krasley Josephine Wieder	Council on Duty: Cindy Arnold
Altar Guild: Terri Harkins and Linda Gier	Videographer: Terri Harkins	Acolyte: DJ Landis
November 16 th – 23 rd Sunday after Pentecost Sunday School 9:00am/10:00am Worship		
Lector/Communion Assistant: Carol Hartigan	Ushers: LuAnn Bresnak Carol Hartigan Linda Kline Sue Krasley Josephine Wieder	Council on Duty: DJ Landis
Altar Guild: Terri Harkins and Linda Gier	Videographer: Kathy Walker	Acolyte: Patrick Merkle

November 23 rd – Christ the King Sunday Sunday School 9:00am/10:00am Worship		
Lector/Communion Assistant: Tammy Walbert	Ushers: Brenda Covely Roxann Rieger Tom Rieger Kathy Walker Zachary Walker	Council on Duty: Dan Christman
Altar Guild: Linda Kline and Linda Raad	Videographer: Dan Christman	Acolyte: Aliyah Wragg
November 30 th – 1 st Sunday of Advent Sunday School 9:00am/10:00am Worship		
Lector/Communion Assistant: Linda Kline	Ushers: Brenda Covely Roxann Rieger Tom Rieger Kathy Walker Zachary Walker	Council on Duty: Sandy Biery
Altar Guild: Linda Kline and Linda Raad	Videographer: Terri Harkins	Acolyte: Wyatt Trautman
December 7 th – 2 nd Sunday of Advent Sunday School 9:00am/10:00am Worship		
Lector/Communion Assistant: Linda Kline	Ushers: LuAnn Bresnak Carol Hartigan Linda Kline Sue Krasley Josephine Wieder	Council on Duty: Gloria Hottenstein
Altar Guild: Roxann Rieger and Edie Lindenmuth	Videographer: Tom Rieger	Acolyte: DJ Landis



Saint Mark's Lutheran Church and Clothes Bin®

have partnered to collect and recycle old clothing, shoes and textiles! **So, please do not throw them away!**

Just place the items in the *green* recycling bin at the Church's parking lot.

Every pound of recycled items supports

Saint Mark's Lutheran Church!

Below is a list of items that can be placed in our bin:

Clothing: pants, jeans, skirts, dresses, suits, shorts, shirts, tees, tanks

Footwear: shoes, boots, heels, sneakers, sandals, socks, tights

Undergarments: bras, underwear, slips, camisoles

Accessories: hats, belts, ties, scarves, headbands

Handbags: wallets, totes, luggage, backpacks, briefcases

Linens: towels, sheets, comforters, blankets, tablecloths

As you clean out the old and bring in the new, **you** can help the environment and **Saint Mark's Lutheran Church** too!





Valid at: 6268 Hamilton Blvd. - Trexlertown, PA 18106

DINE TO DONATE



Thursday, November 20, 2025
4pm – 10pm

Support **Sharing Life** by presenting this flyer to the **Trexlertown** location and Texas Roadhouse will donate **10%** of your total check to **Sharing Life**!

10% DONATION NIGHT

A digital copy of this invitation may be used in lieu of the printed document when shown to your Dine-in Server or To-go host on the night of the fundraiser. Valid for Dine-in (excluding alcoholic beverages), To-go and Gift Card purchases for future visits!



NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Do Justice, Love Kindness, Walk Humbly: The Work of the Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania

Written by: Pastor Mike Bennethum, LAMPa Policy Council Chair

In a well-known scripture, the prophet Micah proclaims, “He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (NRSV Micah 6:8) It has been pointed out that we Lutherans often are more comfortable loving justice and doing kindness; that is, we find satisfaction in feeding hungry people but shy away from calling out and addressing the root causes of hunger and poverty. For the past 46 years, Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania (LAMPa) – funded in part by your mission support giving – has taken up the important, but daunting task of working to change systems that perpetuate inequity and injustice.

LAMPa’s staff – Tracey DePasquale, Director, and Pastor Erin Jones, Communications and Advocacy Engagement Manager, joined this year by Hunger Advocacy Fellow, Daniella Garber – work with a Policy Council composed of representatives of Pennsylvania’s seven synods, the United Lutheran Seminary, and a synod bishop to develop a biennial Policy Agenda that guides our church’s engagement with state legislators and departments in the governor’s office.



2025 Lutheran Day at the Capitol

The current Policy Agenda includes the following priorities:

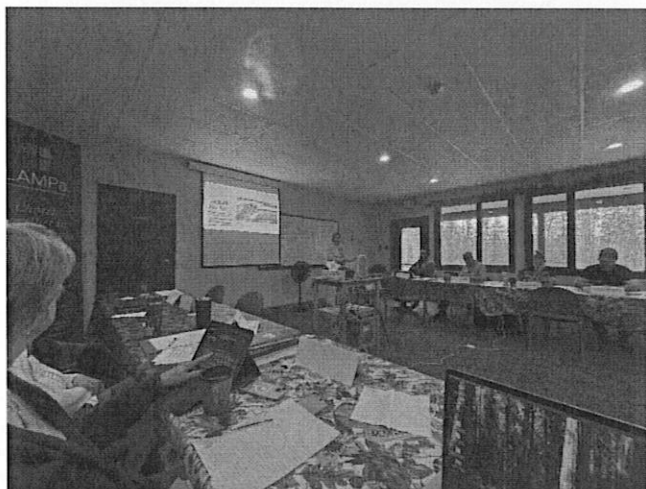
- Hunger: improving access to healthy, affordable food;
- Creation Care: advocating for laws that protect clean air, water, and land;
- Poverty: addressing homelessness and housing insecurity;
- Education: working toward adequate and equitable school funding;
- Healthcare: working to ensure all Pennsylvanians have access to affordable care;
- Civil Rights: working to reduce hate crime and safeguard the right to vote;
- Immigration: standing for welcome to our newest neighbors; and
- Violence Reduction: addressing the root causes of violence, including trauma and extreme poverty.

The LAMPa staff and Policy Council pursue this ambitious agenda in several ways:

- By forming and participating in coalitions with leaders of other denominations, faith-based organizations, and community groups that are passionate about these same issues;
- By engaging with state legislators and those who work in the governor's office, regardless of party affiliation, to advance measures that benefit all Pennsylvanians;
- And, most important, by equipping and supporting the members of the 1,050 ELCA congregations in Pennsylvania so that each of us becomes more confident expressing our faith in the Good News of Jesus by becoming bold advocates for a just and compassionate society. The widely used Bonhoeffer curriculum is just one example of this.



Policy Council Chairs: NEPS Bishop Christopher deForest, Pastor Dillon Epler, and Pastor Mike Bennethum



LAMPa Council Policy Meeting

Each of you is an important partner in this ministry. Check out LAMPa's website, lutheranadvocacy.org. Sign up to receive helpful Action Alerts regarding pending legislation that addresses the issues above. Follow LAMPa on Facebook and Instagram. Sign up to join approximately 250 of your fellow Lutherans at the next Lutheran Day at the Capitol (tentatively Tuesday, April 21, 2026).

At the center of Lutheran ethics is God's command to love our neighbors as ourselves. Please join in this ministry of neighbor-love by supporting LAMPa's work. Thank you for your mission support giving that helps to make this possible!

DID YOU KNOW that your Mission Support helps fund areas of the synod and ELCA like this one and many other important initiatives? Your contributions are making a significant impact and helping others grow in faith, supporting the synod's lanes of Growing Young, Gaining Strength, and Going Beyond Death to Life, along with the directions of loving like Jesus, healing like Jesus, and engaging like Jesus. To learn more, visit godslove.org/missionsupport.

LAMPa
Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania
Action Alert

STAY INFORMED AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

LAMPa's Action Alerts connect faith and public life by giving you quick, meaningful ways to advocate for justice and compassion in Pennsylvania. Each alert includes background and an easy way to contact legislators on issues like hunger, housing, and creation care.

SIGN UP
TODAY



lutheranadvocacy.org



VOLUME 30
ISSUE 10
November
2025

Lehigh Mission District
NEWSLETTER

The Rev. Thomas D. Busteed, 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

Upcoming Rostered Ministers Gatherings:

Wednesday, November 12
10:30am-12noon
at the Lutheran Center
(Synod Office)
Ms. Stacy Klann -
Evertrue Living

Thursday, December 11
beginning at 8am
at Egner Chapel,
Muhlenberg College
Advent Eucharist Service
followed FREE breakfast
in the Hoffman House.
(Please RSVP for breakfast to
lehighlutherans@gmail.com)

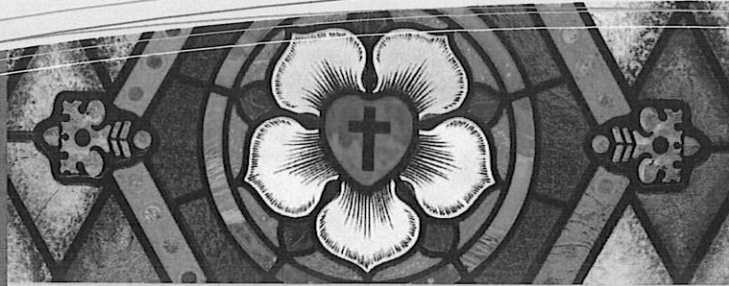
Wednesday, January 14
beginning at 10:30am
at the Lutheran Center
(Synod Office)
Rev. Dr. Jennifer Hope-
Tringali - Director of New
Ministries

All Saints Concert

Sun., November 2nd, 4 pm
The Lutheran Church of the
Holy Spirit (3461 Cedar
Crest Blvd, Emmaus)

Please join us for an
afternoon of worship and
remembrance.
Refreshments will follow.

For more info, call the
church at 610-967-2220.



December 2025 LMD NL news
will be due November 10, 2025.

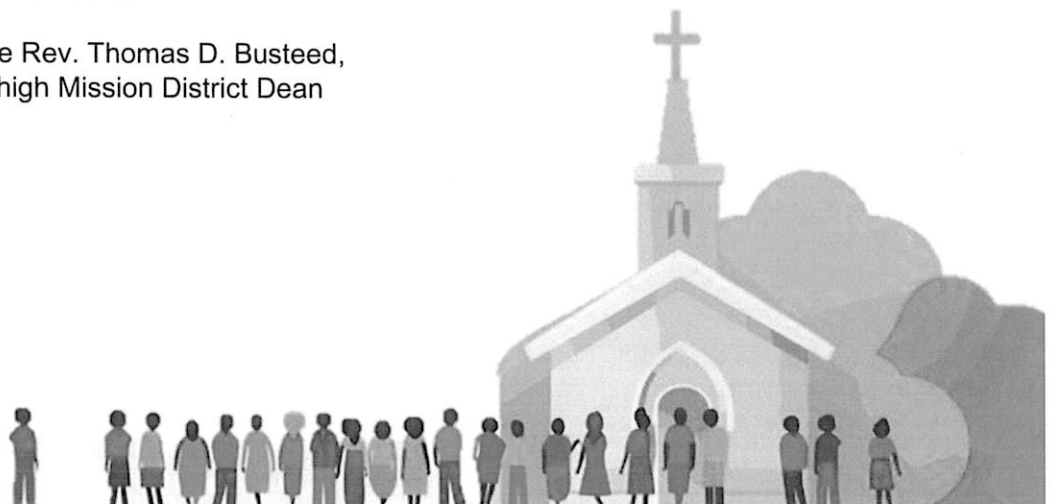
Please email any information to
lmj.newslettereditor@gmail.com

"Ohne Verdienst" part 4

When our ancestors were converted to the Christian faith, we understood our relationship with God as being a contractual one. God provides for all our needs, and we respond with good deeds. Sin is a problem, because if good begets good, then evil begets evil. Every evil deed, every sin, has a consequence. Luther was terrified of God, because he never felt adequate in keeping up his end of the bargain. He saw himself falling short constantly. He felt an overwhelming debt to God for all of his sins, a debt that was crushing, and oppressive, and led him to despair. Then he discovered 'ohne Verdienst.' We cannot fulfill our end of the contract. We do not 'earn' or 'merit' our salvation. Only Christ can fulfill that contract for us, and like Tyr, Christ sacrificed himself for the good of others. But unlike Tyr, it cost Christ more than a hand, it cost his entire body and life.

This insight is our particular gift, as Lutherans, to the rest of the church. You need not speak German to benefit or understand it. People all over the world have received the good news of our salvation through Jesus Christ. In fact the Lutheran church is growing fastest these days in Africa where there are approximately more than 24 million Lutherans (that's more than 6 times as many Lutherans as there are in North America which has a little over 3 million Lutherans). Surprisingly, it is more likely to find a German speaking Lutheran in Africa than it is in the United States, which brings us back to the initial question: why did we cover up our back wall?...to be continued.

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



Holiday Craft Bazaar

Sat., November 1st, 9 am-2 pm
held at Zion Lehigh Lutheran
Church (8269 Spring Creek
Road, Alburtis)

Crafts, Basket Raffle, Food,
Bake Sale & Grandma's Attic.

Please see the attached flyer for details.



St. Andrew's Cash Bingo

Sun., November 2nd, 1 pm
Doors open at 11:30 am
held at the Fearless Fire Co.
(1221 S. Front Street,
Allentown)

Food and baked goods
available. Ticket Price: \$30 or
\$35 at the door.

Ticket/Info Contacts:

Lori 610-390-2107

Sharon 484-866-5827

Lorraine 484-538-7806

Please see the attached flyer for details.



Fall Dance Party

Sat., November 15th, 7-10 pm
held at St. Timothy Lutheran
Church (140 South Ott
Street, Allentown)

Dance to the music of the
Here4Fun Band. Price: \$15
per person, includes
beverages, snacks and
desserts. Tickets available at
the door and church office,
call 610-435-6512.

All proceeds benefit the
Allentown Area Ecumenical
Food Bank.

Please see the attached flyer for details.



Lehigh Mission District Christmas InGathering Reminder:

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

St. John's Lutheran Church (501 Chestnut Street, Emmaus, PA)

If you have any questions please contact Penny at 610-390-9694.

Thank you for your support in making this ministry happen.

~ Alice, Faith, Pam, Shellie ~



The Neighborhood Center is busier than ever! Kids are filling our center with energy, laughter, and learning. But to keep up with the growing need, we're asking for your help. A gift today will provide safe after-school activities, homework help, warm meals, and a place where kids know they belong. Can you make a donation today to help us continue this work? You truly make it possible for us to keep serving the children who need us most.



www.theneighborhoodcenterallentown.com

344 N. 7th Street, Allentown, PA 18102

Phone: 610-434-5799

Like us on Facebook or check out our pictures!



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 the 2025 trips are currently SOLD OUT!

If you are still interested, we encourage you to put your name on a wait list as we invariably have cancellations.

Please see the attached newsletter for details.

THANK YOU to all the faithful walkers, community leaders, support crew, sponsors and other donors who participated in the **Sunday, October 19, 2025, Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk!**

If you or your congregation/group took any CROP Hunger Walk **PHOTOS** or **VIDEOS**, please **POST THEM** on social media and **SEND THEM** to karehad@gmail.com to include in our CROP follow-up emails to congregations and other CROP supporters!

Many Thanks to Our Generous Sponsors!



Thank You for Helping Others through the Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk as it supports the Lehigh Conference of Churches Kitchen, the Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank, and Church World Service in bringing help and hope to our neighbors facing food insecurity due to poverty, homelessness, and natural and human-made disasters.

LIKE us on Facebook:

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

CHRISTMAS, BIRTHDAY, or ANNIVERSARY GIFT IDEA: In honor of loved ones, give the gift of life! **DONATE ANYTIME** to the CROP Hunger Walk at www.crophungerwalk.org/allentownpa

Alternatively, **CHECKS FOR "CWS/CROP"** may be given through your congregation/group or sent directly to Linda Held, Allentown CROP Hunger Walk Treasurer, 3441 Devonshire Road, Allentown, PA 18103.