



## ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

201 E. JUNIATA STREET, ALLENTOWN, PA 18103

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

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

### MAY 2025 NEWSLETTER

#### Pastor's Corner - - God's people have always been dreamers!

*Jacob's dream Gen 26 \* Joseph's dream Gen 37 \* Solomon's Dream 1 Kings: 3 \* Job's Dream Job 7*  
*The prophets dream Num 12: 6 \* The Dream that saved Gideon Judges 7: 15 \* Daniel's Dream Daniel 1: 17*  
*The Dream of those redeemed by the Lord Psalm 126 \* God even gave a dream to Pilate's Wife Matthew 27: 19*  
*Joseph's dream Matthew 1:20 \* Jesus' followers Dream Acts 2: 17*

**The local church:** (Read St Mark), is a community that stands at the triangular intersections of Past, Present and Future.

**The past \*\*\*\*** is seen as an historic beating of tradition, where faith has been expressed, transformed and made meaningful through a variety of worship circumstances, events and various members and pastors cycling in and out.

As a community of faith, rooted in the resurrected Christ, where faith is expressed, transformative and meaningful to one's self and others, this shared experience develops strong alliances among those who worship, participate and celebrate the present.

**The present \*\*\*\*** A church cannot remain in the present too long or it will revert to the past. One's personal spirituality does not grow by only sitting in a church service. It will grow by the contact and interaction with people you come in contact with. And then - - it will spring you into the future. You have established and expanded several vital ministries that richly serve your community.

**The future \*\*\*\*** shows up when you recognize God's promises are here and you are willing to agree to take them on. Suddenly, you break forth into the world God has created especially for the communities around you.

Congregations like St Mark are clear about their unique calling. They are able to provide hope and meaning for their own people and those in the surrounding communities. St Mark has several clear callings of service to the community.

In the last year or two, I have listened to you tell me of your concerns for the various ministries here at St Mark. Some of you feel you are not able to do as much as you used to be able to do. The reasons are diverse – aging, wanting to travel more, your lifestyles have changed, more responsibilities for family members, and so on. All are legitimate reasons, and all reflect the various seasons of your lives.

You are holding legitimate worries. These are normal in all phases of our lives. And it is your deep passion for these ministries that drive you to your apprehensions for the future. God heard your laments. And as only God can do, God had a plan. Our vision is never God's vision.

Over the last year God has sent 12 new members to St Mark. The Holy Spirit took the hearts and minds of folks in the community and brought them to St Mark Church. I continued to hear the same thing from the newest members. They don't know why – but they were moved to come and be part of St Mark Lutheran Church. Rejoice in God's plan. You can trust that God has a plan for St Mark in this the present --- and into the future.

You know that God has called me away from St. Mark. This will be my last Pastor's Corner. I will continue to pray for the people of St Mark and the life-giving ministries you provide for those around you.

God bless you all.

*Paster Ginny*

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



## A message from your Council President

As we welcome the month of May it is a month of Honor, Gratitude and New Beginnings.

Mother's Day, observed on the second Sunday of May, is a heartfelt reminder of the nurturing love, strength, and guidance mothers provide every day. We honor not only biological mothers but also grandmothers, aunts, spiritual mothers, and all the women who have mentored and inspired us. Their faith, care, and sacrifices are a living testament to God's love in action. As Proverbs 31:28 says, "Her children arise and call her blessed."

Let us take time this month to express our gratitude, offer our prayers, and share our love with the mothers in our lives.

We remember honoring our Heroes.

Later in the month, on Memorial Day, we turn our thoughts to those who have given their lives in service to our country. This solemn day is not only a time for parades and barbecues but, more importantly, a moment of deep remembrance. We honor the courage and sacrifice of the men and women who laid down their lives for the freedoms we enjoy. As John 15:13 reminds us, "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."

May we keep their legacy alive through acts of service, peace, and gratitude.

This May, our church family also joyfully welcomes our new pastor. We are excited to begin this new journey together, guided by faith, vision, and unity. Pastor Lynn Shoemaker brings with her a heart for ministry, a passion for community, and a spirit ready to lead us into a season of growth and renewal. Let us embrace this new beginning with open hearts and prayerful support.

As we celebrate all that May offers — from the beauty of spring to the richness of remembrance — may we move forward together, inspired by love, faith, and a renewed sense of purpose.

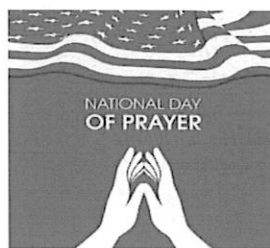
In Christian Service,

Thomas F. Rieger  
Council President



## HIGHLIGHTS.....

- We wish a warm and happy St. Mark WELCOME to Pastor Lynn R. Shoemaker. We are looking forward to worshipping together.
- Pastor Ginny left us with 4 major topics to think about moving forward as we welcome our new Pastor.
- Tom Rieger was contacted by the neighbor adjacent to the church who is requesting the City of Allentown to make the corner of Juniata and Bradford Sts., a 4 way stop. Hoping to eliminate the traffic speeding through the neighborhood.
- Our contract with EF Laudenslager expires on May 2<sup>nd</sup> they are coming on May 12<sup>th</sup> for their last required inspection per the contract.
- A leak was discovered in the Food Pantry on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Bill Walker came that same night and took care of the leak due to a loose valve.
- Thank You to Dan Christman for the start of our lawn maintenance over the summer. He had it all nice and cut for the egg hunt on the front Lawn.
- Council is looking into other ways to stream our services on a Sunday.



The National Day of Prayer is an annual day of observance designated by the United States Congress and held on the first Thursday of May, when people are asked "to turn to God in prayer and meditation". The president is required by law to sign a proclamation each year, encouraging all Americans to pray on this day.



### **The St. Mark Community Closet**

The Community Closet is packed at the moment with over 25 bags of clothing and other items. We are not taking any more donations at this time until we can catch up and have gone through all the bags. Once we are ready for more donations we will let everyone know. Thank You!!



### **The Open Door Food Pantry**

Spring is here along with the warmer weather. I Hope everyone is able to get outside to enjoy it! In the month of March we served 82 families which consisted of 185 adults, 93 children and 43 elderly patrons.

For the month of May our suggested donations are canned corn and evaporated milk. These are 2 inexpensive items but very popular at the food pantry. We haven't been able to order these recently from Second Harvest. Also, now that local fruit/vegetables will be available in the next few months, please remember the Open Door! If you see a "great" deal on any fresh items or it's more than you and your family can consume, we will gladly hand it out at the food pantry. Again...thank you for ALL donations!

To all the volunteers.....THANK YOU! It has been hard for me to not be "hands on" at the food pantry but everyone has stepped up and things have been running so smoothly. I hope to be back on the front lines soon!!

*Sandy*



## **Sharing Life**

### **Happenings From the Month of April...**



April 2 – Brenda and Charlie led crafts this month, participants created spring decorations to bring home and share. Individuals also created signs to carry on the mental health walk on May 2.

The knitting and crocheting group continued working on individual projects as well as creating items to be used for the warming shelter when it opens again in the fall.

At our Easter luncheon, participants enjoyed ham, green beans, pineapple stuffing and homemade baked goods. Various games were played. (how many jellybeans in a jar, scatagories and much more).

Sharing Life had a planning meeting this month to look at what we could do better.

1. It was decided that we would try to keep the craft day healthy with a small healthy snack and limit it to 20 participants to be able to walk around and instruct more on a one on one interaction.
2. The clothing closet will only be open before our activities and will be monitored. We have 2 volunteers that are helping, and this has been going well. They can only take 10 items unless more is needed, and we will work with an individual basis.
3. Some outside artists have expressed interest that they would be willing to help in being the instructor for craft day, we will coordinate with Brenda, Charlie and Terri.
4. We are planning on having a contest in the fall to design new tee shirts.

#### **Upcoming events:**

Mental Health Walk is May 2nd. Come see us there and we will have our own table. We will celebrate Cinco De Mayo for the May luncheon.

Many Blessings,  
Sue Krasley and the Sharing Life committee.

## The Youth

The Youth and their families will be visiting Crystal Cave on Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> after a light lunch in Luther Hall.

Any children interested in visiting Bear Creek Camp this Summer, please see Kathy Walker.



### 2025 IronPigs Baseball with St. Mark

Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup> – General Seating game starts at 7:05pm. \$13.00 person, ticket comes w/ \$2.00 food voucher.

Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup> – Buffet on the Berks Patio, Gates open at 5:15pm, \$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. See Sue Krasley for questions.



Dear St. Mark Congregation,

Thank You so much for your patience, grace and mercy through the six years I served as your Pastor.

We learned together, we forward each other's strength and YES! Weaknesses.

I appreciated the cards you took to write to me and will keep them to read on the occasions I long for your presence.

I have been enjoying the flowers. They are Beautiful and look like they could last forever in my living room.

Your generous gift card is much appreciated and will be used for something special. That was a nice surprise!

As you move ahead into God's next plan for St. Mark but know I will be praying for you and your new Pastor.

There are good things ahead.  
God is in Charge.

Blessings to All,  
Pastor Ginny



Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup> Celebrate Moms, Grandmom's, Great-Grandmom's, etc. Show them how much we love and appreciate them. God Bless them all. We will have coffee hour in Luther Hall to Honor all Mom's after the worship service, sponsored by Worship and Music.



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  
Samantha Wragg – May 24  
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.





## **UPDATED INFORMATION!! NOAH SIGHT & SOUND BUS TRIP!**

**We have only 6 seats available.**

**Saturday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025**

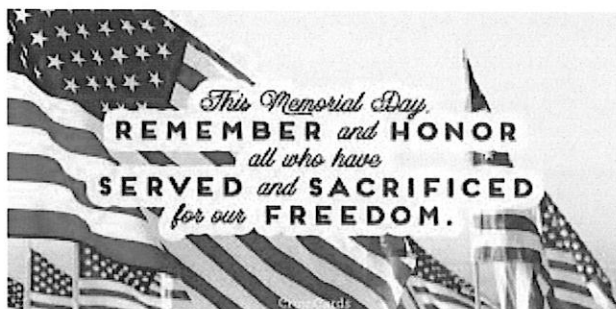
**St. Mark is going to see Noah!!**

**ALL TICKETS MUST BE PAID BY JUNE 30<sup>th</sup>**

**\*Sorry, no refunds - checks get paid to St. Mark**

**Please give to Terri Harkins or Linda Gier**

**We are getting very excited planning this fun day!! Lots of surprises for you!!**



**HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY!! Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup>**

Church Office closed for the Holiday.



My St. Mark Family knows how to make my heart full of love! Thank You!! For the beautiful flowers and gift cards I received from you on Administrative Assistant Day. I will put them to good use and something fun just for me!!! Hugs to you all, Terri!!



**Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>**  
**We Welcomed 4**  
**New Members into**  
**Our St. Mark Family.**

Debra Diefer

Joshua Hunsberger

Glenn Kocher

Alfred Wragg

We are excited and grateful to welcome you all!!



Thank You, to everyone who read, was an acolyte volunteered or helped in any way at the St. Mark Mid-Week and Holy Week services.

We couldn't do it without you!!

Thank You, to everyone who donated or volunteered to support the Youth Egg Hunt in any way.

Thank You, to Kathy Walker and everyone who helped with the Egg Hunt it was a huge success and had a big turn.

Thank You, to Linda Gier and all who assisted in the Easter Breakfast!! We had over 40 people attend the breakfast this year. I think the fullest it's been in a long time!!



**St. Mark Announces  
the Weddings of.....**

**Thomas J. Rieger and Lauren Hoch**  
**Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm**

**Nicholas Walker and Lorelei Moser**  
**Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm**

**"As you begin this beautiful journey together, may your love be a source of endless joy and strength. May your home be filled with laughter and the warmth of affection. May you always find comfort and support in each other's arms. May your faith guide you and your trust be unwavering. May you face every challenge hand-in-hand, knowing that with God's grace, you will conquer all obstacles together."**

**Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> is the deadline for the church office to receive all Newsletter Information for April.**



Masks are optional while inside the building.  
Masks are available at the entrance.

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.

**May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Third Sunday of Easter**

Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]  
Psalm 30  
Revelation 5:11-14  
John 21:1-19

**May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 9:36-43  
Psalm 23  
Revelation 7:9-17  
John 10:22-30

**May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025 - Fifth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 11:1-18  
Psalm 148  
Revelation 21:1-6  
John 13: 31-35

**May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Sixth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 16:9-15  
Psalm 67  
Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5  
John 14:23-29

**June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 – Seven Sunday of Easter**

Acts 16:16-34  
Psalm 97  
Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21  
John 17:20-26



***Welcome Pentecost  
Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup>***

**2025 Council Members**  
**Liaisons 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:**

Cindy Arnold - Open Door Food Pantry  
Sandy Biery - St Mark Adventurer's  
Dan Christman - Property/Christian Ed  
Pat Golley - Worship and Music/  
Widow's Club/Adventurers  
Carol Hartigan - Parish Life  
Gloria Hottenstein - Worship and Music/  
Widow's Club  
Rick Krasley - Sharing Life  
DJ Landis - Open Door Food Pantry  
Linda Raad - Financial  
Bill Walker - Property/Christian Ed  
Josephine Wieder - Christian Ed

\*Mutual Ministry to be reviewed and assigned at a later time

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.



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](http://www.facebook.com/stmarkallentown)  
Please be patient while the page loads.

**ST MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA  
TREASURER'S REPORT FOR MARCH 2025  
(Subject to Audit)**

	MONTH OF MARCH	3RD MONTH BUDGET	3RD MONTH ACTUAL 2025	3RD MONTH ACTUAL 2024
BUDGETED CURRENT INCOME	\$11,567.62	\$19,060.00	\$27,410.85	\$29,930.97
BENEVOLENCE	\$697.26	\$825.00	\$710.29	\$1,390.05
TOTAL BUDGETED INCOME	<b>\$12,264.88</b>	\$19,885.00	\$28,121.14	\$31,321.02
NON-BUDGETED INCOME	\$7,384.02	\$0.00	\$15,096.66	\$14,661.72
TOTAL INCOME	<b>\$19,648.90</b>	<b>\$19,885.00</b>	<b>\$43,217.80</b>	<b>\$45,982.74</b>
BUDGETED CURRENT EXPENSES	\$18,878.49	\$53,285.40	\$43,208.28	\$35,202.48
BENEVOLENCE	\$462.50	\$825.00	\$787.50	\$1,082.50
TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENSES	<b>\$19,340.99</b>	\$54,110.40	\$43,995.78	\$36,284.98
NON-BUDGETED EXPENSES	\$3,697.97	\$0.00	\$4,531.15	\$7,166.65
TOTAL EXPENSES	<b>\$23,038.96</b>	<b>\$54,110.40</b>	<b>\$48,526.93</b>	<b>\$43,451.63</b>
<b>MONTHLY ACTIVITY SUMMARY</b>	<b>BALANCE 3/1/2025</b>	<b>RECEIPTS</b>	<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>BALANCE 3/31/2025</b>
CURRENT OPERATING FUND - TRUIST	\$2,361.08	\$19,648.90	\$23,038.96	(\$1,028.98) +
QUAINT OAK BANK	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL OPERATING FUND	<b>\$2,361.08</b>	<b>\$19,648.90</b>	<b>\$23,038.96</b>	<b>(\$1,028.98)</b>

NORTHEASTERN PA SYNOD	PROCEEDS	INTEREST	PAYMENTS	LOAN BALANCE
SYNOD LOAN				\$0.00

	STARTING BALANCE	RECEIPTS	EXPENSES	ENDING BALANCE
BENEVOLENCE	(\$311.97)	\$697.26	\$462.50	(\$77.21)
ADVENTURER'S	\$258.67	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$258.67 +
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN	\$29,872.11	\$420.00	\$5,778.11	\$24,514.00 +
COUNCIL FELLOWSHIP FUND	\$254.66	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$254.66 +
DISCRE PASTOR'S FD	\$445.89	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$445.89 +
FUND RAISER	\$2,232.69	\$848.50	\$2,814.69	\$266.50 +
INSTRUMENTAL/GUEST MUSICIANS	\$232.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$232.00 +
EASTER FLOWERS- POINSETTIAS-GERANIUMS	\$0.00	\$347.00	\$0.00	\$347.00 +
LYF FUND	\$6,983.89	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,983.89 +
MEMORIAL FUND	\$8,455.00	\$100.00	\$50.00	\$8,505.00 +
LAWN MINISTRY	\$936.84	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$936.84 +
OPEN DOOR - EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY	\$5,303.99	\$1,510.00	\$60.30	\$6,753.69 +
SHARING LIFE MINISTRY	\$4,314.02	\$0.00	\$192.08	\$4,121.94 +
SPECIAL REQUEST FUND	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00 +
BOILER FUND	\$540.00	\$2,630.00	\$0.00	\$3,170.00 +

**RESTRICTED FUNDS:**

TRF FRM CUR - BENEVOLENCE	(\$77.21)
BENEVOLENCE:	
NEPS	\$0.00
ON EAGLES WINGS	\$0.00
BLANKET	\$0.00
HUNGER	(\$10.00)
DISASTER/RELIEFS	(\$623.26)
SOCIAL MINISTRY	\$0.00
OTHER	\$0.00
TOTAL BENEVOLENCE:	(\$633.26)

ADVENTURER'S	\$258.67 +
BEQUEST	\$0.00
BOILER FUND	\$3,170.00
CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND	\$0.00
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN	\$24,514.00 +
COUNCIL FELLOWSHIP FUND	\$254.66 +
DISCRE PSTR'S FD	\$445.89 +
EASTER FLOWERS-POINSETTIAS	\$347.00 +
ENDOWMENT FUND	\$0.00
FUND RAISER	\$266.50 +
INSTRUMENTAL/GUEST FUND	\$232.00 +
LAWN MINISTRY	\$936.84 +
LYF FUND	\$6,983.89 +
MEMORIAL FUND	\$8,505.00 +
OPEN DOOR - EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY	\$6,753.69 +
ORGAN FUND	\$0.00
PARSONAGE FUND	\$0.00
PHONE MAINTENANCE FUND	\$0.00
RENOVATION - ROOF & RUG	\$0.00 +
SHARING LIFE MINISTRY	\$4,121.94 +
SPECIAL REQUEST FUND	\$0.00 +
TECHNOLOGY	\$0.00 +

RESERVES: YYY CONTRIBUTION  
TOTAL OF RESERVES YEAR

**TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS:** \$56,156.82 \*

**ASSETS:**

<b>SPECIAL ASSETS:</b>	
MUTUAL FUND-VANGUARD #27 - MAR. 31,2025	\$4,008.82
MORGAN STANLEY March 31, 2025	\$31,531.09
SALE OF STOCK PENDING	
INVESTMENT RESERVES - CONTRIBUTIONS	
Current:	
Benevolence: \$	-
Property: \$	-
Other: \$	-

TOTAL OF INVESTMENT RESERVES YEAR	\$ -
SUB TOTAL SPECIAL ASSETS:	<u><u>\$35,539.91</u></u>

**LIQUID ASSETS:**

CHECKING ACCOUNT-TRUIST	(\$1,028.98)
CHECKING ACCOUNT-QUAINT OAK BANK	\$0.00
TOTAL CHECKING ACCOUNT:	<u><u>(\$1,028.98)</u></u> +
SAVINGS ACCOUNT-TRUIST	\$262.26
TOTAL SAVINGS ACCOUNT:	<u><u>\$262.26</u></u>
VANGUARD MONEY MARKET	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS:</b>	<b><u><u>\$34,773.19</u></u></b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES: NE SYNOD LOAN</b>	<b>0.00</b>

**LESS RESTRICTED FUNDS:** \$56,156.82

**UNRESTRICTED ASSETS:** (\$21,383.63)

ST MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA  
TREASURER'S REPORT FOR MARCH 2025  
TRANSFER RECAP  
(Subject to Audit)

2/19/2025 Transfer from Food Certificate X9729 to Checking	\$ 2,000.00
3/31/2025 Transfer from Fund Raiser - LYF Chili/Soup 90% of Profits	\$ 2,009.43
3/31/2025 Transfer from Restricted (Memorial: 4741) to Checking per Council action	\$ 50.00

TOTAL OF TRANSFERS YEAR TO DATE:

\$ 4,059.43

# Mother's Day Word Search

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



CARD	HOLIDAY
CARING	LOVING
CELEBRATE	MAY
CHILDREN	MOM
FAMILY	MOTHER
FLOWERS	PARENT









# 2025

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

[www.saintmarkallentown.org](http://www.saintmarkallentown.org)  
 Watch us on Facebook user or not, at:  
[www.facebook.com/stmarkallentown](https://www.facebook.com/stmarkallentown)  
 Hospital Code: 300

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 National Day of Prayer 	2	3
4 Sunday School 9:00am Worship 10:00am Pressure Cuff Ministry Parish Life	5 	6 Sharing Life Craft/Knit Day 1:00pm – 3:00pm Dinner 6:00pm Service 7:00pm	7 Sharing Life May Cinco de Mayo Luncheon 12:00pm – 3:00pm	8	9 Rieger/Hoch Wedding 4:00pm	10
11 Happy Mother's Day Sunday School 9:00am Worship 10:00am Coffee Hour after Service Sponsored by Worship/Music	12 Open Door 10:00am – 12:00pm	13 Widows Club Luncheon 1:00pm – Perkins Dinner 6:00pm Service 7:00pm	14 Widows Club Luncheon 1:00pm – Perkins Dinner 6:00pm Service 7:00pm	15	16	17
18 Sunday School 9:00am Worship 10:00am	19	20 Sharing Life May Cinco de Mayo Luncheon 12:00pm – 3:00pm	21 Open Door 4:00pm – 6:00pm	22	23	24
25 Sunday School 9:00am Worship 10:00am Walker/Moser Wedding 3:00pm June 1	26 Office Closed  Happy Memorial Day	27	28	29	30	31

Serving Our Church MAY 2025			
May 4 <sup>th</sup> – Third Sunday of Easter 9:00am Sunday School/10:00am Worship			
<b>Lector/Communion Assistant:</b> Linda Kline	<b>Ushers:</b> LuAnn Bresnak Carol Hartigan Linda Kline Sue Krasley Josephine Wieder	<b>Council on Duty:</b> Sandy Biery  <b>Videographer:</b> Tom Rieger  <b>Acolyte:</b> Wyatt Trautman	
<b>Altar Guild:</b> Roxann Rieger and Edie Lindenmuth			
May 11 <sup>th</sup> – Fourth Sunday of Easter 9:00am Sunday School/10:00am Worship Coffee Hour Sponsored by Worship/Music			
<b>Lector/Communion Assistant:</b> Brenda Mann-Orben	<b>Ushers:</b> LuAnn Bresnak Carol Hartigan Linda Kline Sue Krasley Josephine Wieder	<b>Council on Duty:</b> Pat Golley  <b>Videographer:</b> Terri Harkins  <b>Acolyte:</b> Aliyah Wragg	
<b>Altar Guild:</b> Sue Krasley, Makayla Krasley and Josephine Wieder			
May 18 <sup>th</sup> – Fifth Sunday of Easter 9:00am Sunday School/10:00am Worship			
<b>Lector/Communion Assistant:</b> Carol Hartigan	<b>Ushers:</b> Doris Brezan Tammy Walbert Linda Gier Terri Harkins Sandy Biery	<b>Council on Duty:</b> Carol Hartigan  <b>Videographer:</b> Kathy Walker  <b>Acolyte:</b> Wyatt Trautman	
<b>Altar Guild:</b> Sue Krasley, Makayla Krasley and Josephine Wieder			

May 25 <sup>th</sup> – Sixth Sunday of Easter 9:00am Sunday School/10:00am Worship		
<b>Lector/Communion Assistant:</b> Tammy Walbert	<b>Ushers:</b> Doris Brezan Tammy Walbert Linda Gier Terri Harkins Sandy Biery	<b>Council on Duty:</b> Cindy Arnold  <b>Videographer:</b> Dan Christman  <b>Acolyte:</b> DJ Landis
<b>Altar Guild:</b> Terri Harkins and Linda Gier		
June 1 <sup>st</sup> – Seventh Sunday of Easter 9:00am Sunday School/10:00am Worship		
<b>Lector/Communion Leader:</b> Linda Kline	<b>Ushers:</b> Doris Brezan Tammy Walbert Linda Gier Terri Harkins Sandy Biery	<b>Council on Duty:</b> Linda Raad  <b>Videographer:</b> Tom Rieger  <b>Acolyte:</b> Wyatt Trautman
<b>Altar Guild:</b> Terri Harkins and Linda Gier		



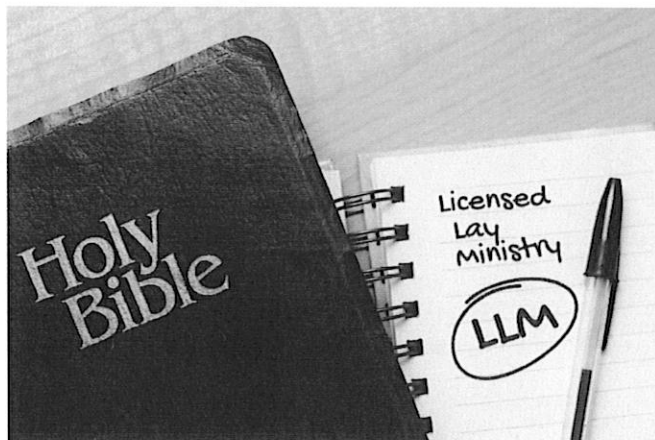
# NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## Saying Yes to God: A Personal Witness to Licensed Lay Ministry

*Written by: Michael Haspe, Licensed Lay Ministry Candidate*

I am a lifelong member of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tamaqua, PA, where I currently serve as the Christian Education Director. I felt my strongest pull to ministry during the pandemic. It was during the shutdown that God began to utilize me in new ways. I was one of four people—including the Pastor, camera operator, and organist—tasked to broadcast our services live. During this time, I learned to serve as a Cantor, Lector, and Communion Assistant, and I found I really enjoyed being a part of worship leadership. When the congregation came back, the anxiety I had previously experienced that kept me from serving (even though I really wanted to) was gone. I finally felt free to step into the roles God had been preparing me for all along.

Yet how did I get here? Near the end of 2020, I witnessed an unexplainable life-saving miracle. It was then I felt the urge to share my testimony and to preach. At the time, there was no Synodically Authorized Lay Minister (SALM) or Licensed Lay Minister (LLM) program in place, and I didn't feel called to rostered ministry. I wasn't sure what path was right for me, but the desire to be in deeper service was undeniable.



Then, in 2023, my partner of 19 years was diagnosed with Stage 4 colon cancer. My world collapsed. I had a good cry with my Pastor and told her that even though I trusted God, I was afraid. She encouraged me to go home and rest and assured me we would talk more the next day. The very next morning, she called me with news: the synod had approved the LLM program. I knew in that instant it was God commanding my attention.

It felt as though God was saying, "Michael, during this time of uncertainty and fear, YOU WILL FOCUS ON ME." I shared this with my Pastor, and no sooner did it come out of my mouth than my fear turned to calm. There aren't words to describe the sense of peace and clarity that followed.

So that's what I did. I enrolled in the LLM program and kept my eyes LASER focused on God. The anxiety didn't return. Late last year, my partner underwent major surgery to remove the cancer. The pathology report stunned the medical team—what had looked and behaved like Stage 4 cancer was downgraded to Stage 2. Today, my partner is cancer free. While doctors still can't explain it, I can. I had just witnessed a second miracle.



So that is why I am here, and that is why I am so passionate about the Licensed Lay Ministry program. It has given me a pathway to serve others and to share the good news of Jesus Christ, while I continue to discern whether rostered ministry might be the next step. For years, people in my church and community have said to me, “Michael, you are a Pastor.” And whether that becomes a career goal for me or not, this program enables me to explore ministry in meaningful ways. Through it, I can share the Gospel and lead others to Christ.

It’s no secret there is a shortage of Pastors. Being a Licensed Lay Minister allows me to serve in ways that are within my current gifts while also challenging me to grow in areas I may have once feared. LLMs can help address the pastoral shortage across our synod. No congregation is too large or too small to benefit from the presence of a lay minister. I believe the LLM program can be a catalyst to grow our churches, open new doors, and revitalize ministries.

The LLM retreats have been one of my favorite parts of this journey. The preaching retreat especially stands out. It provided me with practical tools to write and deliver sermons with confidence. I now feel my preaching is more focused and effective because of what I learned there. Pastor Peggy Würtele has been a huge inspiration to me. Her motto—“Proclamation, Proclamation, Proclamation!”—encourages us to seize every opportunity to proclaim the Gospel and remind people that grace is FREE and abundant through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As a perfectionist, I hold onto her other phrase too: “...and Jesus loves us anyway.” It helps me focus less on small details and more on the heart of the message. That reminder has been freeing and empowering.

I want to leave you with a few questions. Ask yourself honestly: “Do you love Jesus Christ? Do you believe in the free gift and promise of grace and eternal salvation? Do you love telling others about Jesus? Do you love people?” If you answered yes to any—or all—of these questions, then the LLM journey might be right for you. Talk to your Pastor or the LLM Coordinator. Take time to pray and discern if this is your next faithful step.

One excuse I frequently hear is, “I would love to do this, but I’m too old.” Let me tell you—you are NEVER too old to proclaim the Good News! Your ministry could change someone’s life. If you’re even a little bit curious about LLM, talk about it. Ask questions. You might be surprised where God is leading you. The most surprising thing I’ve learned is the impact one message can have. I’ve preached dozens of sermons, and the most humbling moments come when someone quietly tells me that something I said encouraged them, gave them hope, or inspired them to try something new. That’s the greatest reward of all.

*Discover how Licensed Lay Ministry is equipping lay leaders for faithful service. Learn more at [godslove.org/LLM](https://godslove.org/LLM), or email Licensed Lay Ministers Coordinator, Pastor Jira Albers at [llm@nepsynod.org](mailto:llm@nepsynod.org)*

**DID YOU KNOW** that your Mission Support helps fund areas of the synod 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](https://godslove.org/missionsupport)



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2025



# Lehigh Mission District

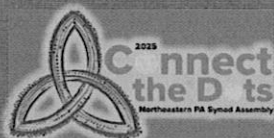
## NEWSLETTER

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

*June 2025 LMD NL news  
will be due May 12, 2025.*

Please email any information to  
[nlm.newsletter.editor@gmail.com](mailto:nlm.newsletter.editor@gmail.com)



### 2025 NEPA Synod Assembly

May 30-31, 2025

Christ Hamilton United  
Lutheran Church  
(419 Bossardsville Rd  
Stroudsburg, PA 18360)

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 ends soon!



The Christmas Ingathering  
committee wish you all a  
wonderful Spring. We will  
soon meet to discuss our  
upcoming 2025 Ingathering.

If you have any ideas or  
questions please feel free to  
call. As always we thank  
you all for your support  
and prayers.

Blessings,  
Alice, Faith, Pam,  
Penny & Shellie  
(Contact: 610-390-9694)

## You are invited...



### Lehigh Mission District Assembly

Sunday May 4 | 4:00pm

Synod Lutheran Center, Allentown

2354 Grove Road Allentown, PA 18109

For questions, please reach out to Pastor Nelson Quiñones,  
Dean of the Lehigh Mission District, at [nlqsns@gmail.com](mailto:nlqsns@gmail.com)

Every one of the nine Mission Districts in the Northeastern Pennsylvania (NEPA) Synod holds its own Mission District Assembly, where local congregations gather for ministry discussions and important business. Anyone from the area of each Mission District is welcome to attend. These assemblies serve as a time for connection and preparation, ultimately leading up to the NEPA Synod Assembly on May 30 & 31 at Christ Hamilton, Stroudsburg PA

Speaker: The Rev. Cynthia Rader Geyer  
Topic: Allentown Collaborative Ministries  
Food Truck: Queen V Wraps

No registration required – we hope to see you there!



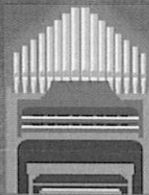
## Organ Recital

Sunday, May 18, 2025  
beginning at 4:00 PM

Zion's Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
(5901 Kings Highway South  
Old Zionsville)

We are planning to formally celebrate Zion's new organ with a special dedicatory organ recital. Allen Artist, Rudy Lucente, will dazzle and entertain us with his dramatic playing and musical talents. Rudy has been a church organist and musician his entire life in the greater Philadelphia area.

We invite the larger community to attend. It will be a delight to share his musical gifts. There will also be a time to meet Rudy during coffee and cake after the concert.



## BIG BAND DANCE

Friday, May 16, 2025

St Timothy Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
(140 South Ott Street,  
Allentown)

Dance to the music of The Hanover  
Big Band from 7-10 PM.  
Casual dress.

\$10/person – includes soda, snacks  
and desserts. All proceeds benefit  
Neighborhood House, an outreach  
of the Allentown Collaborative  
Churches.

Tickets are available at the church  
office (610-435-6512 x 200)

See the attached flyer.



## OPERATION SUNSHINE

1933 Hanover Ave, Allentown, PA 18109

Phone: 610-435-9155

Open: Mon 11-3 and Wed. 11-3

Email: [LMDopsunshine@aol.com](mailto:LMDopsunshine@aol.com)

Website: [www.LMDopsunshine.com](http://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 trips for 2025 are currently SOLD OUT!!!**

We encourage you to put your name on our waiting list.

*Please see the attached newsletter for details.*



**THANK YOU** for helping our 2024 Greater  
Allentown CROP Hunger Walk raise  
over **\$30,000** to help our 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** is receiving more than \$3700 each for  
their vital ministries with neighbors experiencing  
food insecurity in our area.

And **CHURCH WORLD SERVICE** is 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.

**Please Save the 2025 CROP  
Hunger Walk Date!**

**Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk:**  
**Sun., Oct. 19, 2025, 1:30 p.m.,**  
with registration beginning at 1:00 p.m.  
at St. Timothy Lutheran Church  
(140 S. Ott St., Allentown, PA 18104)

Find more information about the life-saving  
work of Church World Service at:  
**[crophungerwalk.org/allentownpa](http://crophungerwalk.org/allentownpa)**

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](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/allentownpa)

