



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
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 The Rev. Gregory W. Frey, Pastor

FEBRUARY, 2020

As America prepares itself for its decennial census, it might be bad news for whale fisherman and rickshaw drivers: their out-of-date vocations may disappear from the U.S. Census Bureau's list of job categories.

"Whale fisherman," for example, is headed for the scrapheap of census history, since there are no whaling fleets operating in U.S. ports after an international ban on commercial whale hunting. Nor is the outlook for "rickshaw driver" bright, barring unexpected trends in immigration. (Perhaps Uber could create some opportunities for rickshaw drivers)

Choosing a career that is a good fit with your skills and personality can be complicated enough. Finding an occupation that fulfills a desire to make a substantive difference in the world while supporting a family can be even more daunting.

The Bible tells us God intends for our work to be much more than a job, much more than a daily grind. It should be, instead, a vocation - which means, quite literally, a "calling."

In the 12th chapter of Romans, Paul challenges us with the words: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God - what is good and acceptable and perfect" (Romans 12:2). St. Paul suggests that performing a Christian vocation has far less to do with what our particular line of works is than how we understand and carry it out.

The apostle's advice, then, is to be transformed by the renewing of your minds. What one does as a vocation is not Christian because it is specifically relates to the church or spiritual propagation. The Christian

vocation is any positive vocation carried out in faith and with a mind to serve your neighbor in the capacity of your particular work. The mind, shaped by faith in God's mercy, transforms the situations of our life and work into moments of grace.

While our lives and jobs may change, our call to bear the mark of Christ in our lives remains constant. God has gifted and equipped us to live in this world. Whatever our line of work, our Christian vocation is work done in faith and for the benefit of those around us. This vocation will never be phased out.

--Pastor Frey

--WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY--

February 1	6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion
February 2	8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Worship 9:15 A.M. – Sunday School
February 8	6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion
February 9	8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Holy Communion 9:15 A.M. – Sunday School
February 15	6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion
February 16	8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Holy Communion 9:15 A.M. – Sunday School
February 22	6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion
February 23	8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Holy Communion 9:15 A.M. – Sunday School
February 26	Ash Wed. – 11:00 A.M. – Holy Communion 7:00 P.M. – Holy Communion
February 29	6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion

SOUP & BREAD PRIOR TO LENTEN SERVICES.....



Beginning February 26, soup & bread will be provided on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 P.M. before the Lenten services and at noon on Ash Wednesday. Help is always need to clean up or to make soup.

FROM THE PARISH RECORDS –

New members – January 12:

Danielle Lassiter

Matt & Justine Sim

John & Fawn Schroeder

--YTD Giving thru December 2019--

	<u>Jan- Dec.,2018</u>	<u>Jan-Dec.,2019</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>% chg.</u>
Offerings	\$ 382,313	\$ 383,583	1,270	.33
Renovation Contr.	70,612	46,673	-23,939	-33.90
Total Giving	\$ 452,925	\$ 430,256	\$ - 22,669	-5.26

THOUGHTS ABOUT TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY by JOY GERHART.....

Transfiguration Sunday is February 23, when we will be celebrating Mardi Gras in Sunday School. I have always loved Transfiguration Sunday, probably because I had the great fortune to visit Israel in 1974 (I was just a baby) and visited the Mount of Transfiguration, Mount Tabor, and the amazing church built there with beautiful mosaic murals and stained glass windows. A chapel on one side is dedicated to Moses and one on the other side to Elijah.

If you remember, in the event we know as the Transfiguration, Jesus climbed up Mount Tabor with three disciples (Peter, James, and John) and they say his likeness changed to all light, his robes became shining white (like in the old laundry commercial) and Moses and Elijah appeared, one on either side of him. We see this event in three of the four gospels, all of the “synoptic gospels,” Matthew, Mark and Luke. We are in the year of Matthew, so in Matthew 17 we read that the voice of God says “This is my Beloved Son with whom I am well pleased. Listen to him.” Not knowing what else to say or do, Peter offers to build booths, but when the disciples hear the words of God, they are terrified. Jesus says, “Don’t be afraid.” Elijah and Moses disappear and Jesus tells them not to speak of this until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead. Then a part that we don’t usually read in church: The disciples ask why the teachers of the Law say Elijah must come first (before the

Messiah?). Jesus says he has already come—hint hint—John the Baptist—but people did not recognize him.

Why Moses and Elijah? Matthew often paints Jesus as the new Moses, the bringer of the NEW covenant, the one who leads his people into God’s kingdom. Elijah is understood to be the forerunner of the Messiah, AND John the Baptist in the gospel of Matthew is described wearing clothes just like Elijah—clothes of camel’s hair with a belt around his waist (Matt. 3:4). What I find interesting is that Elijah and Moses both had “unusual endings.” Elijah is swept away up to heaven in a chariot of fire, and Moses dies on Mt. Nebo (did anyone see him or bury him?) while his people prepare to enter the promised land with Joshua and Caleb.

Why is this even important at all? I think this shows who Jesus really is—a true, ultimate epiphany, a true manifestation of the divine identity of Jesus. The disciples are terrified. Wouldn’t we be terrified too? What if we saw Jesus in gleaming white clothes and face? (Sounds like some near death experiences to me.) How do we SEE Jesus? How do we understand Jesus?

I can’t help but think back three years when the children’s sermon I did prior to my call to St. Paul’s was on the Transfiguration. (My apologies to Henry Smith for bumping him from his assignment that day.) I think I like the Transfiguration because it not only helps us see Jesus more clearly, but at the same time deepens the wonder and mystery of who Jesus is.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES.....

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study: This winter, Joy Gerhart is offering a course on Bible passages illuminated in the St. John’s Bible. So far we have studied creation, the baptism of Jesus, the genealogy of Jesus in Matthew, and the parable of the sower and the seed. We meet at 9:15 am in the church library. (We will not meet on February 23 because of the special Sunday church school celebration.)

Lenten Bible Study following mid-week Lenten worship: This year we will be studying some of the same material covered in the Sunday morning Adult Bible class, passages illuminated by the St. John's Bible. (This Bible study takes place during the Wednesday evening choir practices.) Those attending the Sunday morning class have enjoyed the beautiful illustrations/illuminations that accompany some major Bible passages finding that they provide an additional layer of insight and inspiration.

Monday Night Bible Study: Mark your calendars for February 24, the 4th Monday in February. We will talk about that mysterious yet simultaneously cool event in Jesus' life "*The Transfiguration.*" What's up with that? Find out and grab something to eat. Dinner is at 6:00 PM and the study begins about 6:30 PM.

MARDI GRAS!!!! Special SCS Program Feb. 23.....



Remember the Baptismal Beach Party last year? Well, this year we are having a Mardi Gras Celebration on Sunday, February 23 for ALL AGES, not just the children. We are going to have fun, but it will not be the raucous event that many people associate with Mardi Gras. (You all know Mardi Gras means Fat Tuesday in French and is similar to Fast Nacht in German or Shrove Tuesday, meaning the day/night before Lent begins. We moved this to the Sunday before Lent which is also Transfiguration Sunday in church.) At our Mardi Gras celebration we plan to learn about preparing for Lent and Lenten practices like prayer, donating money to a worthy cause, thinking more about Jesus. We will be making pretzels (which in the twisted shape are reminiscent of the way some monks folded their arms to pray), collection boxes to hold money people may choose to save to assist and aid the animals harmed by the wildfires in Australia, prayer cootie catchers, and decorated Alleluias that we will put in a box to represent that we "put the Alleluias away" and do not say "Alleluia" during Lent. If these things don't sound exciting for you to make, maybe you would enjoy assisting others in the centers. All Sunday School classes will be suspended to participate in this all-church activity. Join us at 9:15 in the church and then the Fellowship Hall on February 23.

YOUTH NEWS.....

SPLAT Goes Bowling Feb. 9: Our SPLAT ice cream social was a big hit! Now we are gearing up for our Bowling Trip on February 9. We will meet for lunch at church after 10:30 worship and then carpool to Jay Lanes for some exciting bowling with real bowling balls. SPLAT will pay for your games, so come and bring a friend. You may want to bring a little cash for snacks. Please sign up on the SPLAT bulletin board so we know how many people to expect. Plan to be done by 2:30 pm

SPYY Goes Bowling Feb. 16: Not to be outdone by the older youth, the St. Paul's Younger Youth (Grades 1-6) will go bowling on Sunday, February 16. We will gather for lunch after the 10:30 am worship service, then carpool to Jay Lanes. Please bring a little extra for snacks, though bowling and shoe rental will be covered. Friends are always welcome so please invite a friend and sign them up on the Youth Board. We should be done bowling by 2:30 pm.



Souper Bowl Collection Feb. 2.....

Youth wearing football jerseys will be holding soup pots for collection after each service on Sunday, Feb. 2. Hopewell Love thanks you for your generosity.



FREE PEWS!!!!

We have many beautiful pews residing in the lower level of the church building who are looking for a good home. Made of poplar wood with padded seats and backs, they would make a beautiful addition to many homes. There are at least eight 8-foot long pews in the lower level and two 4-foot pews, one each by the upper and lower spaces near the elevator. Simply let pastor know or call the church office if you are interested. Did I say they are FREE? They are!

HAVE YOU SEEN THE FLOORS????

Considerable work has been done on both levels of the church on the flooring. My Dad's Flooring has replaced our lower level flooring which was cracking in many places with no-wax floor tiles. Take a look. They are beautiful! (This was January 13 – 20+ project.) Then, also, half of the Child Development Center area floors were stripped and waxed on the weekend of January 24-26. The other half of the floors will have to be stripped and waxed, possibly in February or March. A big THANK YOU to all the volunteers who helped move classroom furniture and materials out and back in the rooms for this project. Please stay tuned because we will be needing another team of volunteers for the second half of the project.

NEW EFFORTS TO BETTER COMMUNICATE.....



Every church has challenges in their communication “systems.” Often the right hand doesn't know what the left hand is doing. We have created a new committee—the Connections Team—to try to help

improve communications between committees and groups in the church. One part of the new plan is to keep our master calendar in the church office as accurate and up to date as possible to avoid having groups expecting to use the same space at the same time. Joy Gerhart has been appointed to be the master keeper of the calendar. Any event that you plan to hold at the church, or any meeting, should be put on the master calendar. You can write the event in yourself or tell Joy. Please include the TIME and the PLACE where the activity/meeting will be held. (Please write small and don't fill up the whole space with just your activity.) (A lot of this sense of concern came to a head with the recent flooring projects.) We also plan to have a calendar or paper on the church library door to report when groups plan to use the library, just to inform others who may wish to use the room. Hopefully, this will make more information available to everyone. Please share any ideas or suggestions you may have to improve our flow of communication. Please, if you wonder what things are going on, please ask the person in charge or talk to other people in your group. Please read your emails and answer your phone messages. Send information to Joy at joygerhart@stpaulsdouglassville.com. My home email is

joygerhart@gmail.com which is a better way to contact me over the weekend.

WOMEN'S GROUP...Stay tuned for an announcement of the next Women's group event. We realize coming out at night in the winter is a concern for many.

A BIG THANK YOU.....

2019 ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Thank you to all who helped with another successful Christmas Bazaar. Many, many hands went into making this event a success. This could not happen without the dedicated efforts of many volunteers. In the weeks and months preceding the Bazaar, there were innumerable people working in the different areas. Our success occurred because of you, the volunteers. A special “Thank You” goes out to you for all your hard work and the giving of your time to help make St. Paul's a better place. A “Thank You” also goes out to all who came and supported the Bazaar. .

***** THANK YOU *****

Look how many volunteers there were! If we missed your name on this list we are sorry. We know some people did things at home and dropped them off without a name attached. Thank you also to all those anonymous volunteers.

Advertising = Susanne Leier and all those who distributed flyers

Candy = Gerry Trauger, Joanne Guss, MJ Talbot, Suzanne Kupp, Sue Walley, Helen Strain, Judi Greenwood, Joan Wendel, Kay Bonslaver, Donna Saylor and unknown contributors who did not put their name on donations.

Cookies = Carole Barbary, Nancy Moyer, Darlene Light, Jane Kinder, Mary Graefe, Wendy Frey, Rosa Crichton, Susan Kubovsak, Michelle Hensley, Helene Wallauer, Bea Mohr, Susanne Leier, Nancy Stewart,

Eileen Swavely, Barbara Keim, Meredith Gaskins, Kathy Meehan, Arlene Hildebeitel, Aja Betts, Joan Wendel, Karen Schreier, Judi Greenwood, Karen Glaser, Stephen English, Kay Bonslaver, Missy Woodruff, Sheila Angstadt, Suzy Lander, Ann Myers, Claudia McCalicher, Gerry Trauger, Judy Focht, Helen Strain, Cindy Manning, Janette Farina, Connie Combes and all who baked at home who did not put their name on donations

Crafts = Judy Morrow, Joy Gerhart, Herb Schoenly, Carmella Venezia, Rachel Stack, Barbara & LeRoy DePrefontaine, Nancy Centrella, Sue Walley, Sue Schweikert, Donna Saylor and all who made things at home.

Dining Room = Kathy Jablonski, Meredith Gaskins and Judi Greenwood.
A Thank You to Barbara & LeRoy DePrefontaine for our beautiful table centerpieces.

Entertainment = Anne Weiser and her wonderful flute students.

Greens = Cindy Manning, Judy Trout, Jan Schell, Barry & Sieglinde Fretz, Kathy & Frank Jablonski, Jane Kinder, Gail Fronheiser, Phyllis Harwood, Kathy Meehan, Joanne Guss, Mary Graefe, Maureen Benedict, Missy Woodruff, Denise Millard, Valerie Day, Robin Rohrbach, Barry Leier, Meredith Gaskins, Janice Goodman, Donna Saylor, Sharon Loscig, Nancy & Gene Stewart, Diane Hartline, Tim Schell, Charles Merkel, Dave Renninger, and Jim Trout

Kitchen = Gary & Cindy Weidner, Jack & Jeane Serrian, Emma Serrian, Katie Esenwein, Tim Schell, Cindy Manning, Rich Saylor, Rick and Judy Weiler.

Money Counters – Joanne Guss, Joe Koury and Dave Renninger

Pantry/Baked Goods = Susanne & Barry Leier, Sue Kresge and our contributors Jan Bause, Amy Bartra, Jan Schell, Karen Schreier, Denise Millard, and Anna Brown.

Pies = Anna Brown, Dorothy Brown, Kay & Paul Reber, Gerry Trauger, Carl & Carlene Yerger, Pat Levengood, Nancy Moyer, Darlene Light, Jennifer Kochert, Rick & Nancy Centrella, Kay Bonslaver, Joanne Guss, Judy Weiler, Ann Myers, Cheryl Overly, Marianne Graefe, Kathy Meehan, and Helen Strain

Raffle = Helen Strain, Gloria Rhoads, Mary Graefe, Carol Pearson, Ann Mengel, Dear Talbott, Kay Bonslaver, Sue Walley and church members who sold tickets to their family and friends.

Thanks to everyone who helped make our Raffle a success.

Soup – Helen Strain, Kathy Meehan, Joanne Guss, Sue Walley, Nancy Centrella, Paul Reber, Anna Brown, Kay Bonslaver, Joanne Guss, Karen Schreier, Rick & Judy Weiler, Ann Mengel, M.J. Talbott, Carol Pearson, Ann Myers and Cheryl Overly

Set-up & Clean-up = Len Trauger, Brian Hicks, Nancy & Rick Centrella, Pastor & Wendy Frey, Jeff Duplak, Donna Saylor, Rich Saylor, Kathy & Frank Jablonski.

It takes the whole church to make the bazaar a success – forgive me if I forgot someone’s name. Because of our success, our Christmas Bazaar profited \$17,192.67 which we will tithe 10% (\$1,719.27) to Safe Berks!

Thank You! Donna Saylor

2019 BAZAAR REPORT

INCOME:

Candy	\$ 411.00
Cookies	1,001.50
Crafts	1,082.00
Greens	4,962.00
Lunch	1,352.25
Pantry	1,162.00
Pies	6,643.00
Raffle	<u>1,606.00</u>
TOTAL	\$18,219.75

EXPENSES:

PROFIT: \$ (1,027.08)

Bazaar Benevolence: \$17,192.67

(1,719.27) (forwarded to Safe Berks)

NET PROFIT

\$15,473.40

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR IS NOW OPEN.....



Morning sessions for both classes are from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The afternoon sessions for both classes are from 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Three-year old classes meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Four-year old classes meet on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

Please call 610-385-3333 or pick up a registration form in the Narthex.

We hope to see your child at preschool in the fall!

A VOLUNTEER'S EXPERIENCE AT THE COMMUNITY TABLE OF HOPEWELL LOVE.....

Hi! My name is Susie Kresge and I am a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Douglassville. I got involved with Hopewell Love and the Community Table after hearing Russ McClellan speak with one of our church committees. I was very moved by the mission of Hopewell Love and the idea that we find Jesus through interactions with others in our community.

I have been volunteering at the community table and food pantry for the past few months. I was warmly welcomed immediately and put right to work on helping set up tables, sorting food items and assisting with a variety of other tasks.

I have found it to be a joyful place and I very much enjoy the conversations with the other volunteers, many of whom are also shoppers at the food pantry. I marvel at the true sense of community that has been established through the Community Table. People are saving seats for friends and family, and it is a true social gathering where everyone is treated with respect and dignity. Looking around the dinner tables, I am always struck by the diversity – there are people from different ethnic backgrounds and of all ages, from infants to 80 year olds - all gathered to share a delicious meal together. I am very

grateful to be a part of this community and I always leave with a smile on my face at the end of the evening.

(The Community Table meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month during the year. All are welcome to attend. The Food Pantry distribution follows the meal. Speak to Susie Kresge or Joanne Guss for more information.)

FEBRUARY 16 IS BLANKET SUNDAY: "WRAPPED IN LOVE"

Your gift of \$10 will be used to purchase special blankets used for a variety of purposes during natural disasters and other times of need. You can wrap those who lost much with a gift of love. It is time to replenish the supply so that we can help the next ones in need.



Use the special envelopes provided in the narthex or include your donation in your regular offering envelope, marked "blankets".

Travel with Amity Friendship Circle to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse to



see the beloved television actress Joyce DeWitt star in "I Left My Dignity in My Other Purse" on Thursday, May 14. Price is \$85 (includes lunch and transportation). Depart from church parking lot at 9:30 A.M. sharp. Call Pat Roland at 484-557-4885. Reservation deadline is April 2. Everyone is invited to join us.

Weekly Prayer Service -- Wednesdays--9:00 AM

We pray for every member of the congregation on Wednesday mornings at 9 am. If you see your name here it is not because we think you have a specific need for prayer, but to let you know you are in our prayers whatever your need may be. On Wednesday mornings we also pray for churches around the world, leaders in the ELCA, our staff and council members, our political leaders, those in the military, special requests, and many more. If you are free a Wednesday morning, stop in and join us. We are always finished before 9:30 AM. Included this month in our prayers will be: Shamyro Roman, Stephanie Szajek, Alexis Roman, Myro Roman, Connor Szajek-Keppel, Jeanette Root, Karla Rosenbusch, Mason Rotelli, Taylor Rotelli, Adam Royer, Keith Royer, April Royer, Jim Sarro, Kim Sarro, Katie Sarro, Lauren Sarro. If you have anyone to add to the prayer list, please fill out a Prayer Request Card found in the pew racks or call the church office. Please pray for those with special concerns: Kathy Carpani, Gail Clifford, Charles "Skip" Davidheiser, Terry Eberly, Helen Guss, Connie Hunter, Sue Keay, Jean Korf, Rich Kucharik, Jacob Oister, Joseph Pollock, Antonio Rodriguez, Sarah, Ellen Sheeler, Eva Thomas, Elaine Woudstra, and all others listed below or those we name in our hearts: Makayla Becker, Jake Campbell, Jeannie Crass, Elena Demos, Karin DiSanto, Ron Glaser, Diana Gower, Simon H., Charles Heffner, Larry Herbst, Bobby Hubert, Robin Hynes, Terry & Jean Koehler, Ruth Kresge, Linda Loshnowsky, Karen McGavin, Edith Moyer, Jerry Muller, Ron Mutter, Richard Pool, Richard Randolph, James Rhoads June Rhoads, Lenore Robinson, Gabriel Schulze, Sr., John Shaner, Vernet Spence-Brown, Jason Stalneckner, Jane Williams; homebound -- Peggy Burns, Jennie Clouser, Carol DeLong, Jan Haas, Arlene Hildebeitel, Alma Shirey, Patsy Smale, Dale Szajek, Pauline Trout, Richard Wise.



SNOW EMERGENCY

In the event that we need to cancel Sunday Church School or Worship due to severe weather, it will be announced on Channel 69 as early as possible. The cancellation will also be on the church's answering machine (610-385-6616), website—www.stpaulsdouglassville.com, and Facebook.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER HAPPENINGS.....

Welcome February 2020. Although it is still winter, the days are getting longer and each day brings us closer to spring. Will the groundhog see his shadow? This will surely be one of the questions that our teachers and students will be asking. We will be taking a poll in our classrooms to record the predictions. Most of us are hoping for an early spring! The CDC and Preschool classrooms will also host Valentine's Day parties on Friday, 14, 2020. The children will practice writing and making valentines to share with friends. Parents and family members are welcome to join the celebrations and attend the parties.



Thank you for supporting our GIANT A+ Rewards Fundraiser. To date, we have earned over \$500.00. There is still time to help us earn funds. It's easy to sign up by going to giantfoodstores.com. Our school identification number is 26557.

Just as a reminder, the CDC will be closed on Monday, February 17, 2020 for mandatory staff training.

We are happy to announce that Kindergarten Enrichment and Preschool registration is now open. For more information, please call or stop by the office. I will be happy to answer any of your questions. As always, we appreciate your support. Thank you.

Sherry Gardner, Director

OPEN DATES TO SPONSOR THE FLOWERS:

Feb. 9 Mar. 15
Mar. 8 Apr. 26

Cost is \$35. Call the church office if interested or sign up in the narthex.

OPEN DATES TO SPONSOR THE BULLETIN:

Mar. 8 Mar. 15

Cost is \$25. Call the church office if interested or sign up in the narthex.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

2/1	Lee Hart	2/15	Christian Luo
	Abigail Trombley	2/16	Lynn Grace
2/3	Pr. Greg Frey	2/17	Carole Berry
	Arlene Hildebeitel		Nicholas Chroscinski
	Nicole Sudall		Joanne Guss
2/4	Mark Eisenhuth		Alex Hackett
	Jay McClafferty		Beth Jablonski
	Ryan Sonon		Gabriel Luo
2/5	Tim Loscig	2/18	Marcus Betts
2/6	Gabriel Gross		Michael Casciano
	Rachel Lau		Magdalena Nygard
2/7	Kevin Fisher		Warren Saylor
	Jacob Hasara	2/19	Norma Godon
2/8	Lisa Bowersox		Emily Poole
	Mary Graefe	2/20	Colleen Breen
2/9	Brynn Hennessey		Stuart Crichton
	Ian Oister		Morgan Kelly
	Nathan Shingle	2/21	David Barr
	Gene Stewart		Riley Haring
2/10	Kristin Saylor		Gavin Michener
2/11	Audrey Bokosky		Kristopher Moyer
	Brad Haring	2/23	Maeve Bartra
	Chase Saylor	2/24	Cindy Dominick
	Olivia Sypherd		Rebecca Miller
2/12	Patti Hetzell		Joan Schaeffer
	Alma Shirey	2/25	Lori Hoag
2/13	Cameron Hunter		Adrienne Stumhofer
2/14	Sue Childs	2/26	John Dollhopf
	Rich Kucharik	2/27	Alex Maloney
	John Wolfe		Deb Smith
2/15	Jennifer Bonetz		Greyson Fusco
	Nolan Breen		Palmer Loughin

HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY TO –

Darrell & Margaret Reitmeyer	2/1	45 yrs.
Jeffrey & Joan Schaeffer	2/14	39 yrs.
Lee & Sandra Hart	2/21	52 yrs.
Ed & Denise Chroscinski	2/22	23 yrs.
Robert & Marylynne Endy	2/24	30 yrs.

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Mission Trip to Puerto Rico



Imagine riding in one of two fifteen-passenger vans, both navigating a narrow two-lane road that twisted and turned up into the tropical mountains of central Puerto Rico. The views were spectacular. Palms, giant philodendron, and the fiery flowers of the Flamboyant Royal Poinciana tree grace the roadsides and green mountain walls. Small, compact, and humble homes supported by what looks like toothpick legs hug the steep slopes. A morning journey brought the volunteers to the town of Comerío, where the streets have yielded to the mountain's natural topography, reminiscent of the hilly streets of San Francisco.

On June 30, 2019, under the guiding eye of Lutheran Disaster Response working through Lutheran Social Services of Puerto Rico, 25 Lutheran volunteers from 5 Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod churches traveled to Puerto Rico to repair homes damaged by Hurricane Maria.

The volunteers divided into four teams. One team repaired a house needing to have the roof power washed and sealed, as well as its interior ceiling and walls scraped and painted. This house had stood empty for the past two years and was unlivable in its current state. The family who had lived there pre-Maria were hoping to return to their home as soon as possible.

Thanks to God and the excellent guidance and organization of Lutheran Social Services of Puerto Rico, the team was able to power wash their roof and seal it. They scraped ceilings and painted the interior of their home. Much of their nearly new furniture, now moldy and warped, still awaited removal. All their kitchen appliances had been destroyed.

And yet, because of the hard work of the team, and a generous grant from The Witness and Service Ministry Team supported through Mission Support giving to the Synod, the work was accomplished. Donations of various gift cards from a number of congregations enabled the team to purchase a new refrigerator for the family. What a joy to see faces of hope as these homeowners came so much closer to reclaiming their home. Truly the team used its hands to do God's work!



Don't Be Fooled by Email Phishing Scams

There have been several phishing attempts recently that appear to be emails from Bishop Zeiser asking for "help." Two were phony Gmail addresses (bishopnepsynod@gmail.com and rzeiserbishopr@gmail.com). Neither the bishop nor any of the synod staff will ever email you directly asking for "help." This is a scam. Please don't reply; even better, just delete the email without even opening it.

Parish Secretaries' Christmas Luncheon



On December 10 the fourth annual Parish Secretaries' Christmas Luncheon was hosted by the Synod's Support Staff at The Lutheran Center in Schoenersville. This year the luncheon was opened to all lay workers in the congregations of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod. There were 45 people in attendance. After greetings from Bishop Zeiser, a hot, catered lunch was served, introductions were made, and there was time for some get-to-know-you games and plenty of fellowship.

The luncheon always has some return guests and some first-time attendees. This year there was a parish secretary who

was in her sixth week of church work, and one who has been serving in the church for 50 years. Pastor Laura Csellak went above and beyond by driving two secretaries from Ashland in Schuylkill County to The Lutheran Center so they could be a part of the festivities. The cost of the luncheon was subsidized with Thrivent Action Team grants.

About 45% of the staff members who attended were treated by their congregations and/or pastors. Let's try to increase that percentage next year and encourage congregation workers to take advantage of a fun, relaxing afternoon in the middle of the Advent season. It's a wonderful opportunity to build partnerships with other church workers and the synod. Look for a keep-the-date card with next year's date at the synod assembly.



New Director of Youth, Young Adults, and Faith Formation



Sammy Kelly (she/her/hers) is a 2019 graduate of United Lutheran Seminary at Philadelphia where she earned a Master of Arts in Ministerial Leadership. She continues to be on staff at New Life Evangelical Lutheran Church in New Tripoli, where she has served for the past five years. Her husband, Billy Miller, was just hired as Youth Director at Lenape Valley Church in Doylestown and is pursuing the Crossroads Lay Leadership program at Moravian Theological Seminary. They are both excited to enter into a new year of life and ministry in 2020!

In this newly formed position, Sammy will provide leadership and support to both the Youth, Young Adult, and Family and the Faith Formation Ministry Teams of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod. She looks forward to dreaming with and working alongside the many church leaders who love our youth, young adults, and Jesus. She is a 7 on the enneagram, always open to swapping dog stories, and would love if you were to email her at sammy@nepssynod.org to introduce yourself and/or set up a time for conversation.

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ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

February 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Council persons in charge of services— Michele Hensley, Jeff Duplak, Glen Esenwein </div>		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> --Money Counters-- 8 AM Michele Hensley Tom Longstaff Deb Longstaff </div>				1 6 PM—Holy Comm
2 8 & 10:30—Worship 9:15—Sunday School	3 7 PM—Christian Ed.	4 Quilting 9:30—Bazaar crafts 2 PM--TOPS 6:15 PM—Child Dev.	5 9 AM—Prayer Gr. 9:30—Bible Study	6 Noon—Amity Fr. Circle 7 PM--Choir	7	8 6 PM—Holy Comm
9 8 & 10:30—Holy Comm. 9:15—Sunday School 9:15—Fellowship Comm. 9:30—Finance SPI AT after 10:30	10 7 PM—Pastoral Care	11 Quilting 9:30—Bazaar crafts 2 PM--TOPS	12 9 AM—Prayer Gr. 9:30—Bible Study 6:15—Executive Comm. 7 PM--Council	13 6 PM—T3 Comm. 7 PM—Choir 7 PM—Prayer Shawl	14	15 7:30 AM--Property 6 PM—Holy Comm
16 8 & 10:30—Holy Comm. 9:15—Sunday School 9:15—Social Min. SPYY after 10:30	17	18 Quilting 9:30—Bazaar crafts 2 PM--TOPS	19 9 AM—Prayer Gr. 9:30—Bible Study 1 PM—Prayer Shawl	20 1 PM--Connections 7 PM--Choir	21	22 6 PM—Holy Comm
23 8 & 10:30—Holy Comm. 9:15—Sunday School Mardi Gras	24 6 PM—Bible Study	25 Quilting 9:30—Bazaar crafts 2 PM—TOPS 7 PM---Women's Gr.	26 <i>Ash Wed.</i> 9 AM—Prayer Gr. 11 AM & 7 PM—Holy Comm. Bible Study & Choir rehearsal follows	27	28	29 6 PM—Holy Comm