

NOVEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

REV. DR. GARY J. LANGENSIEPEN, PASTOR

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GOD'S PEOPLE: BELIEVING, CARING, LOVING AND SERVING

All Saints Remembrance

On all Saints Sunday November 5th 2017 we will once again remember those who have left the church militant to join the church triumphant since the last All Saint's Sunday. We will be remembering these families and friends by name and by lighting a candle in their memory. Members, family and friends that we will remember this year are: Dorothy Allender, Winfield Held, Walter Newman, and Albert Wolfe

The Open Door

In September, the food pantry served 51 Family's, consisting of 141 adults, 100 children and 26 elderly. In response to our request for cans of corn and cans of tuna you donated, 76 cans of corn and 57 cans of tuna. Thank you for your support of this important outreach program here at St. Mark. Our item suggestion for November is cereal, always a popular choice at the Open Door! As a result of the basket raffle held at Trinity Memorial Lutheran Church in September, we received 10 large boxes of food which helped fill our shelves. Thank you Trinity, for all your continued support to help us serve our neighbors in need.

TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK! Daylight savings is on NOVEMBER 5th your clocks FALL BACK one hour



Save the DATE!

Congregational Meeting on Sunday December 10th 2017 for the purpose of approving the 2018 Church Budget and Election of Church Council Members.

Christmas Flowers

Christmas Flower Order forms will be available in your Advent folders which will be mailed out later this month. Please make sure all orders are in the church office no later than Sunday December 10th 2017

2017 Bulletin and Altar Flower Sponsors

If you have sponsored Altar Flowers and Bulletins in 2017 and have not paid please do so by the end of December to ensure proper credit is given. Moving forward reminder letters will be sent before your sponsor date as a reminder A sponsor is needed for November 26th for Flowers and Bulletins please contact the Church Office at 610-797-6440.

Lehigh Mission District

The District will begin collecting items starting this week thru December 2nd. A collection box along with a list of items you can contribute can be given to Carol Hartigan.

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR GARY THE SIGNIFICANCE OF 500 YEARS: LOOKING BACK ON WITTENBERG, 1517

October 31st was an important day for Lutherans worldwide. It was on October 31, 1517 – on the Eve of All Saints' Day (also known as the "Hallowed Evening" or "All Hallows Eve") – that Dr. Martin Luther posted ninety-five theses to the door of the Castle Church (Schlosskirche) in Wittenberg, Germany. Those theses, intended solely for academic debate, instead lit a fire throughout Europe that changed the Church and therefore the entire Western World forever. Luther never intended to leave the Roman Church and begin a new movement bearing his name (*"I ask that my name be left silent and people not call themselves Lutherans, but rather Christians. Who is Luther? The doctrine is not mine. I have been crucified for no one."* – **Admonition Against Insurrection**, 1522). But that is precisely what happened and here we are, 500 years later, boldly proclaiming ourselves to be "Lutherans" nonetheless!

And that 500 year period of time is significant! You see, students of Church history have long noted that significant changes seem to occur in Christianity about every 500 years. It was roughly around 500 A.D. when the Eastern Churches (commonly known as "Orthodox") split from the Western Church which was centered in Rome. Then, about 500 years later, around 1000 A.D., the Western World entered what is commonly referred to as the "Dark Ages" where learning was confined to monasteries and everyday people lived in the darkness of ignorance

and superstition. Five hundred years after that, Luther nails academic theses to a church door beginning a movement that would eventually declare that even the lowest peasant is as important as a powerful emperor in the eyes of God. It was also the time of the Enlightenment and Renaissance in Europe. Drastic changes seem to occur in the Christian world every 500 years!

So, here we are today, 500 years after Luther. . . and indeed the Christian world clearly is changing again. In fact, many now refer to this as the "post-Christian" era. Christianity's influence in society is waning, local congregations all over the country are closing – and many people wonder if the Church can even survive!

Well, I am confident that, while churches are closing, the Word of God – the gospel of the saving grace that is ours in Christ Jesus – will not only survive but also will prosper in ways that we cannot even begin to imagine. Remember Luther's own words in the fourth verse of his great anthem of the Reformation, **A Mighty Fortress is our God:**

"God's Word forever shall abide, no thanks to foes, who fear it; for God himself fights by our side with weapons of the Spirit. Were they to take our house, goods, honor, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched away, they cannot win the day. The Kingdom's ours forever!"

In His service,
Pastor Gary

SHARING LIFE – OCTOBER 2017

The leaves have changed and are falling, football is in full swing and we are racing towards the holidays...once again. And a race it has been this month for Sharing Life starting with our wildly successful Basket Raffle fundraiser that was held on Saturday, October 14th, coordinated by Brenda Mann. This is our main fundraiser for Sharing Life and allows us to keep doing what we do. Brenda's exceptional organizational talent was evident as the event came off perfectly. Thank you Brenda for all of your hard work and for taking the lead with this committee. Thanks also to all committee members!

And just in time for Thanksgiving we are also now taking orders for the famous, Wixon's, Wet Bottom, Shoo Fly Pie. Pies are only \$5.00 and will be available for pick up starting Wednesday, November 15th. As with all of our fundraisers, ALL proceeds go towards Sharing Life activities. We also are starting to take donations for our annual Adopt-a-Stocking campaign for our Christmas Celebration. Our wish list for donations will be posted shortly. Please see Sandy Dillaway if you would like to donate needed items. We so appreciate even the smallest of donations and know that all gifts are cherished by our attendees.

Our October luncheon was held on Wednesday, October 18th and was a celebration of Halloween. An array of delicious chili and cornbread was served, DJ Don added to the festivities by spinning some ghoulish

melodies and we held our annual Costume contest. The winners and categories were, Funniest: Awilda J., Scariest: Brain P., and Most Original: Blanche W., Troyquan H., and Jen S. All winners received a \$20.00 Gift card. Thanks to all who helped with yet another successful event!!!!

Sharing Life additionally hosted a table at the 17th annual Harvest Full of Hope on Friday, October 20th. This event is a full day of promoting Mental Health awareness and supports and includes a collection of educational speakers and community providers offering information on services. We had a great time sharing our mission with everyone who stopped by our table. Our display included the beautiful and thoughtful poem by Jen S. who won our Talent Contest by sharing her written word. Thank you Jen, your words mean so much to us! Next month we will be celebrating Thanksgiving in all her glory. Our menu items include succulent turkey, green bean casserole and of course, stuffing! Turkey Bingo will follow lunch. Our craft activity on the 1st of November, (White Rabbit), will be led by our ever talented Brenda who will assist participants in exploring the joy of working with water colors.

With life rushing past us at an amazing speed it can sometimes be all too easy to fall into spending much too much time in our own heads, becoming a bit too self-righteous and closed off to others pain and or joy. You stop growing as you stop being aware of the value of others, despite our differences, and your humanity starts to shrink. It can happen to anyone at any time and you may not even notice it occurring. Stopping by and experiencing what an amazing mission that Sharing Life is doing can be just what your soul is looking for. You will find a packed Luther Hall, with fabulous aromas coming from the kitchen, smiling and welcoming faces, uplifting music and people, all different races, ethnicities, identities, etc. enjoying one another. No one trying to point out the right in themselves or the wrong in someone else, just people enjoying Sharing their Life. After all, we are all just walking each other back home...

Until next month I wish you all light and love,
Connie

SHARING LIFE

Abundance of fun is what we have,
Beautiful friendships are what we make,
Caring staff are what we see,
Different activities are what we get,
Excellent support is what we gain,
Family atmosphere is what we feel,
Great courage is what we bring,
Happy people are what we observe,
Illnesses are what we let go of,
Journeys are what we are on,
Kindness is what we picture here,
Laughter is what we all do show,
Monthly programs are what we do,
Nicely organized is what we appreciate,
Occasions are what we celebrate,
Problems are what we leave at the door,
Quality of the program is what we love most,
Reflections are what we all create,
Stories are what we have to share,
Thank yous are what we say all the time,
Uplifting people are what we care about,
Valuable lessons are what we learn,
Wonderful days are what we come for,
Xtra smiles are what they give us,
Years to years are what we see happening,
Zero to hero's are what we become. By **Jen Schuler**

OUR STAFF

Rev. Dr. Gary Langensipen, Pastor
Home: 610-262-6189
Cell: 610-217-9251
Anita Vandergrift, Financial Secretary
Phone: 610-770-6195
Terry Held, Organist
Phone: 484-602-7721

OUR LEADERS

Steven Ghazi – President *P: 610-248-7369*
Dan Christman – Vice President *P: 484-522-8768*
Tom Rieger Sr – Treasurer *P: 610-217-1062*
Elizabeth Brndjar – Secretary
Doris Brezan Debbie Ghazi
Carol Hartigan Marcia Heckman
Toni Krasley Denise Mcconnell
Charles Orben Malissa Stroble
Bill Walker

Sharing Life - will be selling Sho Fly Pies (Wixon) again this year in time for Thanksgiving. They will be delivered to the church on 11/14 and are available for pick up between 4:30-5:30. Other arrangements can be made for pick up if needed. Sign Up in the narthex or see Sue Krasley

NOVEMBER READINGS & HYMNS

Sunday, November 5th
All Saints Day (Observed)

Readings

Revelation 7:9-17
Psalm 34:1-10, 22 (9)
1 John 3:1-3
Matthew 5:1-12

Hymns

For All the Saints v1-4
Blest are they
For All the Saints v5-7

Sunday, November 12th

The twenty-second Sunday after Trinity
Amos 5:18-24 or Wisdom 6:12-16
Psalm 70 (5) or Wisdom 6:17-20 (17)
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13

Hymns

God of our Fathers
Christ, Be Our Light
When peace like a river

Sunday, November 19th

The twenty-third Sunday after Trinity
Deuteronomy 8:7-18
Psalm 65
2 Corinthians 9:6-15
Luke 17:11-19

Hymns

O God, our help in ages past
Christ, Be Our Light
When peace like a river

Sunday, November 26th

Last Sunday of the Church Year
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm 95:1-7a (7)
Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46

Hymns

This is My Father's World
O Christ, what can it mean for us
Earth and All Stars

NOVEMBER LAY ASSISTANTS

Sunday, November 5th

All Saints Day (Observed)

Council Leader – Marcia Heckman

Acolyte – Nicholas Walker

Alter Guild – Toni Krasley, Linda Shurin

Ushers - Doris Brezan, Tammy Walbert, Jane Kubat
Steven Ghazi, Chase/Terry Klingamen

Tape Ministries – Doris Brezan, Tammy Walber,
Diane Walton

Sunday, November 12th

The twenty-second Sunday after Trinity

Council Leader – Toni Krasley

Acolyte – Terry Klingaman

Alter Guild – Toni Krasley, Linda Shurin

Ushers - Tom Rieger, Roxann Rieger, Kathy Walker
Sue Krasley, Nicholas/Zachary Walker

Tape Ministries – Brenda Mann

Sunday, November 19th

The twenty-third Sunday after Trinity

Council Leader – Denise McConnell

Acolyte – Alex Schmick

Alter Guild – Roxann Rieger and Doris Werkheiser

Ushers - Tom Rieger, Roxann Rieger, Kathy Walker
Sue Krasley, Nicholas/Zachary Walker

Tape Ministries – Roxann and Thomas Rieger

Sunday, November 26th

Council Leader – Charlie Orban

Acolyte – Madison Booth

Alter Guild – Roxann Rieger and Doris Werkheiser

Ushers - LuAnn Bresnak, Ina Ruhf, Sandy Dillaway
Randi Fries/Toni Krasley, Brian/Emily Ruth

Tape Ministries – Doris Brezan, Tammy Walber,
Diane Walton

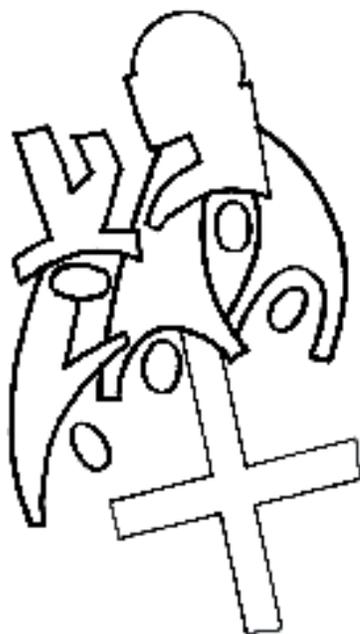
OUR YOUTH AND FUTURE

On November 26th 2017 the Youth will be going to Luther Crest at 2 pm they will be participating in the 3pm church service and at the conclusion presenting a skit to the residents of Luther Crest. They will conclude the day with Christmas Caroling in the health center and a pizza party with The Pastor and Mrs. Tomlinson. Anyone interested in joining us young and old alike see Sue Krasley

Fundraiser Opportunity: Bon Ton Books are available \$ 5.00 this benefits the youth of our church and is 100% profit. See Sue Krasley or Denise Mconnell.

November 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 12:00 pm Sharing Life Committee Meeting 12:00 pm Sharing Life Knitting and Crocheting Group	2	3	4
5 9:30 am Holy Communion Service	6	7	8	9	10	11 <u>Veterans Day</u>
12 9:30 am Holy Communion Service	13	14 4:30 pm Sho Fly Pies Delivery 4:30 pm Trinity/St. Mark Chii Cook Off Planning Session	15 12:00 pm Sharing Life Event 7:00 pm Church Council	16	17	18
19 9:30 am Holy Communion Service	20	21	22	23 <u>Thanksgiving Day</u>	24	25
26 9:30 am Holy Communion Service	27	28	29	30		



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Address Service Requested

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Lehigh Valley, PA
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