



Brothers and sisters in Jesus,

There is a movie that is coming out called "War Room". It is about a couple who is struggling with life and marriage, An older woman comes into the life of the wife and shows her her war room-a room dedicated to prayer. The movie is about how prayer changes life. "Prayer is a powerful weapon," states the movie. I tell you that so I can tell you this..

We need more prayer in our lives and in our church. So you say, "look at all the prayers we say on a Sunday morning during the service". Yes, we do: we pray the prayer of the day, offering prayer, the prayers of the church, communion prayers. Look at our meetings, we start with a prayer and of course most times end with the Lord's Prayer. OK< but we need to really pray.

How about our everyday lives? When do you pray: before meals (except at restaurants, we don't want to be embarrassed or call attention to ourselves); maybe at bedtime, during a sports game when our team is doing really bad or maybe a close game, and when our life falls apart.

Prayers has become rote at times. We say our written prayers and think that we did our duty. Prayer is so much more-it is a conversation with God. As when we talk with a friend or a loved one, we need to let the other person respond. As we talk with God and let Him know our requests or just to thank Him for all His awesome blessings, we need to have time of silence so we can bask in the presence of the Holy One. Sometimes we will feel Him so close to us and sometimes not. Do not give up but keep praying.

One of our new projects is a Prayer Chain. A Prayer Chain is a group of people praying for people and the church. The person in charge of the prayer chain calls the first person with the concerns or people to prayer for. The first person calls the second person and so on down the line. This is all done confidentially because some concerns people do not want as public knowledge.

So what do we need? First, I need a person to co-ordinate the prayer chain. The would receive requests, make sure the chain is not broken. Second, I need some prayer warriors who will take time daily to pray for those people or requests and call the next person in line. When we have people who want to be involved, I will have a meeting with them to organize the chain. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Gary. Anyone can pray, so all are welcome. Let us use the greatest weapon know to us to bring healing and hope to others.

In His Hands

Pastor Gary

Good Shepherd is affiliated with **Lehigh Valley, St. Luke's and Sacred Heart Pastoral Care.**  
 If ever you are admitted to one of these Hospitals please give them code 232.

**PASTOR GARY'S  
 FOOD BANK CHALLENGE**  
**2,000 ITEMS FOR 2015**  
 so far have collected 1182 items  
 and a \$40 Jainkl Gift Card.  
 Look for the chart in the narthex.

*Planning Ahead...*

<i>September 6th</i>	<i>Vocation Sunday</i>	<i>October 11th</i>	<i>Blessing of the Animals</i>
<i>September 13th</i>	<i>Rally Day</i>		<i>Hay Ride and Corn Maze</i>
<i>September 27th</i>	<i>Harvest Home</i>	<i>November 27th</i>	<i>Penny Party</i>

# President's Corner

So here we are... it's September again. School is starting and children are once again having to do homework and take part in activities.

Some of those activities are, hopefully, church-related. As activities are starting at church, we, as adults, and mentors, should set an example and take part in the programs that this congregation offers. This includes committees that need to do the work necessary to have a fully-functioning congregation and to take care of the church property.

A church is only successful if every member takes part in its programs. Here at Good Shepherd, we offer many diverse programs. Everyone should find at least one in which you may have an interest.

So, as a new school year begins let's set an example for our young people and get active in OUR congregation.

Dave Hausman  
Congregation Council President

## Vocation Sunday

On September 6, Labor Day Sunday, we will again celebrate our vocations. Martin Luther stressed this in his writings that God calls us to a particular vocation (job) in our lives. Some are called to be teachers, nurses, factory workers, farmers or whatever we do. I would like for our members to wear their work clothes to church, so we can celebrate our vocations.



Sunday School begins on September 13, 2015. Confirmation classes will also begin on that day too. Classes will be taught again by Gail Loch and Mark Weaver. Confirmation begins in seventh grade and continues through eighth grade. If you have not received a letter about confirmation, please contact the church office.

## Harvest Home

Good Shepherd will be celebrating Harvest Home on Sunday, September 27 during the service.

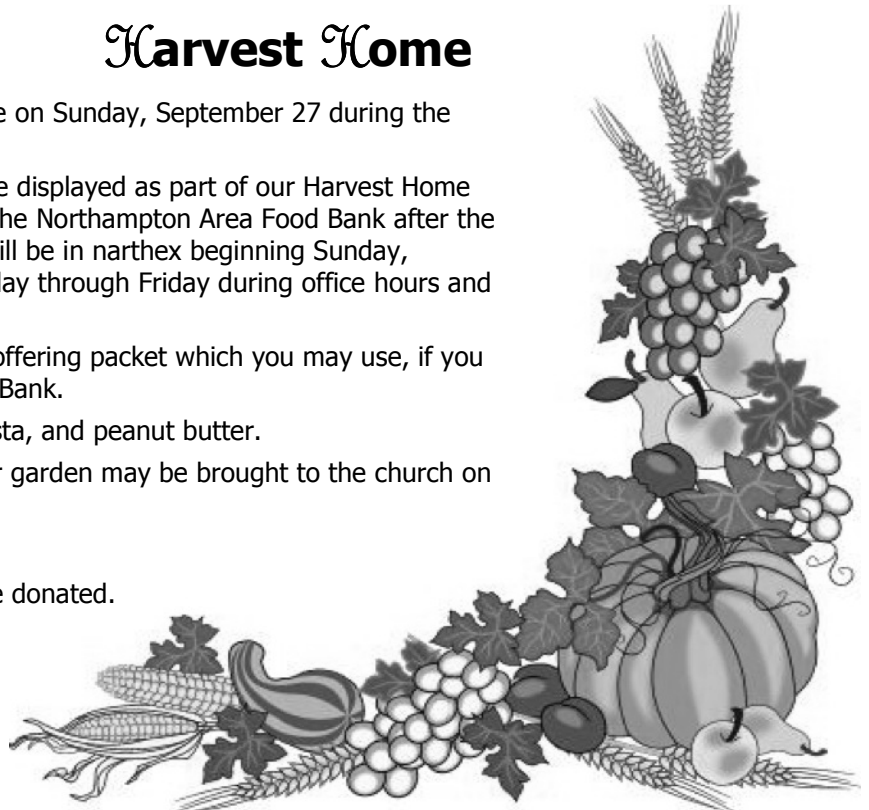
You are asked to bring food items so they can be displayed as part of our Harvest Home celebration. All donations will be distributed to the Northampton Area Food Bank after the service. A container to receive your food gifts will be in narthex beginning Sunday, September 20 or items can be dropped off Monday through Friday during office hours and on Saturday, September 26 from 11:00 – 12:00.

There is a Harvest Home envelope in with your offering packet which you may use, if you wish, to make a monetary donation to the Food Bank.

Suggested items are: canned goods, cereal, pasta, and peanut butter.

In addition, fresh produce and flowers from your garden may be brought to the church on Saturday, September 26 from 11:00-12:00.

Due to state law, no home-canned foods may be donated.



## From the Console



### The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi

Many churches in the United States celebrate the Feast of St Francis of Assisi on October 4 each year. The feast commemorates the life of St Francis, who was born in the 12th century and is the Catholic Church's patron saint of animals and the environment. It is a popular day for pets to be "blessed". This year it just happens that October 4<sup>th</sup> falls on a Sunday.

**All Creatures of Our God and King (#835 ELW, 527LBW LASST UNS ERFREUEN) Text: St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226) Music: Ralph Vaughan-Williams (1872-1958)** An expression of praise found in nearly every hymnal, this hymn was originally written by one of the most interesting figures in all of church history, Giovanni Bernardone, aka: Saint Francis of Assisi! A medieval monk, he spent his lifetime as an itinerant evangelist, preaching and helping the poor of Italy. After an early indulgent life as a soldier, he reformed dramatically at the age of twenty-five, and determined to serve God by imitating the selfless life of Christ. Although his parents were people of considerable means, Francis scorned the possession of material goods, denounced his inherited wealth, denied himself all but the most meager necessities, and devoted himself completely to moving about his area as Christ's representative. At twenty-eight Francis founded the influential Franciscan Order of Friars, which developed into a large movement of young men and some women who adopted his religious beliefs and ascetic style of life. Saint Francis was known as a great lover of nature, seeing in creation the very hand of God. One of the well-known master paintings from this period by the famous Italian artist, Giotto, shows Saint Francis feeding the birds in a garden area. A familiar verse that has become especially popular in recent years is the thoughtful prayer written by this medieval monk during the early years of his life. It begins, "Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love ..." There are some interesting and strange incidents and legends associated with the life of Saint Francis which are difficult to explain. *Historical* accounts relate various visitations that Saint Francis is supposed to have had with the Lord. One of those occasions was while Francis was fasting for forty days in the lofty mountain of La Verne. This encounter left him, for the remainder of his life, bearing on his hands, feet and body the stigmata (or painful wounds) of the crucified Lord. Another account, whether fact or fiction, states that as his soul was being committed to the creator, a flock of larks gathered unmistakably about his little hut and rose, singing a beautiful song in the still evening air. "All Creatures of Our God and King" is from a larger collection of his writings entitled, *Cantico di Fratere Sole* or *Canticles of Brother Sun* and is said to have been written one hot summer day in 1225 while Francis was very ill and suffering from the recent loss of his eyesight. Throughout his life, Saint Francis made use of singing and believed strongly in the importance of church music. In all, Saint Francis wrote more than sixty hymns for use in the monastery. LASST UNS ERFREUEN is the one and only of his works that appears in most hymnals and has survived the passing of these many centuries as a beautiful expression of praise to our Creator. The Roman Catholic hymnal of Cologne, Germany included this hymn in 1623 but the English version did not appear until 1919 in *The English Hymnal* as a children's hymn. Hopefully you will remember this study in hymnody as you sing "All Creatures of Our God and King" on Sunday October 4<sup>th</sup>. See you in worship!

**Sr. choir  
beginning Thursday  
Sept. 10th at 7:30PM**

**Bell Choir  
beginning Sunday  
Sept. 13th at 11:00AM**



# WE PUT THE FUN IN FUNDRAISING

## Fundraising Committee

Jolynn Claroni  
Randy Claroni  
Dorothy Clauser  
Deb Hoffman  
Carole Holub  
Brenda Koch  
Lisa Mann  
Darlene Pail  
Peggy Tobias  
Barb Wiemann  
Renae Yelles

It's back!! The Fun(d)raising Committee has scheduled **our Black Friday Penny Party**. Please save November 27<sup>th</sup> for this fun and exciting family event to be held in our fellowship hall. Doors open at 4:00 p.m. to purchase tickets and food, and to peruse basket raffle items. At 5:00 p.m. the Penny Party begins.

After an exhausting day of recovering from the Thanksgiving turkey blues, Black Friday traffic, and of course shopping & work, we hope our congregational members and the community at large will look forward to a relaxing evening enjoying home-cooked comfort food and the excitement of a Penny Party.

So what is a Penny Party? It is nothing more than a social event where people may purchase comfort food & penny party players bid on items. The winners of the items are drawn via lottery/raffle style.

The committee asks for your help by giving donations of new items for the penny party. We will need hundreds of items to run the penny party lottery/raffle.

Items that you may start collecting for donation include: Can goods; baking supplies; paper products such as tissues, paper towels, napkins; cleaning supplies; snacks; cereal; coffee, tea; ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise; laundry supplies; dog food, cat food; pens, pencils, greeting cards, memo pads; candles; seasonal items; new Bric Brac; Christmas items; Children Items, toys, puzzles, coloring books, crayons, dolls; etc. Please be mindful of expiration dates for food items as no item should be expired prior to our 11/27/15 penny party.

Please start collecting the items previously listed.

Plan on dropping the items off at church in a box marked Penny Party starting **September 6, 2015**.

Donations of theme baskets or items for our basket raffle, including gift certificates, will be greatly appreciated.

Donations of food items to make the comfort food will be asked for and posted in the Narthex bulletin board in October & November.

Our committee thanks you in advance for your continued support.

Questions? Contact a Fun(d)raising committee member





## SCHOOL KITS FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

The Women of the ELCA will continue to collect items for Lutheran World Relief school kits during September. These kits can be the difference between getting an education or not going to school.

Each kit consists of a drawstring backpack-style cloth bag with the following supplies:

- four 70-sheet notebooks of wide or college ruled paper, approx. 8 x 10 1/2 inches (no loose-leaf paper)
- 30 centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- pencil sharpener
- blunt scissors (such as safety scissors with steel blades)
- five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- five black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
- box of 16 or 24 crayons
- eraser, approx. 2 1/2 inches long

Sandy Newhard has generously purchased material and sewed the drawstring bags.

There is a collection box in the Narthex. For your convenience, a "shopping list" of these school items is on the table by the donation box. Feel free to take a list with you when you go to the store. If you prefer not to shop, cash donations will be used to purchase supplies and pay shipping costs. A collection jar will be in the Narthex with the collection box.

The education of children is one of the most important ways to improve the lives of families. Your help in providing supplies is greatly appreciated, especially by the children.

If you have any questions, contact Barb Wiemann or Laurie Andrew.



The Women of the ELCA will meet Monday, [September 21<sup>st</sup>](#), at 1:00 P.M. at the church. We will be discussing our school kit collection, replacement of the stove in the church kitchen, gifts for the shut-ins we are preparing along with the Social Ministry Committee and our December cookie sale. Please join us for an afternoon of fellowship.

*Thank You*

I wish to thank the people of Good Shepherd Church for all the cards sent to me.

*Mabel Hower*



# Social Ministry

**Social Ministry Committee**  
Dorothy Clauser  
Judy Fehr  
Sandy Newhard  
Renaë Yelles

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

Our Social Ministry Committee would like to start our prayer shawl ministry again. So you might wonder what a prayer shawl is?

The prayer shawl ministry gives knitter and crocheters a tangible way to care for others. Our age is one of loneliness, and many crave connection and true community. Until we find connection, we are alone. Except that God's hungering spirit within us seeks connection with God's life-giving Spirit beyond us. It draws from our terrible loneliness, to holy communion with the same Spirit living in another human soul, in the ministry of congregation, in loving service, or even in our work.

The driving force of the ministry remains an outreach. We reach out to the needs of those whom God brings to us. Shawls, made for centuries, are universal and embracing. They enfold, cover, wrap, give solace and warmth. They are a symbol of inclusive and unconditional loving.

Besides the obvious reasons of comfort during illness or grief, the shawls can be given for times of joy and celebration, such as: nursing shawls for new mothers, baptisms, birthdays, bridal gifts, ordinations, etc. Those who have received these shawls have been uplifted and affirmed, as if given wings to fly above their troubles.

You give a shawl and let the Holy Spirit do the work. The shawl says I love you, I'm here for you, and I'm praying for you. Knitters pray for the recipient as they knit. Written prayers for health and well-being can be attached when presented.

It comes with no expectations, and is only a gift of love.

"You have been prayed for, and this is a token of our love."

Prayer shawls should be 30" wide and 72" long. They may be knitted or crocheted. You may use any stitch pattern, but it is suggested to use multiples of 3, to signify the Holy Trinity. Any yarn is acceptable, but it is best if it is washable. You can knit and pray for a particular person or just pray for someone in need.

**Food Bank Sunday** is the second Sunday of each month.

Please bring your food items on that day and place them in the bins in the narthex. Good Shepherd is especially responsible for canned fruit, jelly, and applesauce. Of course, any food staples will be accepted on any Sunday.

On the Second Sunday of the month (**September 13**) our prayers will include the food gifts, the recipients, and the donors.

**Items especially needed at this time are: Pancake Mix, Pancake Syrup and Jelly (small size).**

**For the month of July  
110 canned goods**

**were collected and delivered to the Food Bank**

**For the month of August  
70 canned goods**

**were collected and delivered to the Food Bank**

**"IN TOUCH" Sunday** is always the third Sunday of the month (**September 20**). Take a name of a member and send a card so they know we are thinking of them, remember them and wish them well and keep them in our prayers.



The Altar Guild thanks Sandy Newhard for sewing and embroidering a supply of baptismal napkins for us. These napkins are used during the baptism to dry the child's head and are given to the family as a remembrance of the Sacrament.

**Altar Guild**  
Diane Hausman  
Carole Holub  
Diane Kramer  
Sally Sherman  
Barb Wiemann

# FINANCE COMMITTEE

**Finance Committee**  
 Roseann Koehler  
 Leah Krill  
 Dave Hausman

The Congregation Council voted to transfer \$4,000 from the Money Market Account to the General Account to cover the bills. We still need to consider replacement of the copier this fall. Hopefully attendance and contributions will increase as we all get back into our routines.

# TREASURER'S REPORT

	General	Building Repair	Memorial
July 5th	\$ 2,314.00	\$ 210.00	
July 12th	\$ 3,048.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 305.00
July 19th	\$ 3,365.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 50.00
July 26th	\$ 1,322.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 75.00
vanco	\$ 830.00	\$ 55.00	
Income in July	\$ 10,879.00	\$ 365.00	\$ 430.00
Expenses in July	\$ 14,758.79		

Current Balances	as of august 19th
General Checking	\$ 4,141.81
Building Repair	\$ 203.00
Memorial Fund	\$ 11,728.05
Money Market	\$ 65,647.08

## *Vanco Giving...*

One way to continue your giving in this busy summer season is to sign up for VANCO Giving.

Through VANCO Giving, your offerings are made through a pre-authorized withdrawal from your bank account. You determine the frequency of your automatic donation – weekly, semi-monthly or monthly. Your donation is deposited into Good Shepherd's bank account on the same day it is withdrawn from your account.

VANCO Giving is a reliable, safe way to activate a stewardship plan. It allows you to share your donations through planned giving. Because your donation is given consistently, you won't need to "catch up" at the end of the year or worry about forgotten checkbooks or missed Sunday offerings.

Contact Deana Cestare, Church Administrator, at the church office – 610-262-9517. She can assist in signing you up, or in canceling and/or changing your authorization.



**Christian Education Committee**

Nicole Bogden  
Cindy Evans  
Diane Kramer  
LeAnne Krill  
Gail Loch  
Mark Weaver

**“DRUM CIRCLE” for Rally Day**

Rally Day is coming  
Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>  
at 10:15AM.

All children 3 years of age through high school are invited. You will make your very own drum to play different rhythms together as a group.

On Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup> we will play our drums during the church service.

Mark your Calendar and plan to join us.



**Confirmation Classes**

will start on Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 AM during Sunday School for all students starting 7<sup>th</sup> grade this school year.

Do you want to help our young children learn more about God? Then volunteer to be a Sunday school teacher. Christian Education is looking for Sunday school teachers for 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade and 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grade. We would like to start a young adult class for students from 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade and an Adults class. If you are interested please contact a committee member.



**Mark your calendar**

**The Christian Education Committee is planning a HAYRIDE AND CORN MAZE at Unangst Tree Farm, located at 7317 Bethlehem – Bath Pike, Bath on October 11<sup>th</sup>**



More information next month

<i>Happy Birthday...</i>		Tyger James	Sept. 23rd	Sept. 15th	David & Jennifer Oberman
Sandra Graver	Sept. 1st	Suzanne Tyler	Sept. 25th	Barbara & Donald Steigerwalt	
Sierra Ruch	Sept. 3rd	Catherine Facenda	Sept. 26th	Sept. 24th	Al & Barbara Wiemann
Laura Klotz	Sept. 6th	Barry Miller	Sept. 28th		
Andrew LaBarre	Sept. 8th	Jean Bealer	Sept. 29th	Sept. 25th	Thomas & Vicky Brzozowski
Susan Ritton		Scott Ruch, Jr.			
Jessica Schwartz				Sept. 28th	Barry & Kathleen Gilbert
Laurelann Andrew	Sept. 9th	<i>Happy Anniversary...</i>		Sept. 29th	Laurelann & Joe Andrew
Sarah Plata	Sept. 10th	Sept. 7th			
Barry Saylor	Sept. 11th	Nevin & Bernice Lilly, Jr.			
Brenda Druckenmiller	Sept. 13th	Edwin Marshall & Mary Dennis			
Daniel Pavlick					
Julia Sparacello	Sept. 15th	Sept. 9th			
Gregory Dorn	Sept. 21st	Richard & Marion Newhard			
Robert Buss, Jr.	Sept. 22nd				
Brenda Koch					



**WORSHIP ASSISTANT LIST**

*(If you are unable to keep your scheduled time, please find someone else to fill in for you)*

USHERS

2015	9:00 a.m.
9/6/2015 and 9/13/2015	Sandy & Brad Newhard, Roseann & Dean Yelles
9/20/2015 and 9/27/2015	Doug Yelles, Dave Hausman, Jim Loch, Randy Claroni

ACOLYTE

	9:00 a.m.
9/6/2015	Ben Bogden
9/13/2015	Kyle Koehler
9/20/2015	Hope Eisenhard
9/27/2015	Nick Miller

WORSHIP ASSISTANT

	9:00 a.m.
9/6/2015	Dave Hausman
9/13/2015	Chris Holub
9/20/2015	Jason Bogden
9/27/2015	Laurie Andrew

POURING CHALICE

	9:00 a.m.
9/6/2015	Jessica Kirkpatrick
9/13/2015	Gail Loch
9/20/2015	Cindy Evans
9/27/2015	Barb Wiemann

CHALICE BEARER

	9:00 a.m.
9/6/2015	LeAnne Krill
9/13/2015	Laurie Andrew
9/20/2015	Judy Fehr
9/27/2015	Diane Hausman

CD MINISTRY

	9:00 a.m.
9/6/2015	Barb Wiemann
9/13/2015	Hope Eisenhard
9/20/2015	Lisa Mann
9/27/2015	Al Wiemann

LECTOR

	9:00 a.m.
9/6/2015	Dave Hausman
9/13/2015	Chris Holub
9/20/2015	Rick Fehr
9/27/2015	Edwin Marshall



Dave Hausman, President  
 Chris Holub, Vice President  
 Roseann Koehler, Finance Secretary  
 Laurie Andrew, Executive Secretary  
 Alexis Saylor, Recording Secretary  
 (Alexis not a member of Council)

Paul Evans III  
 Lisa Mann  
 Karen Hahn  
 Nicole Bogden  
 LeAnne Krill  
 Sandy Newhard  
 Catherine Miller

**Parochial Report**

Date	Attendance
7/5/2015	72
7/12/2015	71
7/19/2015	74 Outdoor Svc
7/26/2015	46
Total	263
Avg.	65.75

<b>Removed from Rolls</b> Aug. 10, 2015 Carla Green Joseph Green Steven Green	<b>Transferred</b> July 27, 2015 Eric Dorn
<b>Baptized-August 16, 2015</b> Maximus Larry Miller Naomi Rylee Schmoyer	



Laurie Andrew  
 Paul Evans, III  
 Chris Holub  
 Harold Redline  
 Barb Wiemann

# New Member's Class

On October 11th and 18th at 10:15am, there will be a new member's class at Good Shepherd in the Luther Room. This class is for those interested in joining Good Shepherd.

We will receive the new members during the worship service on October 25th.

Please fill out the form below and hand it to the pastor or place it in the offering plate.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

CHURCH AFFILIATION: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



The Girl Scouts are going NUTS in September!  
Look for new Candy and Nuts in our fundraiser event  
Starting Mid September.

Anyone still interested in joining Girl Scouts please contact  
Kathi Nemeth 610-262-0406  
or Nicole Bogden 610-261-9531  
for information.

## CUB SCOUT PACK

Join Cub Scout Pack 40!!! Cub Scouting is a family oriented program for boys in 1st through 5th grades. Cub Scouting is fun, friends, and families ... where skills are learned, confidence is built, stories are born and adventure begins. A Cub Scout who knows the buddy system learns to trust and be trusted. A Cub Scout who hikes and camps learns to appreciate the outdoors and take care of it. A boy who's part of a Cub Scout Den and Pack has a genuine sense of belonging. This is Scouting ... build your adventure today!

We will have a sign up night on Tuesday September 15th at 6:45PM in fellowship hall. The pack will meet every Tuesday 6:45PM to 8:00PM in fellowship hall. Parental involvement is a must.

For more information contact the Cubmaster, Brian Dungan at [briandunganpack40@gmail.com](mailto:briandunganpack40@gmail.com) or visit our website [www.cubscoutpack40kreidersville.org](http://www.cubscoutpack40kreidersville.org)

### Blessing of the Animals

Mark your calendars for our  
Blessing of the Animals Service  
on Sunday, October 11 at 2:00 p.m.  
at the pavilion.



Blessing of  
the Animals

# SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

## Andrew Berdahl Student Government Leader at Muhlenberg College



Andrew Berdahl, a member of Jordan Lutheran Church, Orefield was elected

president of the Student Government Association at Muhlenberg College for the 2015-16 academic year.

At Jordan, Andrew has been an active member "since First Grade," as an acolyte, a reader during worship, an usher, and member of the most recent call committee. Andrew especially remembers the occasion when he preached a "faith alone sermon."

Having attended the 2013 Youth Gathering in New Orleans, he looked forward to the gathering in Detroit this summer.

Academics at Muhlenberg are "huge" for Andrew. While it would be easy to put religion on the back burner during college years, Andrew regularly attends Chapel worship on Sundays and participates in the Interfaith Council.

He has a deep appreciation for the ministry of Chaplain Callista Isabelle, especially for the way she makes the Chapel a meaningful place for thought and prayer.



## A MINISTRY OF GRACE

Every Pastor and congregational member has the desire to discover a way to make the sacrament of baptism more meaningful to the family of the child brought to God's font for baptism. In 2008 the Director of Christian Education at St. John, Hamburg attended an event and learned about a tradition called the Baptismal Chest.

The Baptismal Chest is a wooden chest measuring 18X9x10 presented to all children on the day of their baptism. It is a symbol of the presence of God in the church and in the family home, much like the Ark of the Covenant was to the children of Israel. The baptismal chest travels through life with the child as he/she grows into faith.

The chest contains important faith formation articles from the sacrament of baptism such as the baptismal candle, Chrisom, a certificate, pictures, and the baptismal napkin. As the faith journey continues, other items may be saved as well: study Bibles, devotionals, journals, confirmation information, church camp memorabilia, youth gathering tee shirts, a cross, and marriage remembrances.

St. John's is fortunate to have Harold Miller, affectionately called Freck, a master craftsman who formerly worked as a pattern maker for Emhardt Foundry in Hamburg and Behler Patterns, Inc. in Deer Lake. Since his retirement Freck works in his wood shop located in the basement of his home making dollhouses, center pieces for congregational dinners, and bean bag games for the church picnic.

Freck is currently assisted by Ken and Elaine Arndt, also members of St. John's, who work with him to create the baptismal chests. It takes about a week to complete one chest. Together this team presents the newly baptized child of God with a gift that reminds them of God's grace and the faith community that surrounds them for the rest of their lives.



## How Do We Keep Youth After Confirmation?

Getting youth involved in the church begins at Baptism, so why wait until confirmation age to invite them to participate in worship leadership (reading lessons, serving as greeters, or serving as an usher for example)?

Why wait until confirmation to involve them in any of the ministries of your congregation? If you are waiting until confirmation to involve them, you are too late.

What about involving youth in ministries beyond your congregation's walls and working side by side with them as you visit shut-ins (more than just singing Christmas carols) or help clean up a neighborhood or participate in Bike for World Hunger or some other ministry?



Listen to Kelly Wallace, a recent graduate from Cornell University, talk about her experiences as a youth and young

adult in her congregation, this synod, and the ELCA.

As you will hear, her faith journey and involvement in the church began in her home congregation, but eventually extended outward into other ministries of the church.

For more resources and ideas, and to view Kelly's video presentation at Assembly 2015, visit

<http://nepsynod.org/ministry-teams/youth-young-adult-and-family-ministry-team/>.



## Community Vegetable Garden

The community vegetable garden at Christ, Hellertown, now in its third growing season, started in spring 2013 with four ten foot long raised beds. The garden increased in size last year to seven beds, and two and a half of those beds were dedicated to grow food just for the local food bank. Six gardeners have bed space. No chemicals are allowed, and they try to use organic fertilizer only. All the gardeners have been asked to give a percentage of their crops to the food bank.

Garden produce is collected both from the church garden and from home gardens, and purchased produce is also received. The giving season runs from May to October. The local food bank is open the third and fourth Saturdays each month, and various people take the produce over on Saturday mornings. This spring they started tracking the giving on a simple tally sheet.

The goal is to share some of the Lord's bounty. Bags of carrots, potatoes, and other veggies as well as fruit are collected so that those less fortunate can have more fresh produce.

Your church can start a garden too. If you are interested, contact Christ, Hellertown (610-838-0400 or [rkuba@christlutheranhellertown.org](mailto:rkuba@christlutheranhellertown.org)) and they will be happy to answer your questions on how to get started.

Synod News is published monthly by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA  
2354 Grove Road, Allentown PA 18109; 610-266-5101.  
[nepsinfo1988@gmail.com](mailto:nepsinfo1988@gmail.com); [www.godsllove.org](http://www.godsllove.org)

# SEPTEMBER 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1  CUB PACK 6:45-8PM  CHRISTIAN EDUCATION 7:30PM	2	3  POLICY PERSONNEL	4	5
6  9:00 WORSHIP VOCATION SUNDAY	7  OFFICE CLOSED	8  CUB PACK 6:45-8PM	9  GIRL SCOUTS 6:30-8PM	10  SR. CHOIR 7:30PM	11	12  FAB 50'S
13  9:00 WORSHIP RALLY DAY FOOD BANK SUNDAY  BELL CHOIR 11AM	14  GIRL SCOUTS 6:30-8PM  COUNCIL 7PM	15  CUB PACK 6:45-8PM	16  GIRL SCOUTS 6:30-8PM	17  SR. CHOIR 7:30PM	18	19
20  9:00 WORSHIP IN TOUCH SUNDAY  SUNDAY SCHOOL CONFIRMATION CLASS 10:15AM  BELL CHOIR 11AM	21  WELCA 1PM AT CHURCH GIRL SCOUTS 6:30-8PM	22  CUB PACK 6:45-8PM	23  FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE 9:30AM GIRL SCOUTS 6:30-8PM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 7PM	24  SR. CHOIR 7:30PM	25	26
27  9:00 WORSHIP HARVEST HOME  SUNDAY SCHOOL CONFIRMATION CLASS 10:15AM  BELL CHOIR 11AM	28  GIRL SCOUTS 6:30-8PM  PROPERTY 7PM	29  CUB PACK 6:45-8PM	30  GIRL SCOUTS 6:30-8PM			

TODD AGNEW, a contemporary Christian musician and songwriter, will be performing on Saturday, October 17, 2015 at 7pm at UNION LUTHERAN CHURCH (5500 Rt 873 Schnecksville, PA). For tickets go to the website: [www.ulclv.org](http://www.ulclv.org) or [www.itickets.com](http://www.itickets.com). Cost is \$17.00 per person. Proceeds from the concert will benefit The Learning Ark Christian Preschool of Union Lutheran Church. Call the church office with questions at 610-767-6884.