

THE FLOCK'S NEWS

JULY 2018

Sharing Ministries / Building Relationships

This was the theme for this year's annual Synod Assembly of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the ELCA, held in "our backyard" at the Mohegan Sun Arena, Wilkes-Barre Twp., June 8 – 9.

Over 500 delegates, guests, and visitors attended this event, with representation from most of the 261 ELCA Lutheran congregations in our synod.

Our Synod Bishop, The Rev. Dr. Samuel Zeiser convened this assembly, which had its usual business to conduct like elections to Synod Council, and delegates to the ELCA Church Wide Assembly in Milwaukee in 2019.

As always the worship was inspiring as the assembly was grounded in the proclamation of God's Word and the sharing of bread and wine with spirited singing. A couple highlights of the assembly included hearing the Bishop of the Lutheran Church of Argentina and Uruguay, The Rev. Gustavo Gomez Pascua, speak of how their congregations are witnessing to the gospel through working for justice in their neighbors. Also, the Hmong Community Evangelical Lutheran Church was welcomed into our synod as an official ELCA congregation. The Hmong Community, originally living in SE Asia, were displaced by decades of war. As immigrants they were settled in our country, many of them through the social service agencies of the Lutheran Church in Philadelphia. Now, as a Lutheran worshipping community, they have settled at Allegheny Lutheran Church in Knauers, PA.

A key underlying message throughout this assembly is that in the midst of a rapidly changing culture, the church

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can no longer simply open its doors on Sunday morning and expect people to come in. The church needs to be more of a "servant" church – willing to serve its neighbors in our communities. To demonstrate this at our assembly delegates were invited to sign up for pre-arranged service projects that sent them out into our Wilkes-Barre community. Some of the service projects included volunteering at the SPCA, working on maintenance tasks at Bear Creek Camp, serving a meal at Mother Theresa Haven and the Keystone Mission, leading a hymn sign at the Meadows and TimberRidge nursing homes, and even coming Good Shepherd to share in painting a mural with neighborhood children.

In 2019 the Synod Assembly will be held in Hazleton on Saturday, June 1st. With it being held close, maybe even more of Good Shepherd's members can experience the work of the wider church.

SHARING GOD'S ABUNDANT GRACE

CHILDREN LEARN TO BE GOD'S HELPING HANDS

Over 35 children participated in Good Shepherd's Vacation Bible School from June 18-22. "Helping Hands – God's Plan" was the theme based on the parable of The Good Samaritan. Children learned how people lived in Bible times and how they are God's hands by helping others.

Children were introduced to a different Bible verse each day and dressed in tunics and head dresses as in ancient times. They met the traveler who was beaten and robbed on their journey. Then saw how a Samaritan helped to he traveler while others left him lying on the road.

During games children learned to work together as a team to build a tent from a parachute in addition to playing other games to reinforce lessons while getting a chance to run and play.

In crafts children made picture frames, t-shirts, and mini flags with hearts and hands to always remind them that helping others is how God wants us to show love for one another. Children get to make their own design on each craft to show what Helping Hands – God's Plan means to them.



See the photos at <https://adobe.ly/2yBeJfj>.



INCREDIBLE CREATIONS KIDS CLUB IS COMING JULY 11!



Incredible Creations Kids Club is back. The summer program will be kicked off with a community barbecue on Wednesday, July 11th, at 5:00 pm. Everyone is invited for fellowship and to learn more about this exciting program.

The Incredible Creations Kids Club helps children explore their God given talents in a fun-filled atmosphere through music, art, dance and drama. The program is open to all children from the community.

Registration forms will be available at the community barbecue and can also be downloaded at goodshepherdwb.org/resources/ICKCRegistration.pdf. The weekly program will continue each Wednesday through August 22nd.



A special thanks to our Good Shepherd members for the many sympathy cards and special prayers. Our family greatly appreciated the wonderful group of people who made and served a delicious funeral luncheon. This was so helpful to us.

Fred and I were so fortunate to have Pastor Peter and Pastor Janell visit us with monthly communion.

As long time members, we have always felt blessed with the love from Good Shepherd Church.

In Christ's Love,
Jean Zinn and Family

VBS - THANK YOU !

THANK YOU TO EACH OF YOU WHO HELPLED WITH OUR VBS THIS YEAR!!!!

THANK YOU for:

- **Sharing your time and talents**
- **Snack donations**
- **Monetary donations for supplies and food**
- **Activity supplies for our "Samaritan" project for the Ronald McDonald House.**

THANKS !!!!!

CHURCH PICNIC: JULY 29



The Church Picnic will be happening on Sunday, July 29th, at Kirby Park, Pavilion #3. Outdoor worship will begin at 12:00 noon under the Pavilion. The picnic will follow afterwards. The church will provide hamburgers and hot dogs as well as ice water to drink. Members are invited to bring a salad or dessert to share. Please sign up at the display in the narthex (S. Main St. entrance). Come join us for meaningful worship, good fellowship, good food, and fun games!

PEW ENVELOPES: WHITE OR GREEN??



The pew envelope racks now contain both white and green offering envelopes for your convenience in making both designated and non-designated offerings to the church. Please use the white envelope if you are a contributing member and have forgotten your regular offering envelope or would like to make an additional offering or are a non-member/visitor and would like to make an offering to any of the funds listed on the white envelope. Please use a green envelope if you are a member or a non-member/visitor and you would like to make a contribution to any of the funds listed on the green envelope or want to designate to a different fund or ministry not listed. Contributing members, please include your name and/or envelope number on either type of envelope for proper crediting. Also, please note that, going forward, any non-designated monies listed on the white envelope will be credited toward

"Weekly" and any non-designated monies listed on the green envelope will be credited toward "Communion." Therefore, if you are only making an offering toward "Weekly", please use the white envelope. Thank you in advance for your support of the ministries of Good Shepherd. Jim Parks, Financial Secretary