

Prints of Peace



From the Pastor's Desk

The Worship and Music Committee recently met (over Zoom) to discuss what we thought people needed right now, and how we might be able to address that need through worship.

The answer we came up with was “Fellowship” – in this lingering, seemingly unending pandemic, one thing we think people are craving is *fellowship*. And unfortunately, that’s something that is very hard to come by right now. As I write this in early August, the Delta variant has been in the news constantly, as more and more businesses and municipalities are requiring masks (again), and in some cases proof of vaccination. The more we learn about this mutated, and mutating, form of COVID, the less and less safe fellowship activities seem to be.

However, the committee didn’t give up! We kept on talking, kept on thinking, kept on praying. And we came up with something that we think *might* help, at least a little. We’re not providing a time of fellowship, not exactly. However, what we’re providing is a chance to talk with one another in a different way, a chance to connect with people, a chance to hear others’ thoughts. It’s not perfect, but it’s *something*.

Here’s what we’ll be doing: throughout the month of September, a video camera will be set up in the narthex at church as people leave at the end of worship. The camera will be continually recording. Everyone (including you) will be invited to come to the video camera, and leave a message for the congregation. It could be as simple as a quick “Hello!” Or you could tell a joke, or share a story. You could take a moment and share how the sermon impacted you that day. Or maybe just say something you’re grateful for. Whatever! (I might give you some prompts as well during worship – maybe each week there will be a particular “topic” to talk about. We’ll see!)

And then, during the week, we’ll make a montage video of the responses we get on Sunday. That video will be posted on YouTube, and also shared at the beginning of worship the following week. It is our hope that by hearing greetings and stories and reflections from one another, we might all feel a little closer, even when we’re not able to be closer yet.

I’m hoping that this will also be a little fun. I’m hoping that people smile and laugh as they record messages, and that we smile and laugh as we all listen later. We could use a little fun right now, don’t you think?

In Christ,

Rev. Michael J. Scholtes

THANK YOU

July 30, 2021

The Rev. Michael J. Scholtes
Prince of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church
2445 Lake Minsi Drive
Bangor, PA 18013-5418

Dear Pastor Scholtes,

Yesterday Linda and I were informed that an effort to raise support among members of Prince of Peace for the Samuel and Linda Zeiser Fund for Leaders Scholarship has resulted in a sum of \$1,565 having been raised. We are deeply grateful and deeply moved by this generous expression of support by the leaders and members of a congregation so dear to our hearts. Please convey our gratitude to the Congregation Council for carrying out this effort, and to the members of the congregation for their contributions.

The goal of the Scholarship Fund is important to us because of the way it will help raise up professional leaders for the future of the church's mission to proclaim the good news of God's love in the Risen Jesus. The support of Prince of Peace for this goal adds immensely to our excitement about what can be accomplished.

With thanksgiving for your pastoral ministry and with gratitude and best wishes to all, I am

Yours in Christ Jesus,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Samuel R. Zeiser". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

The Rev. Samuel R. Zeiser



*Please keep these people in prayer
on the anniversary of their birth...*

Alani Blount, September 2
Christopher Confalone, September 2
James Neiley, September 7
Micah Smith, September 9
Douglas Hock, September 9
Mary Jane Hower, September 10
Samantha Johns, September 11
Sheri Oessenick, September 11
Ronald Getz, September 12
Melissa Frack, September 12
Jessica Reinhart, September 14
Thomas Amy, September 15
Janessa Baker, September 15
Alyce Hower, September 16
Phyllis Bisher, September 17
Samuel Blakeslee, September 18
Wanda McCammon, September 18
Levi Ott, September 19
Justin Ott, September 21
Kelly Hill, September 22
Kay Parsons, September 24
Patricia Duran, September 25
Lauran Gillow, September 25
Arlene Miller, September 25
Mckenna Baker, September 25
Mildred Clancy, September 26
Staci Hock, September 27
Jayden Garis, September 28
Bruce Antonioli, September 29
Matthew Schipps, September 30
Amy Newhard, September 30

RECENT PASTORAL ACTS

Funeral:

Becky Godshalk
(by Pastor Druckenmiller)

Baptisms:

Aria Joy Hughes, July 24
Savanna Faith Poliskiewicz, August 8



In-person (9:45 on Sundays – OUTSIDE in the grove on the 1st Sunday of the month)

All in-person worship services may include alterations to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, including (but not limited to) altered seating arrangements, the wearing of masks, no singing, and so forth. If you are not feeling well, please do not attend.

Online / Facebook / Telephone

Watch our worship each week at our website (popbangor.org/video-worship). Or watch it on our Facebook page (facebook.com/popbangor). You can also call in to hear our worship each week at 877-POP-2-POP (877-767-2767). New videos and audio files will be added each Monday.

AUGUST 9, 2021—COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- Change to Treasurer Office in By-Laws – The reason for this is so we can appropriately have someone serve in the office of “treasurer”. The treasurer is defined as an officer of the congregation, and thus must be a voting member of the congregation. While it is fine and good to have a paid staff person performing these duties, this person is not eligible to serve as an officer, nor is it appropriate to expect this person to do the same. We will vote on this at the Annual Meeting in November.
- The Staff Committee completed all annual staff evaluations. There will be staff recognition the first Sunday of the next four months with the exception of November which will be the second Sunday.
- Nave Technology – The Communication Technology Committee has reviewed and accepted an estimate for a sound system from Blue Chip Sound. The committee is still waiting for an estimate on additional components.
- The Annual Congregational Meeting will be on November 21, 2021. It will be decided closer to this date if the meeting will be in person or via zoom. Nominating Committee will be formed. The open seats will be up for election at our Annual Congregation Meeting on November 21, 2021. If anyone is interested in helping please let a council member know.
- The pathway to the grove will be started on August 14th. The project should take a week to complete, weather permitting.



MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKENDS SCHEDULED FOR FALL

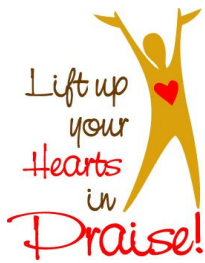
How is your marriage? For many couples, the Coronavirus put a lot of stress on their relationship. Lutheran Marriage Encounter is designed to renew and revitalize your marriage no matter whether your relationship is very strong and you would just like some time together or whether you are struggling. Now is the perfect time to sign up to attend a Weekend.

The registration fee has been waived for this year, so you pay only the amount specified on the website for 2 nights in your group-rate hotel room and 5 meals for each of you. Also, scholarship funds are available for anyone in need. Simply e-mail or call us at the information below before you register.

Which Weekend will work for you: **October 1-3** -- Heritage Hotel Lancaster in Lancaster, PA--Famous for its Robin Hood-inspired restaurant, Loxleys
October 15-17-- Hyatt Place, Pittsburgh/Cranberry--spacious, modern décor guestrooms with couches

Should complications arise, your payment is refundable up to a month before the Weekend. Weekends begin at 8 PM on Friday night and end at approximately 3 PM on Sunday. REGISTRATIONS WILL BE LIMITED, so sign up NOW while there are still openings. Simply go to: www.GodLovesMarriage.org, find your chosen Weekend, fill out the form, and pay the amount specified with a credit card, or print the form and mail with a check. Don't miss this opportunity to create a more intimate and joyful marital relationship! For questions, please contact Northeast US Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, fjschamber@comcast.net or call: 724-325-3166.

OUTSIDE WORSHIP FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH!



We will have our regular Sunday worship outside in the church grove on the first Sunday of each month. Worship will begin as usual at 9:45 am. Please wear a mask, and bring a chair to sit in. (There are some benches, but not enough for everyone.) If you would prefer to remain in your car, that is fine. Speakers will be setup so that you can hear the service, and communion will be brought to you. Unlike the outdoor services we did last summer, these will be **full** services, with sermon, hymns, communion, and so forth. One of the best things about worshipping outside is that we will be able to sing together!

Depending on how this goes, we plan to do this through the fall. If the weather is inclement on a given Sunday, we will hold worship inside instead.

Thank you for your willingness to serve!!! If you are unable to fulfill an assignment, please find someone to take your place and let Pastor Scholtes know of the change as soon as possible.

For last minute changes be sure to leave the message on Pastor Scholtes' voice mail (610-588-2355) or email him at PastorMJS@gmail.com.

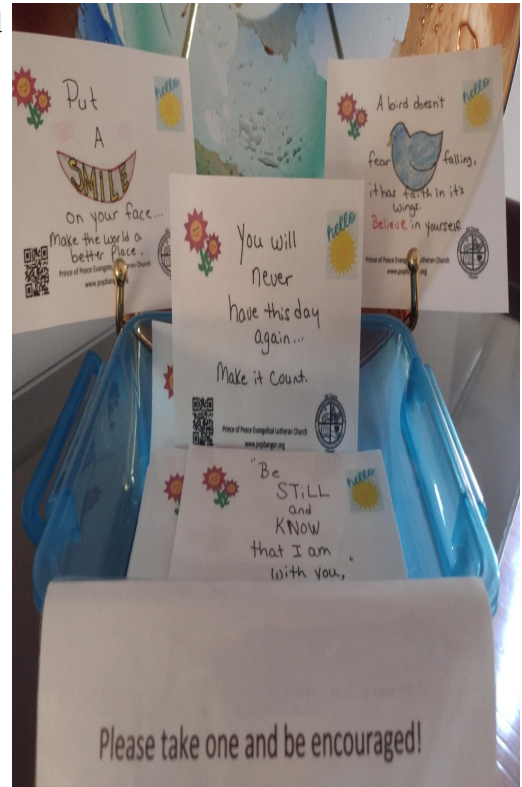
| Date: | Greeters | Lay Reader | Assisting Minister | Ushers | Power Point |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Sunday, Sept. 5 (In grove) | Vivian Fahr, Connie Itterly | Sherry Hock | Tina Johns | Brenda Hughes, Kale Baker, Brooks Baker | Cathy Mullen (if inside building) |
| Sunday, Sept. 12 | Brenda Hughes, Brooks Baker | Mary Hendershot | Kale Baker | Georgia and John Suranofsky, Traci Rumsey | Jim Jennings |
| Sunday, Sept. 19 | Georgia and John Suranofsky | April Miller | Marlene Stana | Bob Gist, Connie Itterly, Brenda Hughes | Kim Jennings |
| Sunday, Sept. 26 | Traci Rumsey, Kale Baker | Brooks Baker | Connie Itterly | June and Sherk Jones, Vivian Fahr | Tina Johns |
| Sunday, Oct. 3 (In grove) | Vivian Fahr, Connie Itterly | Kim Jennings | Laraine Brands | Kale Baker, Brooks Baker, Brenda Hughes | Antonioli Family |

You Are Generous!

Thank you for all the ways you continue to show the love of God through your generosity. The Social Ministry committee has brought several different projects to us this year for us to be part of to continue to help our neighbors in need and you have responded with food for P.U.M.P. and socks for Safe Harbor just to name two. Have you pickup an “encouragement card”? These inspiring little note cards are available on the counter in the Narthex and some have also made their way to “Bloom” women’s outreach in Bangor. These cards have been hand crafted (NO real art talent needed) by several in the congregation for all member to take to brighten their own day or to share with someone else. Now, we begin to bring items for the children helped through the Slater Family network through the months of September and October. When we take the backpack items to the Slate Family Network, included will be a “kid” version of the encouragement card. Just let Sherry Hock know if you would like to make some or recommend a place we can share the cards.

Thanks be to God for keeping us together in this community of believers who share to be a blessing to others.

—*The Stewardship Committee*



ARE YOU GETTING PASTORMAIL?

Pastor Scholtes sends out emails to the congregation almost every day. These *PastorMails* contain information about upcoming events, about recent decisions made in the church, and generally help to keep us all connected. If you are not receiving them, please send him a note at pastorMJS@gmail.com to get added to the list, or sign up at our church website (popbangor.org).



Are you interested in making a difference in the life of a person residing in a nursing home or personal care, assisted living facility? Consider becoming a Volunteer Ombudsman. Training will be provided. To volunteer, please contact Jennifer Arciere, Ombudsman Program Supervisor, at 484-619-3337, or jarciere@allentowndiocese.org.



The Slater Family Network is once again in need of snacks for their Backpack Buddy project. During the school year kids are sent home on Fridays with a backpack filled with snacks and other food items. We helped them with this project last year and it was very successful. So once again we are asking for donations of snacks, there's a list of items you may purchase in the Narthex. This project will continue through September. Questions: See Sherry Hock, Mary O'Meally and Holly Blakeslee. We are a church that is energized by lively engagement in our faith life. Thank you for doing God's work with a faithful and generous heart! —*Social Ministry*



Update: Wow the anniversary will soon be upon us! The committee is hard at work to provide exciting events and displays, along with some memorabilia to have availability for or-

der. But for now, we are asking everyone to think about what they may have at home to share from their own archives. If you purchased something from the churches at auction, pictures, etc., would be a great asset to our celebration. Also, we are still looking for confirmation pictures from 1988, 1989, 1990, 1992, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1998, and 2009. It is closely approaching and our hope is that we can all celebrate and feel excitement and joy for all that we as a community have done for spreading the word, inviting others and all of the outreach that we have done over the years!

Would you like to sponsor the weekly announcement folders or altar flowers? Would you like to sponsor the monthly newsletter?

A chart for each category is available on the bulletin board by the church offices.

Questions?

Contact Annette Buss at
610-588-2355 or
poplcbangor@gmail.com.

Social Ministry News:



Many of you may be aware that on Saturday, August 14th I attended "God's Playground" (Ministry-Lab) at the synod in Allentown. It was an opportunity for churches to display their ministries. I displayed the mini prayer cloths and what their ministry is. Remember we gave these out to healthcare workers during COVID. I also displayed crocheted flower pins and tassel necklaces that I made. I had given these to The Slater Family Network and Bloom to give to the women that visit those facilities. (Everyone should have something pretty) Many people thought the mini prayer cloths were a great idea, I gave out 61 along with the pattern to many people from other churches. There were 2 young ladies from Bear Creek Camp, who was so excited to start making them to give out. A man I had the opportunity to speak to was impressed with our ministry with BLOOM. His wife who belongs to a non-profit may be donating quilts to BLOOM so the ladies that complete the program can take them when they leave. Georgia and I also met with Timothy Dewalt, his father, Pastor Marvin Dewalt was the pastor at East Bangor in the 1940's. Brenda and Larry Stauffer were there as participants and joined me in

speaking to people. The day was very interesting and there were many opportunities to dialog with one another around like and diverse ministries throughout our synod. I look forward to the next one, I know it will be bigger and better! Questions: see Mary O'Meally

Weis Receipt and Gift Card Program Update



POP has had a long relationship with Weis or Mr. Z's. When we started to collect the receipts it was an easy way to raise money. Place your receipts in the Weis drawer in the Narthex. We earn 1 percent from each receipt that comes from purchases from the Bangor store. We cannot receive or use receipts from other locations. Questions? Contact Laraine Brands.

POP also sells Weis cards and we make 5 percent from the sales. While we are very happy with the return from the receipt collection, POP will raise more money from the sale of the Weis cards. So, maybe you will consider this option as our fund raiser. (Gift cards can be given as gifts or used for your regular shopping trips.) —And please remember we can not earn anything in receipts if you have used the purchased Weis cards.

Please see Jim Jennings or Jackie Horn to purchase your gift cards. Thank you for supporting POP in this endeavor!



Bible READINGS DAILY

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Wednesday, September 1 | Psalm 106:1-6, 13-23, 47-48; Deuteronomy 4:21-40; Mark 7:9-23 |
| Thursday, September 2 | Psalm 146; Isaiah 30:27-33; Romans 2:1-11 |
| Friday, September 3 | Psalm 146; Isaiah 32:1-8; Romans 2:12-16 |
| Saturday, September 4 | Psalm 146; Isaiah 33:1-9; Matthew 15:21-31 |
| Sunday, September 5 | Isaiah 35:4-7a; Psalm 146; James 2:1-17; Mark 7:24-37 |
| Monday, September 6 | Isaiah 38:10-20; Joshua 6:1-21; Hebrews 11:29-12:2 |
| Tuesday, September 7 | Isaiah 38:10-20; Joshua 8:1-23; Hebrews 12:3-13 |
| Wednesday, September 8 | Isaiah 38:10-20; Judges 15:9-20; Matthew 17:14-21 |
| Thursday, September 9 | Psalm 116:1-9; Joshua 2:1-14; Hebrews 11:17-22 |
| Friday, September 10 | Psalm 116:1-9; Joshua 2:15-24; James 2:17-26 |
| Saturday, September 11 | Psalm 116:1-9; Joshua 6:22-27; Matthew 21:23-32 |
| Sunday, September 12 | Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 116:1-9; James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38 |
| Monday, September 13 | Psalm 119:169-176; 1 Kings 13:1-10; Romans 3:9-20 |
| Tuesday, September 14 | Psalm 119:169-176; 1 Kings 13:11-25; Colossians 3:1-11 |
| Wednesday, September 15 | Psalm 119:169-176; Isaiah 10:12-20; John 7:25-36 |
| Thursday, September 16 | Psalm 54; Judges 6:1-10; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 |
| Friday, September 17 | Psalm 54; 1 Kings 22:24-40; Romans 11:25-32 |
| Saturday, September 18 | Psalm 54; 2 Kings 17:5-18; Matthew 23:29-39 |
| Sunday, September 19 | Jeremiah 11:18-20; Psalm 54; James 3:13-4:8; Mark 9:30-37 |
| Monday, September 20 | Psalm 139:1-18; 2 Kings 5:1-14; James 4:8-17 |
| Tuesday, September 21 | Psalm 139:1-18; 2 Kings 11:21-12:16; James 5:1-6 |
| Wednesday, September 22 | Psalm 139:1-18; Jeremiah 1:4-10; John 8:21-38 |
| Thursday, September 23 | Psalm 19:7-14; Exodus 18:13-27; Acts 4:13-31 |
| Friday, September 24 | Psalm 19:7-14; Deuteronomy 1:1-18; Acts 12:20-25 |
| Saturday, September 25 | Psalm 19:7-14; Deuteronomy 27:1-10; Matthew 5:13-20 |
| Sunday, September 26 | Numbers 11:4-29; James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50 |
| Monday, September 27 | Psalm 5; Zechariah 6:9-15; 1 Peter 1:3-9 |
| Tuesday, September 28 | Psalm 5; Zechariah 8:18-23; 1 John 2:18-25 |
| Wednesday, September 29 | Psalm 5; Zechariah 10:1-12; Matthew 18:6-9 |
| Thursday, September 30 | Psalm 8; Genesis 20:1-18; Galatians 3:23-29 |

Grateful to God



Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
2445 Lake Minsi Drive (Johnsonville)
Bangor, Pennsylvania 18013
Office Phone: 610-588-2355

Web-site: www.popbangor.org
Web Master and Facebook Manager:
Heather Scholtes lotsofsocks@live.com

Worship and Holy Communion Schedule:
Sundays at 9:45 a.m. — See Page 3 for details!
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- **Pastor: Rev. Michael J. Scholtes 610-588-2314,**  
**[PastorMJS@gmail.com](mailto:PastorMJS@gmail.com)**
- **Organist/Music Leader: Martin Yazdzik**
- **Treasurer: Joyce Weishaupt**
- **Financial Secretary: Mary O'Meally**
- **Sexton: Brittnee Brown**
- **Parish Nurse: Justine Cesari, 610-730-7895,**  
**[cesarijustine1080@gmail.com](mailto:cesarijustine1080@gmail.com)**
- **Church Secretary: Annette Buss**

**Church Secretary's Office Hours:** Monday, Tuesday,  
Wednesday, Friday 9am–Noon Thursday: 1 to 4 pm  
Church Secretary's email: [poplcbangor@gmail.com](mailto:poplcbangor@gmail.com)

## **Church Council Members:**

|                                |                |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Georgia Suranofsky - President | Dennis Horn    |
| Connie Iterly - Vice President | Scott Schipps  |
| Marlene Stana - Secretary      | Kathy Williams |
| Dave Karner                    | Chip Harrison  |
| Traci Rumsey                   |                |

## **OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT**

*We, the people of Prince of Peace Evangelical  
Lutheran Church, will actively seek and serve  
Christ in all people.*

Would you like to place an article in  
the monthly newsletter? Highlight  
your ministry? Post a Thank you?  
Make an announcement?

**EARLY SUBMISSIONS ARE**  
**APPRECIATED!**

**October 2021 Newsletter is:**  
**September 14th**

*You may email your submissions to*  
***[poplcbangor@gmail.com](mailto:poplcbangor@gmail.com)***  
*Or give a handwritten items to*  
***Annette Buss***

**\*\*Items received  
after the deadline  
will go into the next  
month's newsletter.\*\***

**Publication's title & number:**  
**PRINTS OF PEACE**

**Statement of frequency**  
**Published Monthly: 12 issues**

**January, February, March, April, May,  
June, July, August, September,  
October, November, December**

**Authorized Organization's  
Name and Address:**

**PRINCE OF PEACE  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
2445 LAKE MINSI DRIVE  
BANGOR, PA 18013-5418**



# Graceful Generosity

Published to help you grow as a steward of God's grace.

## Seasons Change, ...but God Never Does

God blesses us all with four beautiful seasons of the year, but each fall how can we not give special thanks to God for apple cider, football, coloring of the leaves, and the mild days. Fall is just a great time of the year. In the fall, there seems to be a greater activity within the church. The summer always seems to refresh and energize us for new ministries in the fall as the boards and committees in our church get active and busy again. There is a new sense of enthusiasm to serve the Lord as faithful stewards of who we are and what we've been given.



Together we should thank God that we are a church for all seasons. Whether fall, winter, spring, or summer, we share God's "Good News" with the church and unchurched. We are a church that continues to find new and different ways to share the love of Jesus with others. Visitors who visit us can feel God's presence and love from our members.

## Rating your Stewardship Effort

On a scale of 1 to 10, 10 being the absolute best, how would you rate what you are doing as

a Christian steward? As you think about this for a moment, you will begin to realize that, by your own efforts, you will never come close to being a "10". On God's grading scale, we all rate a zero without him. Fortunately, God knows that we are not perfect. Since the fall of Adam, God has used ordinary sinful people to do the extraordinary.

In spite of our imperfections and frailties, God wants to use us as his hands and feet to feed the hungry, house the homeless, build his Church, and seek the lost with his Gospel. God has made us his stewards, and he equips us for the task. The Apostle Paul wrote, *"And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work"* (2 Corinthians 9:8).

God doesn't expect us to be perfect stewards, but he expects us to have attitudes that desire to praise and serve him. Jesus didn't say, "Blessed are those who achieve their potential and never make a mistake," nor did Jesus say, "Well done, good and successful servant." What Jesus did say was, *"Blessed are the poor in spirit . . . those who mourn . . . the meek"* (Matthew 5:3-5). He also said, *"Well done, good and faithful servant"* (Matthew 25:23). In our humanity, it is easy for us to make a mess of things, but we please the Lord when we, through faith, willingly use our time, talents, and treasures to help others and his Church.

The good news for us is that, in Christ, our "0" becomes a "10".

***"Never measure your generosity by what you give, but rather what you have left."***

J. S. Fulton

## Prove and Improve

I heard of a man who was offered a deal in which there was a chance to make a great deal of money. He looked it over, and then at a luncheon he explained to the company representative that he could not take it. When pressed for his reason, he said, "I am a Christian." My company tries to do business by Christian principles, and, in light of that, I can see no possible way to handle this." The other businessman looked at him in amazement and said, "Surely you don't try to mix two good things like business and religion." Then from across the table he heard an expression which should be inscribed over every business. "My friend, I have discovered that it is only when we do mix business and religion that we can prove our religion and improve our business."

**"Money is a great treasure that only increases as you give it away"**  
Lord Francis Bacon

## Opportunity Knocks

The apostle Paul, like us, had things he wanted to do and people he wanted to see. He told the Corinthians that he wanted to come to visit them but that he would have to stay awhile in Ephesus, *"because a great door for effective work [had] opened to [him]"* (1 Corinthians 16:9). As a true disciple of Christ, Paul knew about self-sacrifice. He had suffered much for the sake of the Gospel, and even now, instead of pleasing himself, he was not going to let this opportunity for ministry pass by.

These few words offer much food for thought. Perhaps you've worked long and hard and have been driving around, casting your eyes on new luxury homes. The budget would be tight. Sure wouldn't leave room for extra gifts and offerings beyond the tithe. What do you do? Is this the time for you, like Paul, to put your own

desires aside in order to be able to give donations to missionaries, to your church colleges, and to the ministry of your own church? Everywhere you look, can't you see that *"a great door for effective work has opened..."*?

Perhaps you've prepared for a career in a lucrative field. It's been a long struggle, studying for tests, preparing for interviews, and working hard in the summers to pay for it. Then you sense the call of God, calling you into fulltime Christian ministry. Not exactly the lucrative career you had in mind. Certainly *"there [will be] many who oppose [you]"*. This is foolish, they say, you can serve God anywhere, but you know that *"a great door for effective work has opened..."*



For most of us, taking advantage of the opportunities God give us to serve and give don't involve life-changing decisions. It simply requires that we be ready and willing to set aside our own wants and desires, probably temporarily, and walk through that great door of opportunity.

***Blessings on Your Stewardship Journey!***





# SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA

SEPTEMBER 2021 • ISSUE 9 • VOLUME 29

## AN INCREDIBLE RETURN TO THE WOODS AT THE END OF THE RED DIRT ROAD

BY COLLIN GROOMS

No one would have asked to have a summer of youth camp canceled because of COVID, but certainly, as with any challenge, it is good when the positives of a situation can be found. Having a summer away from the routines of camp as it has “always been” gave Bear Creek Camp an opportunity to truly look at creating the camp experiences that campers and staff need right now.

In a world where we’ve been separated from our friends and families, taking the time to build a small, intentional community was most essential. This summer, each quest group crafted their own experience as they creatively planned their week’s activities. For some that meant nature hikes into the depths of our woods or discovering every swimming location. For others that meant time on the high ropes course or writing new songs to be sung at bonfires.



*Continuing  
Promises*



For every group that meant finding unique ways to explore their faith through daily bible study and worship experiences. Camp has an enduring quality of being the place where campers can find whatever they are needing in the moment. Faith can be discovered and strengthened. Lifelong friends can be made. Personal discovery happens constantly as we're taken away from our comfort zones and shown a newly revealed world.

Summer 2021 was an incredible return to the woods at the end of the red dirt road. We are so deeply grateful for our entire community that supported us in reaching this new beginning.



## GROWING TOGETHER IN NEPSYNOD: MINLAB

On August 14, 2021 people from all over the NEPSynod gathered at the Lutheran Center to share ministry, ideas, and God's love with one another. Individuals who participated in MinLab were able to work together to build relationships with one another and the ministries of the other through authentic engagement, conversation, and questions. *The relationships we build at synod assemblies, special events, and through mutual collaboration are paramount to our work as Church.*

At MinLab, participants learned more about Growing Young and elements that are present in ministries that are actively "growing young." Participants also learned that congregational and organizational ministry is at the center of our work as a synod. *The synod is not a top-down organization, but instead, a collaboration of people working together to serve God's people.* Leaders in our synod, both lay and ordained, can't wait to see where the Spirit will lead us next.