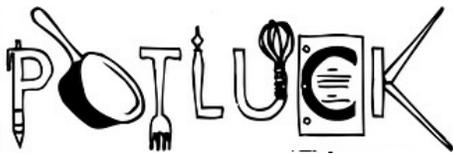




Sharon Lutheran Church
Monthly News Update
October 2013



Reformation Celebration
Sunday, October 27 following 10:30am Worship

We had a nice variety of dishes at the previous gathering.
Look closely as the categories have been rotated.

If your last name begins with the letters:

A through H - bring a Dessert

I through P - bring anything with the name "Salad" in it

Q through Z - bring any other Side Dish

The Welcoming Team will be providing the main dishes and the drinks.

We hope to see you on October 27!

Coming up:
'Ministry and Money'
Meetings

Please read *Pastor's Note* for more info on these important upcoming events!

Blanket Sunday is October 6

Stitchers, a long-standing working committee and volunteer ministry team at Sharon, will be displaying many of the quilts they have created and sewn this year on Blanket Sunday in the nave and narthex.

The quilts will then be sent to Lutheran World Relief and to Haven Ministry, the latter being our supported local mission. The goal this year is to complete 100 quilts.

Blanket Sunday will be observed on October 6 at both services. Also displayed will be 25 school kits which the ladies have made and assembled.

These school kits will also be sent to Lutheran World Relief.

Stitchers, active and emeritus, are: Barbara Blakley, Mary Bottiger, Frances Bowersox, Carol Bradford, Romane Dagle, Dawn Doll, Marcella Engle, Patty Gaugler, Carol Harrison, Melanie Heuer, Sue Hummel, Kay Keller, Vickie King, Maxine Mitchell, Nancy Murray, Mary Partica, Doris Pence, Pat Pinkowski, Rita Regel, Darlene Ritter, Marjorie Savidge, Carole Snyder, Kay Spigelmyer, Bernice Troutman, and Clara Wagner

Submitted by Nancy K Murray, Recorder for Stitchers



A Note from Pastor Doll

Ministry and Money

I would like to invite you into a conversation. During the end of October and into November, I will be hosting a series of get-togethers where we will talk openly about where we are and where we are going and the role of our support together in moving forward.

The sessions will be offered at Sharon and in one home setting. The conversations will be set within an hour and a half time frame and there will be snacks, of course. My personal goal is to have no less than 75% participation and I would love to exceed that goal. From my perspective, it is essential to be able to talk with as many of you as possible. If there is someone who would be willing to assist me in facilitating an online session, that would be a great benefit as well.

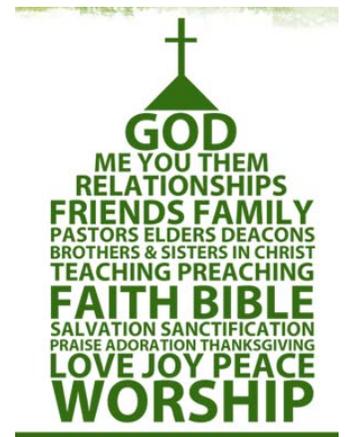
Topics to be discussed in our conversations include:

1. Comments on our current ministries and upcoming ministry proposals
2. Congregation participation, attendance, and engagement
3. Current financial status and choices for 2014
4. Collaborative ministries and the desire for direct community impact

God continues to open new possibilities for ministry and I am excited to talk with you about the potentials that are currently present for us. Our ministry is only as good as our ability to work together in faith and draw out the best in each other. Please check your calendars and see which session you will be able to attend. Call or email Carrie at carrie.dunn@sharonlc.org in the church office to reserve your place and assist us in our planning.

M/M Gatherings Dates and Times:

Thursday, Oct 24 11 am at Sharon
Thursday, Oct 24, 7 pm at Jim and Carol Black's home
Sunday, Nov. 3 at noon at Sharon
Monday, Nov 4 11 am at Sharon
Thursday, Nov 14 7 pm at Sharon
Sunday, Nov 17 noon at Sharon



MINISTRIES for CHILDREN, YOUTH & TEENS

Director Family & Youth Ministry

Robin Kunkel 374-8444 robinkunkel@gmail.com

EXPERIENCE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND CONVERSATION

Sunday school is not just for children; being a Christian is a lifelong adventure. Continuing Christian education classes will be available for age three years through adult.

- **Elementary Sunday school** is currently learning about CREATION. The children read from their Spark bibles every week and are working on designing a mural with everyone included in the picture to reinforce God creating and loving each one of them.
- **Confirmation** is working on a paper mache' project that is designed to represent roots from a tree that will hold a baptismal bowl. While doing this they discuss their baptism and being "rooted in Christ".
- **Senior High** discussed the Nooma video *Sunday*. It asks questions of Why do we worship? What does God expect from us? What does it mean for God to want us to love him with all our heart?
- **The Lutheran Course** has begun with two groups meeting; one on Sunday mornings and one on Wednesday mornings. If you're still interested, please contact Vicar Rick at the church office
- **Tuesday Morning Bible Study** is for young adults and adults as they meet in the What's Brewin' room at 10:30am every Tuesday morning to discuss the scripture selections for worship the following Sunday. The group is diverse and welcomes friends, neighbors and family from our community.

FACEBOOK PAGE for SHARON YOUTH

One of our youth, Curtis Pennay, has set up a Sharon page for our youth and teens. Go to Sharon Lutheran Youth Page, **make sure you put Page at the end!** We will be posting dates of events and service, as well as updates on senior high Sunday school and confirmation topics. Plus a bonus feature "Bible verse of the week by Curtis". We encourage youth and teens to Like our page so that you won't miss anything happening at Sharon church.

"GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS." ELCA NATIONWIDE SERVICE DAY

The Sunday school children were very active for our first day of Sunday school on September 8. The elementary children decorated 30 cards for Sharon's home bound. While the confirmation and senior high classes, with assistance from adults, knotted approximately 10 blankets for Kelsey's Dream organization. After worship, other Sharon members completed the rest of the blankets while being fed by the Welcoming Team. In total, we gave 21 blankets to Kelsey's Dream to give to campers at Camp Dost, a camp for children with cancer. The event was met with great enthusiasm from our volunteers. We hope to do another intergenerational event before the end of the year. Contact Robin Kunkel if you'd like to be part of that event.

COOKIES FOR COLLEGE KIDS OCTOBER 20

The youth (7th-12th graders) will be packing tins for our college students and military personnel. It has been at least ten years since we began this ministry and all the people who send and receive the cookies have gotten pleasure out of the event. It is a way to connect and remind them that they are in our prayers and God is there to hear their prayers as well. We will begin with a bag lunch at noon and pack until 2pm. Contact Robin Kunkel if you are able to attend. Our needs for this event are as follows:

- Small boxes for tins
- Medium sized tins, preferably round
- Cookies
- Monetary donations for shipping
- 2 adult assistants

Please contact Carrie or Robin with your college student's updated address or to confirm that their current one is correct.



ELCA YOUTH GATHERING 2015 = DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Why Detroit? Why Not Detroit? These two questions have been asked a lot amongst parents and adult youth leaders throughout the nation. The next ELCA Youth Gathering will be held in Detroit, Michigan on July 15-19, 2015. Any youth that has completed eighth grade by June 2015 is eligible to attend. Any students and parents interested in learning more about the trip should contact Robin Kunkel or Pastor Doll.

“The ELCA Youth Gatherings bring youth and adult leaders together around a theme that is integrated into all program components. These components include Bible study, service, worship, focused study areas, experiential learning, special events, dances and tours.” For more information go to <http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Ministry/Youth-Ministry/Youth-Gathering.aspx>

Let's Talk about Detroit-for the Synod

Charlene Rineer, Ricki Stringfellow, and Robin Kunkel will host a morning of conversation and mini workshops on the ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit in 2015 plus highlight points on our first webinar by Dr. Terri Elton. There is a \$5.00 registration fee that will be donated to a local charity. To register contact Robin Kunkel at 570-374-8444 or robinkunkel@gmail.com. The event will be held from 9:00 a.m. to noon at Faith Lutheran Church, Lewisburg.



SEEKING NURSERY ATTENDANTS ages 14—adult

The church nursery is a nice place to take a baby or toddler when they are getting 'antsy' during worship. Taking young children to the nursery would be an even more appealing option if parents were able to leave their kids there, supervised by a caring teenager or adult, while they enjoyed the worship service just a few feet away. Jenny Ruth Hawbaker and Allison Terrio will be seeking people to take turns attending the nursery during worship. Please sign up to be a nursery attendant for any Sunday this Fall. The signup sheet is located on the nursery door. Thanks so much!

The Ridge: *The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg*

Founders Weekend events have tumbled by on the hill. And already one sees the publication of January registration and future internship orientation scheduling. The air has changed, steps quicken and thinking is highly charged. This is a place of the Spirit moving. And moving in concert with neighboring PA communities this place often is. For example, The Lutheran Church of The Good Shepherd of Lancaster has invited the Seminary community to share in a 4 PM September 29 hymn fest, featuring an impromptu choir to be led by Dr. David Cherwien, Cantor of Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, MN. Cherwien is the artistic Director of the National Lutheran Choir. There's an idea! Hit the road to Lancaster on September 29! Catch with LTSG folk the opportunity to experience inspiration and a sense through music of God's abiding presence in our lives.

Carol Black

From Vicar Rick: Busy, busy, busy

I am giving thanks to God for the 45 people of Sharon who are taking "The Lutheran Course" this fall. To be honest, that total is about double the number I expected. I'm praying the course meets expectations as together we discover the nature, character and grace of God in the midst of the Lutheran Confessions.

Organizing and teaching the course comes at a very busy time for your Vicar. I am at the point in the seminary journey where tasks and requirements and evaluations are coming one after the other. Life will be very hectic in the coming months. To give you an idea of the process one experiences in becoming a pastor, here is an outline of what must be done this fall:

First, I submitted a 21-page approval essay on Sept. 1. On October 3, I will be interviewed by two faculty members from Luther Seminary who will then either recommend me or not to the full faculty for graduation. I will be in St. Paul from Oct. 11-17 taking two half-credit courses and be back in the area to attend the synod's candidacy retreat on Oct. 19. Extremely comprehensive ELCA Forms A, B, R, and RLP for the call process are due by Dec. 1. The synod candidacy committee will interview me on Dec. 16 and will either recommend approval or not. In addition, I will be taking another half-credit course during November and December as well as fulfilling my duties as your Vicar.

In you, O Lord, I seek refuge;
do not let me ever be put to shame;
in your righteousness deliver me.

Incline your ear to me;
rescue me speedily.

Be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me.

You are indeed my rock and my fortress;
for your name's sake lead me and guide me,
take me out of the net that is hidden for me,
for you are my refuge.

Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God. (Psalm 31)

Thanks be to God for His faithfulness!



Mission Endowment Team

At our August 26 meeting, it was reported there was \$40,578.31 in the Sharon Lutheran Church Mission Endowment Fund. Of this amount, \$40,000 has been invested in ELCA Mission Endowment Fund that is currently providing distributions of 4.25%.

By the MEF bylaws, the fund must remain inactive until a principal amount of \$50,000 is achieved, after which 10% of all gifts received during the year and 3% to 7% of the assets of the fund can be distributed annually. Bequests or gifts in honor of family members may be made payable to Sharon Lutheran Church MEF. By this method, gifts will help the MEF Endowment Fund reach \$50,000 after which you will be leaving a legacy for Ministry and Mission for the person so named. If there are any questions, you can speak to any committee member.

	YEAR	INCOME CONGREGATION	TRANSFERS FROM TRUST	ACTUAL EXPENSES	ANNUAL BUDGET
ACTUAL	2009	\$ 297,539	\$ -	\$ 298,631	\$ 334,994
ACTUAL	2010	\$ 304,729	\$ 8,000	\$ 319,945	\$ 327,750
ACTUAL	2011	\$ 307,379	\$ 11,300	\$ 337,270	\$ 349,702
ACTUAL	2012	\$ 307,369	\$ 29,450	\$ 335,473	\$ 347,840
PROJECTED	2013	\$ 304,779	\$ 40,357	\$ * 345,184	\$ 354,657
ACTUAL 2013 To date	2013	\$ 209,276	\$ 35,000	*Actual Expenses to date (as of 9/15/13) \$234,742	\$ 252,352 (as of 9/15/13)

Straight Talk on Stewardship

When it comes to Stewardship in the Church, no one is comfortable talking about money. Nonetheless, the financial support that the congregation offers as a gift to the Church is an important aspect of what makes much of our ministry together possible. We face a challenge in this regard.



For the last two to three years our giving as a congregation has remained flat while our expenses have risen modestly. The result is that we have had to turn to the trust funds (the Phillips-Harris Estate fund in particular) to balance our budget. That dependence on the trust funds, combined with the downturn of the stock market in 2008, has meant that we are slowly but surely depleting that source of revenue.

Cutting expenses is not a solution to the problem. Wages and benefits to our staff make up around 67% of our expenditures. Building expenses are another 17%. Cutting these areas would significantly undermine our ministries. We estimate that next year's budget will have a deficit of approximately \$45,000. That is the challenge we face, not for just this year, but going forward as well.

We are confident that our congregation can and will meet this challenge. We will present potential ways to mitigate this financial issue in future communications to members. However, the bottom line is that our revenues have not kept up with our expenditures for some time, and we need to reverse that trend. We asked each of you to prayerfully consider how you might contribute to this challenge. If you have any questions concerning this issue feel free to contact Jeff Whitman, the chair of the Stewardship team or any member of the Church Council.

God's Peace, Your Stewardship Team

Women's World

The Ninth Triennial Gathering will be in Charlotte, North Carolina July 20-24, 2014. You can obtain more information from Peggy Bohart, Triennial Gathering Promoter if you are interested in attending. Her email is pegbostar@cs.com. Her phone number is 570-998-2147.



On October 6th will be the Women's Middle Creek Cluster Gathering. This will be at the Saint Matthew's Recreation Hall in Shamokin Dam. Registration will begin at 2pm. The cost is \$3. The program starts at 3pm. The theme is "Healing the Breach: Polishing your Silver. There will be a Lutheran World Relief drop off at St. Matthew Lutheran Church on the Old Trail in Shamokin Dam. Drop off Times will be Sunday, October 13 3-5 pm and again on Monday October 14 10am-12 pm. All items must be packed in boxes. No plastic bags please!



On October 19th there will be a 2013 Peace Pole Service held at the Synod Office. Starting time is 9am, this will be held rain or shine. This year's theme is Sharing Our Strengths Through Faith. There will be a continental breakfast afterwards.



There is a Women's lunch scheduled for Wednesday, October 16 at 1:00 pm at the Morning Glory Station. There is a sign-up sheet posted on the WELCA bulletin board opposite the nursery. All women and friends of Sharon are welcome to attend. Get out and enjoy a nice fall day with good food and interesting conversation with friends. Contact person for this lunch is Linda Gautsch (539-8906).



COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF THE SOCIAL MINISTRY TEAM MET ON Tuesday September 3rd, 2013.

The committee would like to thank everyone who donated items for the “personal care kits” during the past two months for the Lutheran World Relief project. The kits will be displayed along with the blankets on **Blanket Sunday, October 6th**.

Just a reminder that enclosed with your offering packet is an envelope for monetary donations marked “Love Offering for Blanket Sunday.” For \$ 7.00 the synod can purchase a wool blanket; for \$ 2.25 LWR can ship the blanket to a destination where it is most needed, which in some cases has been in the United States. All donations are greatly appreciated.

Starting **Sunday October 20th, 2013 thru November 24th, 2013**, “**Christmas-at-Sea**” sacks for **Seafarers**, will be available on the table in the foyer at Sharon. The following is a list of items that go into the sacks:

1. **Sweatshirt – with or without hood (size L-XL)**
2. **Three pairs socks – thermal or white gym**
3. **Casual pull-over T-shirt (size M-L)**
4. **Heavy knit winter cap**
5. **Can of nuts or chocolate bar – and**
6. **A Christmas card from you; add a message if you wish.**

You may select whatever colors, styles and brands you wish – but PLEASE, no additions or substitutions from the list. The “Christmas-at-Sea” sacks should be IDENTICAL for each crew member. Seafarers International House has come to learn that the men enjoy sweatshirts or tee-shirts emblazoned with the logos of sports teams or NASCAR heroes.

“Christmas-At-Sea” gift sacks, is a project of the US Synod Global Mission Team and is our way of thinking of and reaching out to the crew members that deliver many of our products that we use every day from overseas. Crew members spend 98% of their working careers on the lonely, cold and dangerous oceans of the world. SIH is a Lutheran church related port mission noted primarily for its ministry to the needs of “seafarers.” If you care to, you may visit their website at www.sihnyc.org.

Looking ahead to November and December holidays, we want to remember the **Thanksgiving meals** and **Christmas meals** that go out locally to needy individuals or families. If you know of anyone in the area, please let either Grace Housley or Pastor Doll know the name and address.

Contact with SACC for the holiday meals will need to be made **by November 3, 2013** – so please try to have the names and addresses to Grace or Pastor Doll by this date.

Ongoing matters of Social Ministry: **Global Missions** and **Support for Missionaries**; Volunteers for **Haven Ministry** (overnight); **Collection of food for Haven Ministry first Friday of the Month** (sign-up sheet on bulletin board-Contact: Paul Grimes); **Collect food** for distribution to **Selinsgrove Area Christian Counsel (SACC) Food Bank**.

October Worship Volunteers

	Greeters	Acolytes	Readers	Ushers	Cantor/CA	Altar Guild
October 6	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM
	Jim + Carole App	Kyle Kemberling	Kay Spigelmyer	Jim + Carol Black	Lowell Leitzel	Linda McMillin (B)
	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM
	George + Carole Snyder	Brandon Dunkle	Harley Freed	Rodney + Maureen Ries	Jeff Whitman Dave Deckard Doug Hassinger	Karen Bowen Grace Housley
October 13	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM
	Donna + Donovan Goundie	Elise Keeney	Paul Culbertson	Don Bottiger Terry Kissinger	Philip Riggs	Barb Remaley (B)
	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM
	Chris + Kathy Reiland	Markie Reiland	Carol Harrison	Kermit Ritter Eric Rowe	Theresa Kuster Art Bowen Don Housley	Shirley Walter Linda Gautsch
October 20	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM
	Terry + Judy Kissinger	Wyatt + Vance Metzger	Harold Dunkelberger	Paul Culbertson Brian Pauling	Sue Pennay	Maureen Ries (B)
	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM
	Jeff + Janet Sassaman	Sarah Fedder	Kay Hooper	Bob + Vi Soper	Bob Bradford Keith Kunkel Maureen Ries	Joyce Kuster Nancy Martin Carol Harrison
October 27	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM
	Matt + April Metzger		Alma Pauling	Bill + Barb Remaley	Lowell Leitzel	Jackie Winey (B)
	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM
	Mary Hummel Eric Rowe	Hannah Doll	Don Housley	Buzz Savidge Toby Skinner	Casey Reiland Maddie Weirick Kathy Reiland	Mary Seiler Marian Thomas

Please remember to contact the church office at sharon.lutheran.church@gmail.com or 374-8444 for changes to the schedule. Thank you for your continued service to Sharon!