

Sharon Lutheran Church's Monthly News

November 2014

Sharon Lutheran Church is a community that strives to be:

Faith –filled

Rooted in God's Word

Loving

Connected to the community and world

Adaptive



All Saints' Sunday is the Memorial Day of the church year, the day when we as a church remember those who have departed this life in faith.

JESUS SAID, "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and does not come under judgment, but has passed from death to life."

Since last All Saints' Sunday, the following members of Sharon have entered the Church Triumphant:

Gertrude Gano; Edward Fisher; Frances Bowersox; Elizabeth Wiley; Ruth Reuning; Eleanore Dinsmore; Pat Bertinet; Marcella Engle

Blessed are the dead who from now on die in the Lord. "Yes, says the Spirit, "They will rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them." Revelation 14:13

Daylight Savings Ends November 2
Remember to set your clocks back an hour

Notice of Congregation Meeting:

November 23 following the 10:30 am Worship Service. Voting members of the congregation will be asked to take action on the following items:

*Vote for 2015 Council Members

*Vote to adopt a budget for the 2015 calendar year.

Additional nominations can be made at the Congregation meeting with approval of the nominee.

A summary of this budget is included within this newsletter. A detailed budget is available to members from the church office.



A Message From the Pastor

If you are online, you may have noticed the lists of gratitude. It may be a list of 3-5 things, people, or events for which one is thankful; it may be a request for one to post a list for so many days in a row. With the pace of life and the many global and national situations that may bring fear or a sense of tragic hopelessness, it is good to take some moments to give thanks and to remember that there is a hope that will not disappoint us; that God's love for us is unbreakable; that there is nothing that can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. So, take a moment, pause and give thanks for something or someone in your life. Know that this prayer of thanksgiving is heard by God. Listen for the Spirit and a word of blessing and hope, a word of assurance, or a promise of abiding peace. Breathe deeply and consider these words of scripture:

As you therefor have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. (Colossians 2:6-7)

...be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 5:18b-20)

I am thankful for the opportunity to have had time in October to take part in the 150th Anniversary Celebrations of the Lutheran Seminary at Philadelphia. In the speeches and presentations there was such a spirit of thanksgiving for witness, for ministry, and for leadership that there was hopefulness that was palpable in the conversations and interactions, prayers and meditations over the two day event.

I am thankful for the work of the Selinsgrove Ministerium and the leaders who have continued to see that Meals for Seals is carried out for the benefit of our community families and that we will kick off our first Rejoicing Spirits worship this month on the 23rd at 6:30 pm at the Church of the Nazarene. Please note that this first worship gathering will also take the place of our usual Thanksgiving worship held after the White Christmas event in the Selinsgrove Commons. That event will take place on Nov. 25th, but there will be no worship following the celebration.

I am thankful for all of your support for our ministry together, for your generosity of time and resources, and for the ways that we share and will share our witness to the love of God in Christ. Listen to this scripture and let it rest in your hearts:

We give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

(I Thessalonians 1:2-3)

God's Peace, *Pastor Doll*



MINISTRIES for CHILDREN, YOUTH & TEENS

Director Family & Youth Ministry

Robin Kunkel 374-8444 robinkunkel@gmail.com Visit our Website at sharonlc.org

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

- **YOUNG:** Ages five through sixth grades meet as a group in the Story Room to hear the lesson for the day. Then the children will split into age groups and do an activity that connects with the story.
- **YOUTH/TEENS:** Confirmation's theme for the year is Relationship. They explore the meaning of their relationship with God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit in the Apostle's Creed.
- **ADULT:** Adults continue to meet Tuesday mornings at 10:30am

MEALS FOR SEALS Sunday School Style

The Sunday School children enjoyed packing meals for the Meals for Seals program at the "God's Work. Our Hands." The children were touched by how many of their classmates would be fed by this program. Their caring concern and enthusiasm to help others has ignited interest in the classes to participate in packing meals on a regular basis. Please continue to support the program by donating items each week.

WEE WORSHIP Worship for our Wee Ones

Wee Worship meets in the church nursery during the 10:30am worship service and is for children ages 1 through 5. The wee ones are welcome to join worship with their parent(s), wait for Pastor Doll to Gather & Bless them and then go to the nursery with the Sunday leaders. Topics will be chosen for each month, such as 'I See God's Love at Church, Jesus Loves Children, God Gives Me Food, Jesus Was a Baby and many more. We also encourage at least one adult to stay with the younger children to help with their needs until they get familiar with the Wee Worship routine. If you are interested in attending with your child or assisting, please contact Susie Weller.

CONFIRMATION ACTION DAY November 9 from 5-7pm Build a *Mighty Fortress*

The youth and youth leaders will be meeting in the fellowship hall for supper at 5pm. Then they will build their own mighty fortress. We will be sharing information about our collective faiths and understand that what Martin Luther did close to 500 years ago was not exclusively for Lutherans. Come in costume and bring props to build your own creative design of your mighty fortress. Contact Robin Kunkel if you are able to attend.

November MOVIE NIGHT FOR YOUTH

The next Conference Youth Gathering is in November at Zion Lutheran Church in Kratzerville. We will eat supper together and join other youth from the area in watching a movie that is yet to be determined. So, if you have any ideas, please let Robin Kunkel or Pastor Doll know and they will relay the request to Pastor Rick White. We will post more details as they become available.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! ADVENT VILLAGE FAIR IS DECEMBER 14!



From Our Stitches

Stitches, a longstanding working committee and volunteer ministry team at Sharon, has been involved in a Lutheran World relief project for many years. The team members create and sew handcrafted quilts.

This year the group made 76 quilts which were displayed in the nave on Blanket Sunday, October 5, 2014 for both services. Pastor Doll blessed the quilts in prayer. The altar flowers were given “to the Glory of God in Loving Memory of Frances Bowersox and in honor of Sharon’s Stitches.”

Monday, October 6, Stitches packed 66 quilts to send to Lutheran World Relief. Ten large quilts and 7 quilts for children were taken to Haven Ministry our supported Local Mission.

For your information, since the writer has been keeping records for 17 years, Stitches have made over eleven hundred fifty quilts.

The Stitches are grateful for all the donations of fabric, money from individuals, and money allocated by members of Thrivent. With these funds, the Stitches were able to purchase rolls of fill, fabric, and other sewing supplies. Any monetary or fabric donations are greatly appreciated.

NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME! Stitches meet most every Monday from 1 to 3pm in a room on the second floor of Sharon.

Submitted by Nancy K. Murray, Recorder for Stitches

From the Hospitality Team

The “Make A Difference” coffee hour and potluck on October 19th was a great opportunity to share good food and even better conversation with fellow Sharon members.

The What’s Brewing Room was a buzz with conversation while members shared coffee, juice, breakfast breads, cookies and coffee cakes. Whether stopping by after first service, stopping in before Sunday School or grabbing that last coffee before late service, members enjoyed the opportunity to share moments in their lives.

The Potluck after the late service only added to the camaraderie! Pulled pork, roasted chicken, potato and vegetable casseroles! You know Lutherans are great cooks! A special thanks to Dawn Dunkelberger and Brian Pauling for their clean up efforts.

If you missed the event . . . we missed you ! AND you missed an opportunity to develop deeper friendships with fellow Sharon members. Hope to see you at the next event!

The Hospitality Team

The Ridge: Lutheran Theological Seminary, Gettysburg-C. Black

“Reforming: from Conflict to Communion and Reconciliation” is the theme of this year’s Fall Academy. Monday October 27 will launch a four-day celebration of Reformation – oriented events on the hill. It’s all part of “gearing-up” for that 500th Anniversary in 2017. Noted speakers, panels, table- talks, Preaching Perspectives’ highlights along with worship and multiple fellowship opportunities will mark the occasion. Among the noted speakers will be The Rev. Dr. Michael Cooper-White, President of the Seminary, The Rev. Dr. Pamela Cooper-White, Ben G. and Nancy Chapp Gautier, Professor of Pastoral Theology, Care and Counseling of Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. Add to those the names of Stjerna, Schramm, Vuola, Wood and others and it’s obvious that options abound. Check it all out at LTSG.edu- Gettysburg Academy.

From the Congregation Council

President—Jeff Whitman; Vice President—Janet Bilger; Secretary—Carolyn Sands; Treasurer—Buzz Savidge; Christian Ed.—Susie Weller; Finance—Buzz Savidge; Mutual Ministry—Karen Bowen; Personnel—Carol Harrison; Property/Cemetery—Toby Skinner/Paul Grimes; Stewardship—Jeff Whitman; Social Ministry—Teresa Berger; Youth—Markie Reiland; Worship and Music—Phil Riggs

1. Approved the resignation of Robin Kunkel from the position of Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry.
2. Approved the amended position guide for the Coordinator of Youth and Family Ministry.
3. Approved Robin Kunkel to fill the new Coordinator position.
4. Request that the Mutual Ministry Team develop a staffing plan for Sharon with input from the congregation since the Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry position has been eliminated.
5. Budget adjustments approved by Council:
 - Line item 5704 Christian Education \$250. Continuing Education.
 - Line item 5311 Salary \$8671.
 - \$3,000. Mini Audit.
 - \$5,767 transfer to Trust Account.
6. Approved to accept the 2015 Budget as amended: Income \$328,450. Expenditures \$328,450.

Some News from Sharon's Personnel Team....

As you may know, Robin Kunkel resigned her position, effective October 4, as Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry. She feels called to consider a new vocation and, while her many years of ministry to Sharon's children and youth are remembered fondly and with celebration, the Personnel Team recommended to Congregation Council that this resignation be accepted. Robin suggested that she continue her work at Sharon in the foreseeable future with the Confirmation ministry and with some youth activities. Again, the Personnel Team has considered this request, written a new position description, submitted it to the Congregation Council for its consideration, and recommended that Robin be approved to fill this position.

This is the fourth significant change in Sharon's ministry team in the last few years: Pastor Ted resigned as Visitation Pastor and shortly thereafter died; Pastor Doll was called to our parish and has ministered among us for five years; Vicar Rick White served for two years a very meaningful and appreciated ministry which had varied expressions; and now, Robin Kunkel has felt the call to another vocation. Obviously, this is a tender moment in Sharon's life. The Christian Education Team is discerning how best to fulfill the ministry to educate Sharon's children below 7th grade; Pastor Doll and Robin are discerning how to assure continuity in the important ministry to Confirmands and Sharon's youth; the Congregation Council is wrestling with the opportunities and challenges these changes present, mindful that Pastor Doll has only so many hours in his day and so much energy to fulfill the many responsibilities, tasks, and expectations of Sharon's large parish.

The Personnel Committee has met, considered, and discussed Robin's change of position as was mentioned above. It is also aware that this is a fruitful moment for the church and needs careful tending. Toward the end of discerning how the Holy Spirit now shapes the ministry at Sharon, the Personnel Team has recommended to Council that the Mutual Ministry Team coordinate a consideration of the parish's ministry needs and resources, assuring that the members of the congregation have plentiful and meaningful opportunities to consider and suggest how these resources might be used to realize Sharon's mission to "preach the Word, administer the sacraments, and carry out God's mission... and to bear witness to God's creative, redeeming and sanctifying activity in the world."



Nickler, Drew	11/1
Soper, Violet	11/1
Weirick, Don	11/1
Nolder, Leonard	11/2
Terrio, Kevin	11/4
Young, Marsha	11/4
Fedder, Jamie	11/7
Martin, Nancy	11/7
Morelock, Paul	11/7
Herbert, Jo Ann	11/8
Mullen, Erin	11/11
Dunka, Alexia	11/14
Herbert, James	11/14
Terrio, Lily	11/14
Bowen, Arthur	11/15
Heuer, Melanie	11/19
Hummel, Sue	11/19
Wagner, Ann	11/20
Piermattei, Fred	11/22
Callender, Shirley	11/24
Inch, Helen	11/25
Aucker, Molly	11/26
Mangels, Jake	11/26
Frymoyer, Nancy	11/29
Pennay, Curtis	11/30
Romig, Marcia	11/30
Stetler, John	11/30

We Remember in Prayer

Douglas App, Rose Aucker, Betty Aungst, Brian Baldwin, Tom Beachell, Terry Beaver, Barb Blakley, Barbara Broadt, Amy Bush, Arline Callahan, Mike Carrol, Grace Cote, Mary Jane Cross, Jeanette Cook Diehl, Eleanor Dinius, Megan Durant, Charles Engelbrecht, Betty Ettinger, Jayme Fedder, Jim Gautsch Jr., Grace Greiner, Suah Harris, Jeremy Hoffman, Karen Hoke, Grace Hollenbach, David Holmes, Jr., Valerie Holmes, Pat Hower, Martha Hummel, Harvey Kreamer, Jr., Keith Landis, James Leitzel, Shirley Mayo, Doris Mull, Susan Mull, Kay Musser, Alyssa Oxenford, Elwood Partica, Maryanne Pinand, Lee Ann Pupo, Tina Reichenbach, Ryan Riethmiller, Karen Ritter, Miles Schrader, Evelyn Schroeder, Rev. Hugo Schroeder, Mary Seiler, Janet Skotedis, Tucker Small, Bill Starr, Robert Stetler, Joan Thomas, William Turbitt, David Weimer, Ken and Chris Whitebread, Jeremy Wolfe, Gary Wydell, Curtis Zellers



Dear friends,
With the passing of our Mother, your cards we received have been very comforting. Thank you also for the many prayers offered on our behalf. Even in our time of mourning we take comfort in knowing our Mother is now present with her Lord and Savior. Thanks be to God for the 94 blessed years she walked here on earth and the many lives she influenced for Jesus by letting her light so shine brightly.

Psalm 103... Bless the Lord, O My Soul

The Riggs Family

Rejoicing Spirirts

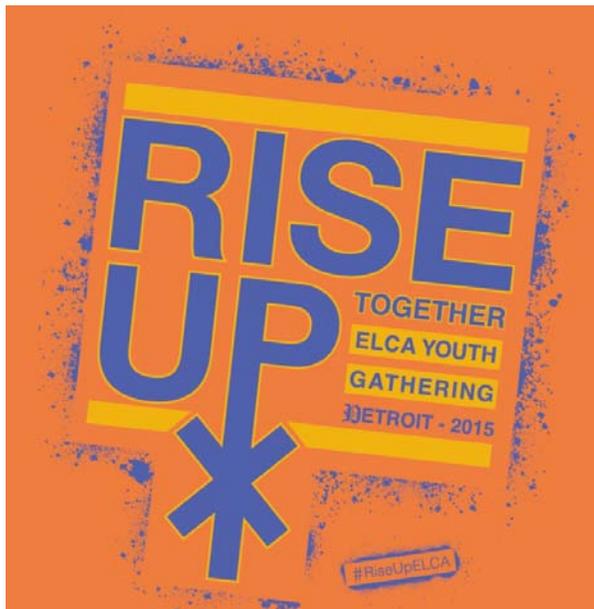
Be part of an exciting new ministry sponsored by the Selinsgrove Area Ministerium, along with community members, called Rejoicing Spirirts. This ministry reaches out to enrich the spiritual lives of individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities. This is done by offering a meaningful, inclusive worship and fellowship community which shares God's word and delivers God's message of love. Services will be offered at 6:30 pm on the 4th Sunday starting **November 23**, 2014 held at the Nazarene Church 543 W. Sassafras St Selinsgrove and will be 30 minutes in length. There are numerous ways to help. You are welcome to consider joining our committee, help with music, provide a snack or help serve or be a peer buddy with an attendee. If you would like to help in any way, please contact Laura Aungst at Aungstrn@ptd.net 570-374-5016 or Kim Council at Council.kim@gmail.com

Address Update:

Nancy Martin
116-11th Ave
Shamokin Dam PA
17876
570-884-3808

Altar Flowers for 2015

Please remember, all dates are first come, first sponsored, so reserve your special date soon! The cost to honor your loved one in this way is only \$30.00. Contact the church office to see if your date is still available.



We are excited for our youth and adults who will be traveling to Detroit next July to be part of the ELCA Youth Gathering. Participants: Raechel Councill, Kim Councill, Hannah Doll, Pastor Doll, Sarah Fedder, Robin Kunkel, and Markie Reiland. We continue to raise the necessary funding for the trip and are thrilled to be traveling with Lutheran Hands as we share in servant events on the way to Detroit.

Here is the latest blog from Heidi Hagstrom that was copied from the gathering website.

www.elca.org/gathering

"Tear the roof off" with praise and service

Heidi Hagstrom

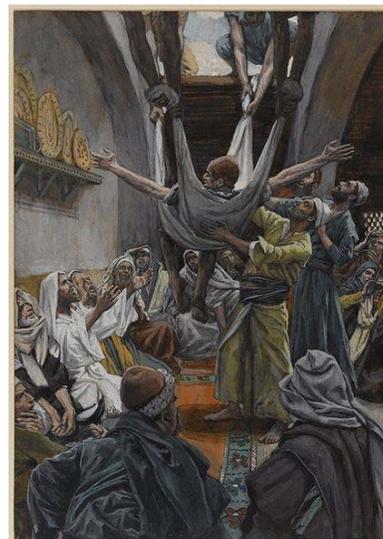
"To dream about painting and not also to work at it doesn't ever bring about a painting. To dream about creating a new world that is not teetering on the edge of total destruction and not to work at it doesn't make a peaceful world. So it is important that we are creative people working daily on the greater picture as well, bringing to it all our skills of imagination and making." This quote from Sister Corita Kent's book "Learning by Heart" struck me as representative of the spirit of ELCA youth who will be attending the Youth Gathering in Detroit.

ELCA youth are not unlike their peers in that they are people of action, and they like to take action alongside their friends. Friends are extremely important, often influencing the direction and quality of one's life.

One of the stories from the Gospel of Mark that youth will enter into at the Gathering is the story of the paralytic being lowered through the roof by his friends so he can get close to Jesus.

(Mark 2:1-5)

When he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. ²So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them. ³Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. ⁴And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. ⁵When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, 'Son, your sins are forgiven.'



For the purpose of this blog I want to focus on the phrase "dug through it." Some translations read "tear the roof off."

I don't know what you have pictured when reading this text, but I have, erroneously, thought it was some kind of thatched roof that the friends tore apart. But that was not the case. It is more likely that the roof was a mud clay (a lot like cement) roof with tiles. To lower the paralyzed man through the roof they had to do major construction and demolition to the roof.

The paralyzed man's friends tore the tiles off the roof, tore a hole in the roof, and lowered him by a rope into the house.

Imagine if you're in this house packed with wall to wall people trying to listen to Jesus. All of a sudden you start to hear some banging above you. Then the roof begins to fall in on you.

How would you respond? I'm guessing some of us would be angry because we are there to listen to Jesus. We thought ahead, got in line early, and earned our spot in the crowd. Jesus could have been in the middle of a life-changing sermon, and because of the chaos from above, we could have missed the best part. And what about the person who owned the house? The zealous friends were creating a huge, gaping hole in the roof of his home. Fixing it will be a major project, not simply a minor, cosmetic repair.

Now look at Jesus' response. "When Jesus *saw their faith* ..." Did you get that? The Bible does not say that Jesus "saw the paralytic's faith." It says that Jesus "saw *their* faith." Jesus didn't scold them and say, "Don't you know how much a roof costs?" He didn't say, "Have you ever heard of a door?" Jesus saw their faith and their lives were never the same.

The paralyzed man would have never gotten to Jesus or been healed without his friends, and their lives would never have been changed had they not acted on their faith. At the Gathering young people will ask themselves if they have friends who are willing to "tear the roof off" for them and if they are willing to do that for others.

In one sense, ELCA youth will be "tearing the roof off" for the people of Detroit by their presence and service in July and by their advocacy and witness when they go home. At the Gathering they will learn – experience – that Jesus replenishes our lives in sacramental community, which in turn offers us as individuals the opportunity to find and connect with Jesus' regenerating impulse in our own lives. As the Spirit works in their hearts and minds, young people may feel emboldened to "tear the roof off" for their peers who need to be exposed to Jesus love, grace and healing. Young people may eventually connect that impulse to their vocational choices so that they can "bring to it all [their] skills of imagination and making" (see Sister Corita Kent's quote above) for the healing of humanity and the earth.

November Worship Volunteers

	Greeters	Acolytes	Readers	Ushers	Cantor/CA	Altar Guild
Nov 2	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM
	John and Mary Pendley	Courtney Kemberling	Kay Spigelmyer	Don Bottiger Brian Pauling	Lowell Leitzel	Linda McMillin (B)
	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM
	Robert and Romane Dagle	Hannah Doll Madison Snyder	Kirk Hanson	Craig Hoke Keith Kunkel	Jeff Whitman Doug Hassinger Curtis Pennay	Vi Soper Shirley Rowe
Nov 9	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM
	Jim and Carole App	Sarah Pennay	Roseann Stetler	Jack and Kay Spigelmyer	Sue Pennay	Jackie Winey (B)
	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM
	Jason and Rachel Dagle	Raechel Councill Sean Dagle	Linda McMillin	Jacob and Stacy Koch	Dawn Doll Dave Deckard Teresa Berger	Karen Bowen Grace Housley
Nov 16	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM
	Dawn Dunkelberger Brian Pauling	Vance Metzger	Harold Dunkelberger	Terry Kissinger Jim Black	Lowell Leitzel	Alma Pauling (B)
	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM
	Doug and Tammy Hassinger	Olivia Dunkle Elise Keeney	Harvey Murray	Bill and Pat Pinkowski	Bob Bradford Art Bowen Eric Rowe	Carol Harrison Nancy Martin
Nov 23	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM
	Donna and Donovan Goundie	Wyatt Metzger	April Metzger	Bill and Barb Remaley	Teresa Berger	Barb Remaley (B)
	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM
	Dave and Audrey Deckard	Markie Reiland Madison Snyder	Nancy Murray	Rod and Maureen Ries	Kathy Reiland Sue Starr Don Housley	Audrey Deckard
Nov 30	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM
	Don and Aundra Weirick	Aaron Weirick	Chris Lupolt	John and Roseann Stetler	Maureen Ries	Roseann Stetler (B)
	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM
	Harley and Marjorie Freed	Jessica Beaver Sarah Pennay	George Pence	Art and Karen Bowen	Judd Williams Alex Pennay Philip Riggs	Shirley Walter Jenny Ruth Partica