

# Ministry Matters

- in the congregation and beyond -

## **SUPPLY PASTORS FOR AUGUST:**

Pastor Kaufman will be on vacation from August 9<sup>th</sup> through August 23<sup>rd</sup>. During that time, if there is a pastoral emergency, please phone the church office at 570-788-2685 or you may phone our council president Don Wenner, Jr. at 570-436-4180. Our supply pastors during the Sundays Pastor Kaufman will be away are:  
**August 13** - The Rev. David Kistler  
**August 20** - The Rev. Rashion Santiago



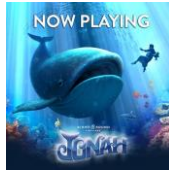
## **CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATE:**

Our heartfelt congratulations go to **Travis Kostyal** who graduated in June from Hazleton Area High School. Travis will be attending Penn State University at Main Campus this fall where he will study mechanical engineering. We rejoice in his accomplishment and the good wishes of the congregation are extended to him, along with prayers for God's blessing and guidance in his life.



## **NOW PLAYING -SIGHT & SOUND THEATERS:**

Sight & Sound Theatres in Lancaster are currently performing the story of Jonah through October 14<sup>th</sup>. If you have never seen a show at these theatres, it is an amazing opportunity and experience! Shows book fast so, if you are interested, tickets should be purchased online soon.



"Jonah is a prophet – and a man on the run. From who? From God! After a series of wild adventures involving a seaport called Joppa, a huge boat and a terrible storm, Jonah finds himself in the belly of a giant fish!

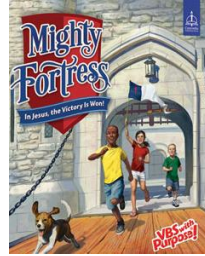
But this isn't the end. It's here that God teaches Jonah how to receive grace and extend mercy, even to his archenemy: Nineveh.

Take your family deep into this Bible story as it springs to life on stage in jaw-dropping scale by an exceptional cast, spectacular special effects and live animals – on stage and in the aisles."

~ Sights and Sounds

## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – THE TIME IS HERE!**

Come and join us from **July 31<sup>st</sup>** through **August 4<sup>th</sup>** while we embark on a "mighty" big adventure during Vacation Bible School! In celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation, our Learning Ministry Team has chosen for this year's theme: "Mighty Fortress." The children will learn that God is their refuge and strength. He promises to be their rock – their "fortress." Lots of fun and games are being planned to aid in teaching these important messages to our youth...think castle, tournaments, and banquets at the King's Table. Join in the adventure; we hope to see you there! In Jesus, the victory is won!



## **REFORMATION FAIRE (Open House):**

On **Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup>**, we will begin our celebrations of the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation! There will be information on display regarding the history of the Reformation, as well as the history of our church. In addition, our church teams will be present with displays created to highlight what each team does within the church. During this event, our Learning Ministry Team will also be holding a registration event for the 2017-2018 school year. There will be fun activities including a bounce house, games, and a movie. We will also have smores and popcorn! Please, come and join us – this event is for EVERYONE! Bring friends – everyone is invited to see what our church has to offer and to learn about the history of the Reformation movement.



## **CATECHISM REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION**

**MEETING, SEPTEMBER 3, 2017:** It's almost that time. Summer is coming to an end; autumn is quickly approaching. Soon, Sunday School for our children will resume, and our catechism class will begin a new year.



In order to prepare for catechism instruction, there will be a registration and informational meeting immediately following the church service on **Sunday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>**. If your child is in the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, or 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, they are eligible to begin catechism instruction, which is a two-year program. If your child is older but has not yet received instruction, they are invited to register and receive instruction. **If you are already participating in catechism, we ask that you attend this meeting, as well.** Pastor Kaufman will be leading instruction, and classes will need to be rescheduled to an agreed upon time that is convenient for everyone.

Registration is required so material can be purchased for each child.

If you have any questions, you may phone the church office at 570-788-2685.

## **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION INSTRUCTION:**

We are offering First Holy Communion classes to all young people in the Second Grade or older who have yet to receive instruction. If you would like to register or would like further information, please phone the church office at 570-788-2685 or you may phone Pastor Kaufman directly at 570-881-2371. Classes will be scheduled at an agreed upon time at the convenience of those involved. Please be in contact by the end of August, so that we may begin scheduling.



## **WORSHIP SERVICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:**

The summer months are a very busy time for everyone and many families go away on vacation this time of the year, as well. Therefore, we are especially in need of volunteers at this time to help during the worship service (i.e. greeters, ushers, etc.) Sign-up sheets for August and September are in the St. Stephen's Room. Please sign up, if you can help!



**HOBO PARTY:** On Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m., we will be having a

Hobo Party at Nadine Sauer's pavilion. Come and honor the generations this Grandparent's Day by coming together to share your stories around a campfire "Hobo Style." What is this, you might ask...



Hobo meals were whatever could be scavenged and cooked over an open fire. Your hosts will provide meat and the base for the stew and everyone brings a canned vegetable suitable for soup. You will add your can of vegetables to the stew pot, warming over the open fire. Please bring your own drinks. There will be a sign-up sheet in the St. Stephen's Room. You can also call Lorraine Klinger at 788-3470 or 480-332-9327.

## **GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS/ SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY DAY:**



"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace."  
1 Peter 4:10

The Sunday School class invites you to be a part of the God's Work Our Hands, Sunday School Kickoff Project on **Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>**. Volunteers of all ages are welcome to join us and use their hands to touch the lives of others by carrying out God's work. Let's come together, meet in the St. Stephen's Room and fill it with eager, joyful hearts, willing to serve in God's name.

Help us bring happiness to others as we create "Joy Boxes." If you know anyone that can benefit from a little "pick me up," please talk with someone on the Learning Ministry Team by September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Together, we can touch the lives of others by doing God's work with our hands.

Learning to give of ourselves for the sake of others is a great way to start the 2017-2018 Sunday School year. We have some exciting things planned for this year. Join us! See where this year will lead us!

~ Submitted by The Learning Ministry Team (Members of Learning Ministry are: Kimberly Deliman, Janet Brady, Jennifer Cipriani, Melody Hinderer, Dawn Klick, Betty Kushner, and Patty Phile)



**SCREENING OF "LUTHER" MOVIE:** The 2003 film "Luther" will be shown in Luther Hall on Sunday, **September 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.** *Luther* is a full-length feature film starring Joseph Fiennes as Martin Luther, and co-starring Alfred Molina as John Tetzel and Sir Peter Ustinov as Frederick the Wise. The film depicts the life of Martin Luther beginning from the time he became a monk through the Diet of Augsburg. Running time is 123 minutes. Please bring a bag lunch; drinks will be provided.



**CALLING ALL YOUTH!** The theme of the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering is "This Changes Everything."



"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God." ~ Ephesians 2:8

It's time to begin serious conversations on who may possibly want to attend and answer any questions you may have, including who's eligible and what do we need to do to participate in the National Youth Gathering scheduled for July 2018 in Dallas, Texas. I want to encourage any young people from St. Johns who are of age to consider this opportunity. I can't begin to tell you what an awesome experience it can be. This is church as you've never experienced it before. Students attending next summer's gathering should be entering 8<sup>th</sup> grade this coming Fall. 2018 graduating seniors are eligible. If you would like to gather after church one Sunday I would be happy to share pictures, stories and information. How will you know if you don't ask!  
~ Submitted by Pastor Michele

**DONATIONS FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:**

We are still collecting donations to offset the expenses associated with Vacation Bible School. There are specially marked envelopes on the table in the narthex, if you would like to donate. Thank you for supporting this children's program!



**YOUTH EVENTS:** Pastor Kaufman and St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Mountain Top have invited our youth to join them at several upcoming events. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with other Christian youth and enjoy some exciting activities! If you would like more information, you can phone Pastor Kaufman or the church office.



**July 26** – Red Deer Farm and Knoebels (Bargain Night)

**July 30** – Bushkill Falls

**Week of August 1-4** – Cooking for VISION

**August 5** – Renaissance Faire (Opening Day – Kids are free/adults reduced rate!)

**August 25** – Railriders Game

**WORSHIP SERVICE TIME WILL RETURN:**

Please note that our worship service time will change back to **10:00 a.m.** on **Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>.**



**UPCOMING EVENTS – SAVE THE DATES:**

**Oct. 7** – Blessing of the Animals



**Oct. 9 & 10** – Shoofly Pie Bake



**Oct. 28** – Sausage Supper

