

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Monthly Mailing to Be Sent Using Email

In an effort to be more faithful stewards both of the synod's financial resources and of the earth God has entrusted to our care, the synod "Monthly Mailing" will no longer be reproduced on paper and mailed through the post office.

Beginning with the January 2019 mailing, materials will be emailed to each congregation and also posted for download on the synod website.

For this to work, it is important that each congregation have a current email on file with the synod office. If your congregation is not receiving the weekly E-News (sent out on Tuesday mornings), it is probably best if you contact the synod at nepsinfo1988@gmail.com with the email you wish to use for the monthly materials.

If your congregation does not use email, please recruit a member who does have an email address to receive your materials, and forward that address to the synod.

The synod recognizes that it may be inconvenient for a few congregations, and we appreciate your patience and cooperation with this transition. If you have any questions about what you need to do, please contact the synod at nepsinfo1988@gmail.com or 610-266-5101.

Living into Common Mission



St. John Lutheran Church and Church of the Redeemer (Episcopal) in Sayre enjoyed the fruits of its partnership this summer in at least two ways: sending 10 youth from both parishes to the Lutheran Youth Gathering in Houston, and worshipping together for the summer months. Both experiences have enriched the relationships between the two parishes.

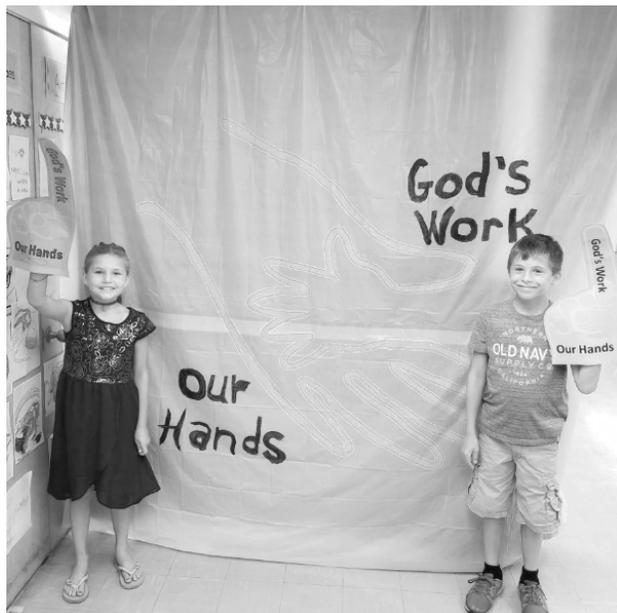
Some years ago, the two parishes began discussions about sharing clergy with the Synod and Diocese. Early in 2017 an Episcopal priest was called to serve both parishes, bringing a full time presence to each at a part-time cost. Building on a successful youth program at Redeemer, the youth of both parishes combined to form a single youth group.

In December, the group decided to attend the LYG; and in less than six months they raised sufficient funds to send to Houston all ten eligible youth and four adult companions, including the pastor. As far as it is known, this was the only interdenominational youth group in attendance! And the youth found that for them, the Youth Event motto "this changes everything" was in fact true.

Because of construction projects at each site, the two parishes worshipped together during the summer months, alternating between Lutheran Worship and the Book of Common Prayer from week to week. Majorities of both congregations attended services, regardless of where the service was held. Both memberships remarked on how nice it was to worship in a full church and how much they appreciated the opportunity to get to know one another better.

A Year Long Celebration of Serving

For we are God's handiwork created in Christ Jesus to do good works. (Ephesian 2:10)



At St. John's Lutheran Church, Hamburg, Rally Day is more than the kick-off to Sunday School. It is an introduction to a year-long focus not only for Sunday School, but for the entire congregation. The ELCA theme, "God's Work Our Hands" was selected by the Parish Education Committee to celebrate the talents which we have been given by God to serve our community and the world.

To introduce the theme, the children were asked to bring cans of food to donate to a local food pantry, make first aid kits, and sing songs about being a helping hand.



Hand prints listing community service ideas were hung on the church walls to encourage young and old to offer their gifts to others. Located around the church are specific "God's Work Our Hands" crosses. St. John's members place a "hand" sticker on one of the crosses when they have used their hands to do God's work. As the crosses fill up with hands this year, they will serve as a way to celebrate all the good work being done by one church in Berks County, collectively using unique God-given gifts to make a difference in the world.

More Stories from God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday



Faith, Mount Penn

Several other stories about God's Work. Our Hands. community outreach projects are posted on the synod website (<http://nepasynod.org/events/stories-gwoh-sunday>). If your congregation participated in one, send a short story with one or more photos to georgiasuranofsky@hotmail.com.

As you can see from the article above, these projects can take place throughout the year!



Good Shepherd, Reading

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