

# SYNOD NEWS

## Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

### Visitors from Saxony, Germany



The Northeastern PA Synod is blessed with four Companion Synods—a special relationship with the Lutheran Christians in five countries. These are Argentina and Uruguay; Slovenia; Tanzania; and Saxony, Germany. From October 4 to 15, we had the privilege of hosting 15 of our brothers and sisters from Saxony, Germany. The visitors ranged in age from 17 to “older”.

While our visitors were in our Synod, they were each hosted by two different families—one in the Mountain Top area of the Synod and one in the greater Reading area.

From the moment they arrived on the 4th, the visitors had a very full agenda. Some of the opportunities provided to our brothers and sisters from Saxony were:

- worship with their host families,
- a retreat with our Saxony Committee to develop a covenant,
- going to a high school (American) football game,
- spending 2 days in New York City,
- a day in Philadelphia,
- a trip to Amish country,
- and a pig roast.

Of course they did get some down time too!



In order to host a group of this size, it takes the commitment and dedication of many people. A special “Thank You” goes to the host families and our synod’s Saxony committee. A extra special thank you goes to Pastors Wayne and Michele Kaufman.

## **Final Reminder: 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 us at [nepsinfo1988@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:nepsinfo1988@gmail.com) or 610-266-5101.

## **Grace, Reading Back to School Giveaway**



The lazy days of summer maybe the norm for some people, but not for the congregation and supporters of Grace, Reading's Back to School Event. For the past four years Grace has hosted this event at their location on the southern side of Reading.

This community project started when four congregation volunteers agreed to assist on a project suggested by Rita Wilk at church council. Rita's dream was to hold an event open to all community members, where needed school supplies and backpacks could be given out to students. Donations were obtained from Grace members along with other churches within the West Berks Mission District. Reaching the targeted recipients was simplified by piggybacking on the resources established by our Growing with Grace Tutoring program. This tutoring program serves two elementary schools located within a few blocks of the church.

In its infancy, this one-day event reached about 120 students with new and used backpacks / bags filled with school supplies. A limited amount of new underwear was given out as well.

To make a greater impact, additional funds were needed to expand the number of backpacks and supplies offered. Over the last three years, grants have been written and granted from Thrivent, Walmart, and the NEPA Synod (your Mission Support dollars at work).

Read more online at <http://nepasynod.org/grace-reading-backpacks>.

Synod News is published monthly by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA  
2354 Grove Road, Allentown PA 18109; 610-266-5101. [nepsinfo1988@gmail.com](mailto:nepsinfo1988@gmail.com).  
View the full color edition online at <http://nepasynod.org/publications/synod-news>.