

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Support Mission with Thrivent Choice Dollars

Sometimes opportunities to provide help to those in need come from surprising places. Those in our synod who are also Thrivent Financial members now have the option of routing all or a portion of their Thrivent Choice Dollars to our Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod.

As a non-profit, fraternal organization, Thrivent Financial must return a portion of its revenue to organizations that do good in the world. The Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the ELCA has just been added to Thrivent's list of approved organizations that can receive these funds.



With just a click of your mouse, or a simple phone call to Thrivent's customer assistance, you can help your Synod continue

various ministries through which it carries out Christ's directive to feed the hungry, provide for the homeless, support the spiritually lost, and many other concrete actions taken daily on your behalf.

Please consider how a small portion of your time can help so significantly. Visit www.thrivent.com or call 1-800-847-4836 to take action or get more information.

Maidencreek Church Toys for Christmas



On Wednesday, December 21, Maidencreek Church received a last minute request for toys from the Second Street Learning Center in Reading. The Center did not have enough toys for the 450 children enrolled in their programs, which includes a 24/7 day care center. These children range in age from 6 weeks to 13 years. Even though most of the parents work, 98% of these families are below poverty level.

Thanks to social media, the church was able to get the word out to its members. The message was shared with coworkers and friends who joined in to assure that all the children would have a Christmas gift. By 5:00 PM Thursday (30 hours after the request) a truck was loaded and 200 toys were delivered to the Center.

There were Barbie Dolls, Legos, footballs, games, baby toys, craft kits, trucks, cars, and everything in between. Every child at the center was able to receive a Christmas gift, and the people at Maidencreek Church gave thanks to God for placing this opportunity before them.

Maidencreek Church Outreach Ministry spent a Saturday morning in December with these children creating crafts as gifts for their parents, grandparents, and friends. In addition, the team provides eight meals a year at Opportunity House, where some of the homeless children live with their mothers.

Share the Good News!

**GOOD
NEWS
EVERYWHERE!**

The synod has a story to tell: How the Holy Spirit works through congregations,

institutions, and programs to accomplish God's will!

Mission Interpreters tell that story. They are making Christ known by sharing the excitement of our synod and churchwide mission and ministry with their own and with other congregations.

To invite a mission interpreter to your congregation, please contact Georgia Suranofsky at georgiasuranofsky@hotmail.com or Brenda Stauffer at brenda@nepssynod.org.

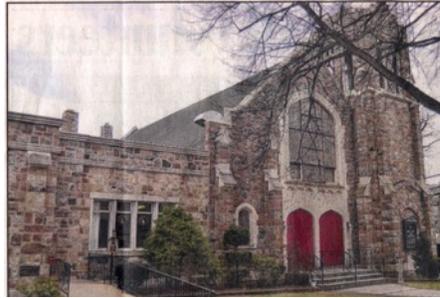
Subscribe to E-News

Do you know that each Tuesday over 900 people receive the synod's weekly electronic newsletter?

Synod E-News contains a list of prayer concerns, various items of interest (both synodical and from the wider church), a list of upcoming events, and various positions available in our congregations.

Are you missing out? You can subscribe by visiting the synod website. Under the "Publications" tab, click on "E-News." Then click on the "Join Mailing List" button and you will be sent to a page where you may subscribe to E-News, Daily Prayers, and other e-publications.

Sharing a Pastor



Holy Trinity, Palmerton

St. Matthew, North Weissport

One of the first things children learn is to share. Two churches are doing just that. For three years, St. Matthew, North Weissport, has been without a regularly called pastor of their own. At the same time Holy Trinity, Palmerton, came to the realization that they could no longer afford to support a pastor on a full-time basis. They approached the synod office for help and learned of St. Matthew's situation.

The leaders of Holy Trinity decided they would rather share their pastor than see him take another call, so they opened discussions with St. Matthew. This led to the sharing arrangement. Sunday services are held at 8:30 a.m. at St. Matthew and 10:15 a.m. at Holy Trinity. This allows Pastor Frost enough time to talk with the congregation and still get to the second service on time. His only regret is that he is not able to be present for Sunday school at either church. The churches will also worship together for mid-week Lenten services and Holy Week, alternating locations.

Pastor Frost is especially excited about the possibilities this arrangement opens for St. Matthew. "They are very excited to have someone who is their pastor. There's a great deal of enthusiasm." Over the years, the church has seen a decrease in attendance due to the lack of a regularly called pastor. "Worship attendance has picked up since I started," says Pastor Frost. "Morale dips when there isn't a consistent pastor." He looks forward to seeing the church grow.

Pastor Frost leads Bible study groups at Holy Trinity. A Wednesday evening group is studying St. Paul's Letter to the Romans, and a Thursday morning group is studying the book of Genesis. Pastor Frost hopes there will be crossover and that people get to know one another, leading to new relationships between people of the two congregations.

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Synod News is published monthly by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA
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