

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Major Anniversaries Celebration on May 8

On May 8 at the Lutheran Center, the following will be honored for their years of service. There is a worship service at 11:00 AM (open to anyone) and then a luncheon for the deans and honorees.

15 Years Dawn R Richie
Gerald (Jerry) S Kulp
Jira A Albers
Louise N Johnson
Michael W Ware
Ryan M Hersch
Susan M Horst

25 Years Diane M LaFauci
Phyllis A Pelletier
Phyllis M Hammel
Scott W Lingenfelter
Deacon Beverly Eiche Kriner

40 Years Carl W Filer
David A Searing
E Wayne Dreyman
Harold L Hand Jr
Jay R Wetzell
Jimmy L Werley
Lee A Diefenderfer
Raymond J Hand
Virginia M Biniek
Werner M Koch
Deacon Jane M Elliott

50 Years David F Hill
George G Kinney
Lynn H Rothrock
Raymond C Hittinger
Richard A Mowery

(continued on the next page)

Chili Cook-Off in Catasauqua



It was pastor versus pastor on the evening before the Super Bowl in Catasauqua, which is home to two ELCA congregations that are actively working toward a generous Lutheran presence in the borough located in the synod's Northern Lehigh Mission District. Pastor Brian Riedy of Holy Trinity Memorial (trained chef and former restaurant owner) and Pastor Scott Paradise of Saint Paul's (just a guy with a chili recipe) brought their best efforts to a chili cook-off to benefit the Catasauqua Food Bank. This organization serves an average of 463 individuals per month and is run entirely by volunteers, including the two pastors, who help unload the larger deliveries each month.

Chili lovers gave donations for chilis, pulled pork, beef brisket, and baked goods prepared by members of the two congregations and the community. These were available throughout the two-hour event. But, the big money came from votes for the best pastor's chili. With a \$2 minimum vote, congregants and community members selected the best pastor's chili by tasting the two chilis and putting money in the basket of the pastor whose chili they liked best. While one of the pastors went home with bragging rights for a year and a genuine plastic medal, the true winners were the clients of the Catasauqua Food Bank.

The event, which is expected to become an annual tradition, raised a total of \$915. A generous Catasauqua Lutheran supplemented that amount with an \$85 donation to bring the total to an even \$1,000. A Thrivent Financial action team grant helped assure that 100% of the funds raised went to the food bank. The congregants and community members who participated were so generous that a significant amount of food remained at the end of the night. This was enjoyed the next day as clients of Haven House in Allentown watched the Super Bowl.

Anniversaries

(continued)

- 55 Years** Charles J Orem
Donald C Simmons
J Robert Kehrli
Joseph W Hager
- 60 Years** Carl R Schmoyer
E Frederick Holst
George E Hein Jr
Kenneth M Trexler
Lars B Staaby
Paul H Spohn
Rodger A Krause
William W J Ennis
Sr. Millicent J Drake
- 65 Years** Marvin E Dewalt
Theodore C Schlack
- 70 Years** Paul T Manrodt



NEPA Synod Assembly 2018

**Assembly 2018
June 8-9**

**Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza
Wilkes-Barre, PA**

**Theme - "Sharing Ministries,
Building Relationships"**

Plan now to attend. Information will be posted on the synod website (nepasynod.org) as it becomes available.

Holy Trinity, Kingston Becomes a Reconciling in Christ Congregation



Holy Trinity, Kingston has become a "Reconciling in Christ" congregation, making it the only Lutheran church in Luzerne county to do so. This policy welcomes all people to Holy Trinity, regardless of their ability, age, ethnicity, financial situation, gender identity, life circumstances, race, or sexual orientation.

Holy Trinity has always welcomed a variety of people; but after several congregation members asked about seeking the designation, the church began a long look at the proposal. Church members had questions. They discussed the idea at Bible studies, other events, and informally; and the church leaders took classes about the issue. The goal was to avoid surprising people with a change, and to give them an opportunity to learn and think about the issue.

At the most recent Annual Meeting, a unanimous decision was made to adopt the policy and to seek the Reconciling in Christ designation. "In the end, I think we were able to successfully address all the questions and let people understand that this is welcoming, and what we're called to do as Christians," says Pr. Paul Metzloff.

"I think it's an excellent program," said Cheryl DeHaut, a member of a church committee that researched the idea and brought it to the rest of the congregation for a vote. "If people are looking for a church, regardless of denomination, and they see we are part of Reconciling in Christ, maybe they'll come check it out. We're a small congregational family. We want people to feel welcome. We'd like some more members, and we want to be welcoming to everyone.

[Much of this article is taken from one written by Bill Wellock for The Citizens' Voice.]

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2354 Grove Road, Allentown PA 18109; 610-266-5101. nepsinfo1988@gmail.com.
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