

# SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

## A Toy Drive in Schwarzwald



Several years ago, Pastor Scott Staub had a dream that the Schwarzwald community could hold a Toy Drive for the children of the Exeter Area Food Pantry. The program began at Schwarzwald Lutheran Church; and now in its third year, it has become a truly community effort. This year the following churches participated in the Toy Drive: Schwarzwald Lutheran Church, Reformation Lutheran Church, Schwarzwald UCC, St. Lawrence UCC, Northstar UMC, and Bethany Lutheran Church.

Financial support was provided by Thrivent Financial and Tompkin's VIST Bank. Wood-to-Wonderful provided their lovely handmade, wooden toys. The Arbor Inn, Effie's Charcoal Chef and Jake's of Mt. Penn provided collection sites, funding and cooking assistance. Boscov's Travel, A Perfect Secretary, Exeter Veterinary Hospital, Five Below, St. Lawrence Women's Club, Rotary of Mt. Penn/Exeter, Exeter Lions Club, the Exeter Girls Scouts and the Exeter Food Pantry collected toys, bought toys and provided many hardworking volunteers.

There was absolutely no problem getting volunteers for this event! We had the hardest working, most joy-filled volunteers ever! Would you believe that we never had to ask for help with this project? The volunteers found us! We had set-up help, truck drivers, bakers, food servers, toy sorters, personal shoppers, tireless gift wrappers, friendly faces; and we even had a full crew at clean up time!

The parents were very grateful and shared their thanks freely. We heard stories of disability, lost jobs, housing complications, sick children and even lost spouses. Most of the parents were relieved to have been invited to the event, expressing that they had no idea how they would have provided Christmas for their children without the Toy Give!

## Synod Assembly 2019 New Theme and Logo



**The 2019 Synod Assembly will be held on June 1 at Genetti Red Roof Inn and Suites in Hazleton.**

The theme, "Freed In Christ For a New Day," highlights that "in Christ, there is a new creation" (2 Cor. 5:17).

The new logo symbolizes some of the underlying concepts and content to be explored at this Assembly:

The FONT style is bold and clear, fresh and informal, reflecting a church that is open to all ages and clear in its belief and commitment to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The three colors are representative. (View the color edition online at <http://nepasynod.org>).

BLUE - the skies and the waters that abundantly bless our Synod territory; and the waters of our baptism.

GREEN - the hills, mountains, valleys, and the rich fields and farmlands that are our heritage and our legacy, bestowed on us to steward, share and pass on to those who come after.

GOLD/YELLOW - the rising sun of the new day dawning in Jesus; the light of Christ; and even the fresh loaf of bread, the body of Christ broken for us.

The FISH is the earliest symbol of Christ and his first followers, and connects to his feeding of the 5,000 and his call for us to "fish for people."

## Food Pantry Expansion in Dingmans Ferry



Holy Trinity in Dingmans Ferry has been operating a food pantry for 30 years. In recent times, as the number of families coming to receive supplemental food has grown, Holy Trinity has partnered with state and local government, local businesses, the Delaware Valley School District, and the community to purchase and collect food to distribute.

Barbara Hupfer, the Holy Trinity Lay Assistant, coordinates the pantry, ordering food, recruiting and training volunteers and scheduling and meeting with food pantry recipients. The pantry is open 5 days a week.

In recent years the need for additional space for storage, freezers and distribution of food became critical. The congregation was blessed by a \$100,000 gift from a parishioner who volunteers in the pantry and a grant from the Land Share Act of Pennsylvania for \$50,000 to pay for the 980 square foot addition onto the church.

Bishop Zeiser came to preside over the dedication of the new pantry. He spoke about recognizing the mission of God being shared in the church and the community, including the county and local elected officials who were present.



The congregation is filled with joy over this growing ministry that daily serves people in need. Each month, over 150 families are given supplemental food including, cereal, canned goods, meat, vegetables and a variety of staples. The congregation is blessed by being a blessing.

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