

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Saturday Evening at Zion, Tamaqua



One size does not fit all, especially when it comes to worship styles. Five years ago Zion, Tamaqua developed a Saturday evening service to

- provide an alternative time of worship for people who cannot get to a Sunday service, and
- provide an alternative style of worship for people who do not relate to the typical traditional high liturgy.

Pr. Cindy White offers blessings to three companions at a Saturday service

The service includes all the parts of a traditional service but in a more relaxed, informal style. Within a short period of time, we installed a digital projector and purchased the ProPresenter program to organize our worship and to allow us to add purchased music and subject matter videos to our service.

Because of it's flexibility, the Saturday service has been adapted to include a special service for cancer survivors, our annual blessing of the animals, a vow renewal service around Valentine's Day, and a Christmas in July service complete with a full holiday dinner following the service. All the Saturday services begin with Godsightings, when people are encouraged to share where they have seen God at work in their lives during the past week.

In December 2017 we began live-streaming our Saturday and Sunday services through Boxcast. As of March 30, we have webcast 107 services. On our website we've reached 379 unique viewers who watched 1,491 times. We began posting on Facebook in March 2018. Since then we've had 2,522 viewers of Saturday services and 2,830 viewers of Sunday services. Services are archived for several weeks.

Correction: In the last edition of Synod News Pastor Carl Shankweiler was reported as having retired. Although Pr. Shankweiler has stepped down from synod staff, he is still the called pastor at Zion, Frackville and also working under contract with Trinity (Chapel), Buck Run.



Community Breakfast at St. John, Easton



A member of St. John's Lutheran Church in historic downtown Easton came to the Outreach Committee meeting and said, "Let's have a community breakfast." No agenda, no cost, just something to get people together. The committee mulled it over and said, "Let's do it!"

Breakfast had already become a speciality for Roger Ruggles. On Sunday mornings he cooked pancakes, French toast, and bacon/sausage; and he served them with fruit for any in the Sunday school before the 9:00 start time.



Roger decided to extend what he already knew; so he recruited some others to help cook: Mayor Sal Panto, and Roger's brother-in-law Dennis Greenleaf. And Roger also invited Bishop Zeizer, who was kind enough to attend and help fix the plates.

At the free meal firefighters, police officers, community leaders, Lafayette students, neighbors, some homeless, and parishioners gathered together to eat. Another church even sent volunteers to help serve. The volunteers served over a hundred people, and comments from the diners were very positive.

A simple breakfast became an example of hospitality in downtown Easton at its best!



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