

A BIG THANK YOU to all the congregations who have demonstrated their faith in God's promise of abundance by returning their 2023 Mission Support Statement of Intention. Together we can do so much more than we can do alone. Your contributions will enable you to partner with other congregations in the Northeastern PA Synod to enable many wonderful, worthwhile ministries to happen right here in Pennsylvania as well as worldwide. This flyer talks about two of the ministries that your Mission Support contributions helped to support in 2022: Good Shepherd and Camp Noah. To read about more ministries helped by Mission Support contributions, go to <https://www.elca.org/Resources/Stories-of-Faith-in-Action> . If you have not yet returned your 2023 Mission Support Statement of Intention, we invite you to read these stories, and be a partner in these ministries by contributing to 2023 Mission Support. Thank you again and blessings to all.

*-Debbie Skinner, Mission Support Coordinator-Northeastern PA Synod*



## Camp Noah

Have you ever felt overwhelmed and unable to cope with a situation?

There have been times during covid that many have felt that way—worry about those who were sick—concerned for families who had lost someone. It was hard enough for adults—but what about children? Camp Noah is a Lutheran camping organization run out of Minnesota that provides weeklong camp experiences for children who have experienced traumatizing natural disasters like tornados, floods, hurricanes—and covid. This past summer, just such a camp was held in Oley, PA. Camp Noah provided a week of fun and engaging experiences through books, crafts, music, art, and games that allowed kids to express their feelings and concerns regarding covid. One young camper said, *“this camp has been a blessing.”* And it was! Everyone involved—including adult volunteers—felt the healing presence of God among them! Thank you to the many congregations whose Mission Support dollars to the Northeast Pennsylvania Synod provided grant money to help fund Camp Noah. It really was a blessing to all!

*Submitted by: Pastor Julie Osterhout, Trinity Lutheran-Wernersville*



## Helping Children Through Technology

Watching your child take his or her first steps is one of the most exciting moments in a parent's life. But what if your child has a disability and those steps don't come so easily, or at all? Through the years, parents faced with this dilemma have come to Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Network looking for help and finding it. One of the rehabilitation technology stars in Good Shepherd Pediatrics' toolbox is the Trexo Plus. This innovative, wearable robotic gait trainer helps children with spasticity and mobility challenges walk, perhaps for the first time. Thanks to our generous supporters, including the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, Good Shepherd has acquired a total of six Trexo devices in small, medium and large sizes for children as young as 1 through their teen years. This makes Good Shepherd the only pediatric rehabilitation provider in the U.S. to offer all three sizes for both inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation settings. Children who benefit from using the life-changing technology are diagnosed with cerebral palsy, pediatric stroke, spinal cord injury, gait disorders or other mobility problems. The device's brightly colored legs allow children to walk hands-free in a safe, correct and consistent manner, all under the watchful eye of trained Good Shepherd staff.

Trexo is one piece in an array of technology used by Good Shepherd Pediatrics and supported by the Assistive and Rehabilitative Technology Fund. For more information, visit [GoodShepherdPediatrics.org](http://GoodShepherdPediatrics.org).

*Story Contributor: Kimberly Stolarik, Interim Administrative Director, Development*

### Thank You For Living Out Our Mission Together!

*"I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord." (Ezekiel 37:14.)*

In this year 2023, we are embracing a bold theme: "Going Beyond Death to Life." Of course this vision ties us directly to our Lord Jesus Christ, whose death on the cross and resurrection on Easter bring us the good news of God's salvation and new life for us, even in the midst of the world's uncertainty and anxiety. We have been through so much, especially the last few years. We do not know what struggles may lie ahead. But we know by faith that our God never leaves us, that our God puts the Holy Spirit within us, that our God empowers us and showers us with love and hope and blessings, grace upon grace. Thank you, for sharing with us and with each other, with neighbors and with strangers, the gifts of time, talents and treasures that make all our common mission and ministry – not only possible, but alive and strong and well.

Bishop Christopher deForest