

the Messenger



May 28, 2023

Pentecost



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Dear Members and Friends of God's Love, Our **weekend Evangelism Emphasis** on June 3 – 4 will culminate on **Sunday, June 4** with an old-fashioned "pulpit exchange" in which you will hear the remarkable Christian witness of the **Reverend Erich Kussman** of St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church in Trenton, NJ. At the same time I will be preaching at St. Bartholomew and enjoying fellowship with God's people there.



Pastor Kussman is unabashedly Christian, but his message is full of anti-empire and social justice ramifications, combined with piercing insight into the power of God's radical love in Jesus Christ. He himself is a personal illustration of the power of the gospel to change lives and to spread the message that "God comforts the disturbed and disturbs the comfortable."

Erich served time in prison before eventually earning a Master of Divinity degree at Princeton Theological Seminary and being called to serve as an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament in the ELCA. At St. Bartholomew, Erich spearheads a feeding ministry named the "Community Chest" that serves approximately 300 families per week. Erich also sits on the board of *Rawtools* that works to get guns off the streets and transform them into garden tools.

I encourage you to carve out time in your calendar for the *Evangelism workshop event* on **June 3** and one of the *worship services* on **June 4**! Pastor Brandi and I have worked hard to make this evangelism emphasis fresh, engaging and inspirational.

God's blessings, *Pastor Dan Whitener*

Evangelism Event: *Renewing our Mission; Connecting to our Community; Sharing the Gospel*
Hint: it's **NOT** scary! **Saturday, June 3 • 9am – Noon • God's Love**

Pastor Dan is pleased to invite you to a special Evangelism Event. The morning will begin with a light breakfast, fellowship, and brief worship, followed by a series of engaging presentations and dialogue on topics including:

- faith-sharing
- establishing key relationships with community stakeholders
- deep listening to the voices in the community
- exploring possible ministry endeavors



Our event will be led by **Pastor Bryan Penman**, a Director of Evangelical Mission for the SEPA Synod and pastor of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Conshohocken. He is a graduate of the ELCA's Lenoir-Rhyne University as well as United Lutheran Seminary, with certificates of study in Metro/Urban Ministry and Youth and Family Ministries. Pastor Penman is passionate about raising the next generation of believers to share the boundless love of God with the world.



Please prayerfully consider attending and joyfully participating in this important event on **June 3**. [RSVP HERE](#) or register at the **SignUp Hub**—it's **FREE!** **Questions?** Contact **Pastor Dan**.

June Fellowship Dinner • Saturday, June 3 • 6:00pm

Green Parrot, Newtown

This popular monthly social event is open to all in the congregation. Participants meet at the restaurant, pay for their own meal, and enjoy one another's company. [RSVP HERE by May 29](#), call the church office or visit the **SignUp Hub**. **Questions?** Contact **Bob Harman**.



Supporting Those in Need

God's Love provides lunches to the *Reach Out Foundation* center in Pennel.

Want to help? [SIGN UP HERE FOR JUNE](#) or visit the **SignUp Hub**. Donations due in the **Lobby of Love** by **10:30am on Tuesdays**. **The need is great, but God's love is greater!**



Scripture Readings for June 4 **The Trinity**



Genesis 1:1--2:4a
The creation

2 Corinthians 13:11-13
Paul's farewell

Matthew 28:16-20
The community of the Trinity

The Nursery is OPEN!

Thanks to the initiative and service of **several of our youth**, the mentorship of **Julie and George Eastburn**, volunteer labor by **Ken Weisensale** and **Bob Smoose**, and the financial support of Congregation Council, our nursery space has been beautifully refreshed and updated.

We're still waiting on some finishing touches, but the space is **OPEN!** Stop by and check it out!



Amber Cummons, Ben McNulty, Jake Young, and Julie Eastburn

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Beginning **JULY 2** through **SEPTEMBER 3**, we will have one combined worship service at 9:30am.



May's Highlighted Collection:

Donations of Cleaning Products

"Securing basic household supplies is often impossible for families who are barely making ends meet."

LAST CALL! God's Love is collecting donations of **cleaning products** to support *The HELP Center* in Bristol. The center, a Healthy Eating and Living Partnership, is a collaboration between Bucks County Opportunity Council, St. Mary Medical Center, and United Way of Bucks County. Penn Community Bank provides generous support. The center fills the gap for local families in need by providing essentials, free of charge, through a dignified personal shopping experience.

Please place your donations in the **Lobby of Love** ❤️ by **May 28**.

Questions? Contact **Robin Pecuch** at 215-882-1011.

"CHOP IT" Fellowship Event Sunday, June 4 after Worship

hosted by the

YOUNG ADULT
MINISTRY

LAST CALL! Join our young adults in the **main kitchen** for this meal prep event and leave with a week's worth of meals ready for your family table and freezer.

Food items will be ordered in advance. Participants will spend the afternoon prepping and assembling meals—enjoying one another's company. Bring knives and cutting boards.

The menu includes Greek ziti, pulled pork, French toast casserole, meatloaf, and burritos.

Registration is required; **RSVP HERE By JUNE 1** or call the office. Estimated cost: \$80 for 5 meals that each serve 4



God's Caring Stitchers

Fridays, June 2 and June 16

1:00pm – 3:00pm • Room A1/A2

We continue to make items for our blanket blessing and donation in November. **All are welcome!**

Questions? Contact **Cindy Sundstrom**.

NOTE: During the summer, we will meet *once a month* on Fridays, July 7 and August 4.

The resource table in the Commons is there to provide meaningful and timely ministry tools that help connect faith with our daily lives.



"On-loan" resources for June are manageable collections of writings from a variety of Christian spiritual thinkers. No problem if you would like to take them to the pool or beach. Sand within the pages is to be expected! **Welcome!**

Ways you can SERVE

Ushers, Readers, Communion Assistants, Altar Guild, Acolytes...

there are many opportunities for members of the congregation (adults and youth!) to assist during our worship services.

[SIGN UP HERE FOR JUNE/JULY/AUGUST](#) or visit the **SignUp Hub** to choose a week(s) most convenient for you. New volunteers are encouraged! Instructions will be provided.

Women's Retreat: "For everything there is a Season"

Saturday, June 10 • 10am – 3pm • God's Love

The seasons of creation reflect the spiritual seasons of our lives—each one filled with the promise of transformation.

Women of the congregation are invited to this one-day retreat at God's Love, led by **Pastor Dale Selover** of *The House Next Door*, a spiritual direction and retreat ministry in New Jersey.

Cost is **\$25 per person** which includes a continental breakfast and box lunch. [REGISTER HERE](#), visit the **SignUp Hub**, or call the church office **by June 1**. **Questions?** Contact **Pastor Brandi**.



Don't let yesterday take up too much of today.



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