

The SLC Journey continues
with a new Shepherd onboard

Join us at 9:30am to see the same great people
and to hear a new voice sharing

God's Word and God's love.

If you have not visited Schwarzwald Lutheran Church in a while, you might not be aware that Pastor Steve Shussett became our new Pastor on June 26th. We urge you to attend a worship service to hear Pastor Steve deliver an inspiring message about God's Word and God's love for us.

Pastor Steve comes to us after serving St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Allentown. He is a graduate of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia where he received his Doctor of Ministry in Christian Spirituality. Pastor and his wife, Alicia, currently live in Fogelsville and will be moving into the Exeter area in late August. Alicia works at Cedar Crest College. They have two grown children, Rachel and Daniel.

RALLY DAY

Mark the Date!

Rally Day is September 8.

*9:15am - Sunday School for All Ages

*10:30am Worship

* 11:45am Annual Church Picnic



To all the saints of Schwarzwald,
Grace to you, and peace!



As I've mentioned, I am a spiritual director. For over a decade, I have been meeting with individuals face to face, by remotely to accompany them on their journey with God. I'm also blessed to teach others this practice one weekend a month.

I think of spiritual direction as my walking alongside someone. Sometimes a rare bird flies by, and the person might be led to ask questions about the bird. But sometimes the person is so busy, or so used to the bird, that they don't notice how unusual this bird is. Or the world feels so heavy that it's hard to even lift your head to see the bird.

As a spiritual director, I listen with the person, paying attention for those rare bird-sightings. I then gently invite my companion to notice what is around them, asking questions that emerge. God is the ultimate Director; my calling is to sit with another so they can hear God. Sometimes God speaks in fire and earthquake, other times in silence and the ordinary.

Beyond wanting you to know about this important part of my life, I write this because being a spiritual director is who I am, not just what I do. I listen a lot. I am as likely to be quiet as to talk, and when I do talk, I ask questions as much as answer them.

It is important that you know this, because as Duke Divinity School professor C. Kevin Rowe writes in his article, "Leadership and the Discipline of Silence,"

We are not accustomed to thinking of leaders as those who know how to be silent. We want them to put out a statement, give a response, open the conversation, interpret the recent news and so forth. And this, of course, is perfectly reasonable. In some ways, it is the gift and responsibility of leaders to do these things.

But, he continues, "the world of fast and loud often prevents us from hearing the quieter sounds from the depths. But these sounds are often those that we most need to hear when we want to tell the truth wisely."

May God bless us as we seek to be attentive to that rarest of birds, in the world and in us:

Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove!

God is all in all,
Pastor Steve

I look forward to meeting all of you and getting to know you better, but it's going to take a little while to meet everyone! So if you would like to talk with me more quickly than I'm getting to you, please call me at the church (610/779-3480) or email pastor@schwarzwaldlutheran.org. We'll arrange something for as soon as possible!

God is all in all,

Pr. Steve



Flower Bed Adoption

We still have a couple of flower beds at SLC in need of some TLC. Please consider adopting one and helping to beautify our property. Please contact Diane Hafer at the church office or Kevin Kennedy, property committee chair, to obtain a list of available spots and to adopt one.

Church Council Highlights (June)

- Kevin and Sally Kennedy were our lay delegates and attended the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly on June 1.
- A request was made to plant a dwarf ornamental tree near the paver circle in the front by the office. A member of the congregation will purchase the tree and plant it as a memorial. The request was approved by council.
- Council has been asked to entertain paving over the flower beds in the Narthex area to enlarge the patio and make a broader area for "Gatherings." The consensus of council was to take a break from construction right now and not pursue the request.
- We have had significant hail damage to our new roof. Our insurance carrier will be notified and a claim will be filed.
- A light supper will be served at 6:00 PM for the "Meet and Greet" with Pastor Steve and Alicia.
- The Spring Social for SLC women—Tuesday, June 25 at 6:00 PM at Mt. Penn Family Restaurant.
- Members of SLC volunteered at 10,000 Villages in Brownstown on June 3.
- On average, 200 family units are served at the Exeter Area Food Pantry.
- Our freezer ministry is well stocked.

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

. . **to** Judi Merkel, coordinator, and Ruth Hoover, Pat Ruffner and Peg Gumpert for labeling and tabbing the July issue of the *Pulpit and Pew*.

. . **from** Western Berks Free Clinic—Thank you very much for your generous donation...it is greatly appreciated. The Clinic has become a much-needed resource for the community of Berks County. A great need exists to provide free medical care to those citizens in our community who have no medical insurance and are unable to afford their medical care. Your support will aid us in furthering our mission.

. . **from** Social Ministry Committee—Thank you for another 11 pounds of can tabs and for 12 used eyeglasses, all of which have been given to the Exeter Lions Club for their ministries.

. . **from** Social Ministry Committee—Thank you for the donations to the Hope Rescue Mission. Many needed items were delivered and appreciated.

. . **from** Soup Kitchen—Thanks so much for the delicious BBQ. We are so grateful for everything you do for our clients. God bless you!

. . **from** Soup Kitchen—Thanks so much for always thinking of our clients. Your continued deliveries are truly appreciated.

. . **to** Adele Diefenderfer—Thank you for the donation of the picture she painted of Schwarzwald Lutheran Church. It is hanging in the Church Office.

. . **to** everyone who helped with M.A.D camp! It was a HUGE success. We had a fun-filled week with 28 children participating. Thank you to everyone who made this week possible. Pastor Steve, Heather Hafer, Diane Hafer, Judi Merkel, Laurie Vlasak, Christy D'Angelo, Julie Dickerson, Clara Worrall, Rochelle Chelius, Frank and Melissa Kerber, and our youth volunteers, Noelle Rutherford, Tony D'Angelo, Nathan Morgan and Cody Morgan. Thank you to all of those who donated food items for camp.

. . **to** everyone who adopted a flower bed. Thank you to the following members Bev Brightbill, Julie and Mike Dickerson, Sarah Gibson, Anita Heydt, Bill and Doris Jaeger, Sally Kennedy, the Kerber family, and Louise Paradiso. Your efforts have made a tremendous difference in the appearance of our property.

. . **to** Frank Kerber for repairing the emergency generator.

. . **to** the Kerber, D'Angelo, Morgan and Kohler boys, Frank Kerber and Jim Kohler for cleaning up and resetting the paver circle.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS



BLESSINGS
ON YOUR
BIRTHDAY

- 1 Lynn Gibson
- 2 Sally Sassaman, Charles Lutz
- 4 Brody Oswald
- 5 Amy Gray, Laura Ellis
- 6 Joshua Cupitt
- 7 Sarah Eveland, Betty Neiman, Shane Moyer
- 8 Jeffrey Hoover, Alexis Jeschonnek, Kyle Morganti
- 9 Elle Burkert, Harrison Brumbaugh
- 10 Diane Hafer
- 13 John Arndt, Deborah Patton, Kyra Hoerr
- 14 Kelly Billinger, Gregg Sweigert, Cameron Kline, Carol Pomian
- 15 Judy McLain, Connor Strain, Sam Ramos
- 17 Susan Hinkley, Erin Staub, Alynn Rahn, Nicholas Staub, Robert Schmehl,
Russell Smith
- 18 Alexandra Shaner
- 20 Clayton Snyder, Jason Boone, Rochelle Chelius
- 23 Emma Dickerson, Lori Seidel, Alice Specht
- 24 Lynne Toaldo, Bobby Zerwick
- 25 Justin Cataldi, Halleigh Shingle, Haylee Notario
- 26 Devon Messner
- 27 Doreen Myers
- 28 Marie Rutherford
- 29 June Collison, Colette Jordan
- 31 Thomas Babb, Peyton McLean, Trevor Seidel, Franklin Paradiso

If your birthday is in August and is not listed here, please call the church office, 610-779-3480, with your full birth date M/D/Y.

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

AUGUST 2019

4	5	6	7
8:30am Worship Service (S/W/HC) 10:30am "Gathering" (N) 8:00pm AA Meeting (SR)	5:00pm Sanctuary in-use (S) 5:30pm Exercise class (FH) 8:00pm AA Meeting (SR)		5:30pm Exercise 6:00pm Weight (CR)
11	12	13	14
8:30am Worship Service (S) 8:00pm AA Meeting (SR)	5:00pm Sanctuary in-use (S) 5:30pm Exercise class (FH) 8:00pm AA Meeting (SR)	6:30pm Christian Education Committee meeting (FH) 6:30pm Prayer Group (P) 8:30pm Youth meeting (SS)	8:00am Sanctu 5:30pm Exercise 6:00pm Weight (SR) 7:00pm Church
18	19	20	21
8:30am Worship Service (S/W/HC) 10:30am "Gathering" (N) 8:00pm AA Meeting (SR)	5:00pm Sanctuary in-use (S) 5:30pm Exercise class (FH) 8:00pm AA Meeting (SR)		5:30pm Exercise 6:00pm Weight (SR)
25	26	27	28
8:30am Worship Service (S) 10:00am Fellowship Comm mng (FH) 8:00pm AA Meeting (SR)	5:00pm Sanctuary in-use (S) 5:30pm Exercise class (FH) 8:00pm AA Meeting (SR)	6:30pm Prayer Group (P)	5:30pm Exercise 6:00pm Weight (CR)

Key: HC—Holy Communion FH—Fellowship Hall SR—Scout
 P—Parlor N—Narthex SS—Sunday School room(s) LG
 CO—Church Office K—Kitchen

Monday	Tuesday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 6:00am Exercise class (FH)
	8	9	10 8:00am Exercise class (FH)
Exercise class (FH) Watchers mtg	8:00am Breakfast Church (C)		
	15	16	17 8:00am Exercise class (FH)
Exercise class (FH) Watchers mtg Council (FH)		2:00pm Exeter Area Local Party (RC)	
	22	23	24 8:00am Exercise class (FH)
Exercise class (FH) Watchers mtg			
	29	30	31 8:00am Exercise class (FH)
Exercise class (FH) Watchers mtg			

Room CR—Choir Room PV—Pavilion S—Sanctuary
 I - Large Group Instruction Room YR—Youth Room

4 Tony and Vinnie D'Angelo
11 Noelle Rutherford
18 Harry and Charlie Brumbaugh
25 Jenna Russo
Sept. 1 Ashley Houpp and Brody Oswald



OLD HYMNALS

There are old green hymnals (LBW) and old blue hymnals (WOV) in the Parlor.
If you would like one or more, please take them along after worship.

PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY

We continue to collect Peanut Butter and Jelly for the Exeter Area Food Pantry.
Your donations may be placed in the black bins located in the narthex and vestibule entrances.

PRAYER GROUP

The Prayer Group meets every other Tuesday at 6:30 PM.
The August meeting dates are the 13th and 27th.



SCHWARZWALD'S BREAKFAST BUNCH

The BREAKFAST BUNCH will meet on Thursday, August 8th, at 9:00 AM at Effie's Charcoal Chef Restaurant. Please join us!

Schwarzwald Lutheran Church

Mission Statement:

We are a family of faith called to do God's will by inspiring Christian life through teaching and sharing His unconditional love for all.

Vision Statement:

To encourage growth of our faith family through community outreach and engaging youth to serve God.

**If you know anyone who may be interested in our
Director of Music and/or Organist position,
please pass along the following information:**

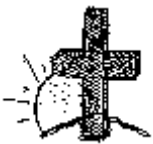
Organist and/or Director of Music is needed at Schwarzwald Lutheran Church, Exeter Township, PA. Two positions or may be combined into one position. Organist responsibilities include all church services (normally one Sunday morning service plus special services/holidays) and accompanying choir(s) one evening per week. Part-time position estimated to average 10 hours per week. Director of Music is responsible for 3+ choirs, hand bell choir, directing summer youth music and drama camp (one week), coordinating, overseeing, maintaining and growing musical aspects of the church. Part-time position estimated to average 15 hours per week. Salary(s) commensurate with experience; all candidates will be considered regardless of their education status, experience and current salary. 4 weeks vacation; annual raise. Send letters of interest and resumes to the church office, 250 Church Lane Road, Reading, PA 19606 or administrator@schwarzwaldlutheran.org.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP BOOK

You can sponsor a hymnal at any time! Please obtain an envelope in the Narthex or vestibule to make a contribution of one or more hymnals in honor of or in memory of a loved one. The cost is \$25.00 per hymnal. Please mark your envelope as to how you wish the book plate to be printed in the hymnal(s) that you sponsor.

*Together, we will lift every voice and
sing the glories of our God.*

SUNDAY SCHOOL



Mark your calendars for Rally Day on September 8th! This is a day you won't want to miss! There will be lots of fun activities and some extra exciting surprises. The festivities begin at 9:15 in the Sunday School area.

Once again we have an amazing team of teachers in place for our birth through grade 12 Sunday School program. Our teachers are vibrant and committed. Are you interested in joining the us? We could use 1 or 2 full or part time teachers/helpers to complete our teaching team. Any age teacher is welcome! No experience is required. Please contact Crystal Jordan if you are interested (clw1481@aol.com OR 610-451-2983).

Don't forget! Summer Sunday School is held each week through August 25th. The children are having a lot of fun!

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Highlights from Assembly 2019

Festival Worship

On Saturday, June 7, approximately 500 delegates and visitors gathered at Genett Ballrooms Inn & Suites in Hazleton for Assembly 2019. The day began with a Festival Worship Service led by Bishop Zeiser and synod Vice-President Kristen Edelman-Weiner. Service music was provided by Deacon Michael Krentz and a volunteer choir. An offering of \$3,600 was collected for World Hunger.



In his sermon, **Bishop Zeiser** spoke of a "spring" within us when we recognize the active presence of God in our life. Driven by faith, we become convinced that we "are onto something", and we then are

compelled to see it through. The result is ministry, ministry built on the generations of Christians who I knew we were convinced that they were onto something. However, the past, no matter how great, is sometimes unhelpful for this time. Our theme "Free in Christ for a New Day" reminds us that it is indeed a new time, and it further reminds us of who it is that got us here, and who will come again.



ELCA Churchwide Representative



The Rev. Ronald T. Glusenkamp, Director for "Always Being made new: The Campaign for the ELCA" was this year's ELCA Churchwide representative. Pastor Glusenkamp described the ELCA Churchwide ministry and mission in 2018. This included major efforts in advocacy, candidacy, congregational vitality, Fund for Leaders, World Hunger, global mission, and the Youth Gathering. He shared a video report highlighting these efforts (video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3320953410>) and also a video greeting from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton (video link: <https://vimeo.com/367254739>). Following Pastor

Glusenkamp's presentation, an offering of over \$3,300 was collected for The Campaign for the ELCA.

Bishop Zeiser's Report to the Synod

Bishop Zeiser reviewed some of the mission and ministry of our Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod during the past year. He then talked about challenges that the next bishop to be elected at Assembly 2020, will face. He emphasized that many congregations will be facing challenging situations and that it is critically important for both congregations and rostered ministers to commit to building a collegial relationship with the new bishop and his or her staff as together they face the immense challenges to come.



More Highlights from Assembly 2019

Luncheon

After the morning session, the delegates and visitors adjourned for a luncheon in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Synod receiving its charter. They enjoyed their meal under a large tent in a beautiful spring afternoon.



Elections

Several individuals were elected to offices in the synod.

Synod Vice President: Kristen Edelman-Weiner

Synod Secretary: The Rev. Carl Shankweiler

Synod Council-Clergy: The Rev. Cheryl Meirschlein

Synod Council-Lay Female: Ruth Major

Synod Council-Lay Male: Thomas Engle

Reports from Synod Officers



Kristen Edelman-Weiner

The Assembly heard reports from the synod officers:

Vice President: Kristen Edelman-Weiner; Secretary: The Rev. Carl Shankweiler; and Treasurer: Dorenda Dilman. The 2020 Spending Plan was adopted with a total budget for next year of \$1,934,420, of which \$869,500 is sent to the ELCA for Mission Support; and \$148,500 is given to various church-related institutions such as Bear Creek Camp, United Lutheran Seminary, Muhlenberg College, PA Conference of Churches, and LAMPa.



Rev. Carl Shankweiler

Resolutions

The Assembly adopted two resolutions. The first was a major revision of "Continuing Resolutions" offered by Synod Council to bring them up to date with current practice. The second was a resolution that the Youth, Young Adult, and Family Ministry Team address the need for synodical youth leadership; and that this Team work with the Transition Team that will report to the new bishop in 2020.

The 2020 compensation guidelines for pastors and deacons were also adopted.

Assembly 2020, June 4-6

Kalahari Resort & Convention Center Pocono Manor, PA

Plan now to attend. If you are a delegate, you will help to elect a new bishop.
And both delegates and visitors can enjoy the indoor
and outdoor waterparks of this exciting resort.



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View the full calendar online at <http://nepasynod.org>.

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Schwarzwald LUTHERAN CHURCH

Serving and Loving Christ Since 1737

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Join our family, share God's love.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Pulpit and Pew

AUGUST 2019