

NOVEMBER
2018

Volume 5
Issue 3

the witness

A Publication of the Mid-Northeast Mission District

*western New York, western Pennsylvania,
West Virginia, western Maryland*

*"Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13*

A TALE OF TWO REFORMATIONS

The Rev. Carl A. Johnson, Dean

Last year we celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and we were full of ourselves. Normally we have to talk about the shame of the brokenness of the Church, but not last year! We celebrated Luther. We celebrated all 95 of the theses. We celebrated Theology.

We celebrated our Triune God. We celebrated the Solas that form the basis of our faith. Then in April of this year, we gathered with other Lutherans and we praised God in a Luther Hymnfest at Heinz Chapel in Pittsburgh.

This year was different. I went to St. John's and was greeted by the kitchen crew with: I don't feel like celebrating. How can we celebrate the Reformation—or anything for that matter—when 24 hours earlier the worst anti-semitic shooting to happen on U.S. soil took place. The air was thick with sorrow.

And that's why I am a Lutheran.

Lutherans know the reality of sin, death and the devil. We know the depravity of humanity. We know that the darkness of this world is real.

We also know the light of Christ shines brightest in the midst of the darkness. Sin, death and devil may hold sway yesterday, today, and tomorrow, but we know who wins in the end.

*"...we know
the hope
that only
Christ can
give."*

Christ came into our world because it was broken. He came to save us from ourselves. He came to suffer and die for us and for our salvation. We celebrate not because we "feel like it," but because we know the hope that only Christ can give.

I went to Pittsburgh for the second year in a row. I went to represent you at the Vigil for the victims of the attack at Tree of Life Synagogue. Politicians promised they would do whatever it took to prevent it from happening again. The Jewish woman I stood beside said to me, "they can't make that promise." I agreed with her.

The only promises that are sure are from God. His steadfast love endures forever.

The Christian Community of Southwest Pennsylvania
Shares in Grief, Expresses Support
After Mass Shooting at Pittsburgh Synagogue

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Saturday, October 27, 2018

CONTACT: Rev. Liddy Barlow
Cell: 412-523-6736

PITTSBURGH – Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania expresses deep sympathy to our Jewish brothers and sisters following this morning's mass shooting at Tree of Life Congregation in Squirrel Hill. Together, we pray that the memories of the dead may be always a blessing. We pray for healing for the wounded. We pray for peace for the frightened and traumatized. We pray for an end to all violence fueled by hatred and bigotry.

For decades, the Jewish community of Southwest Pennsylvania has been our cherished partner as we have worked together for interfaith understanding and the well-being of our shared neighborhoods. In this time of great suffering, we stand ready to offer our tears, our strength, and our support. We look forward to standing with our Jewish brothers and sisters in public expressions of sorrow and solidarity in the coming days.

-END-

Let's meet

The Rev. Susan Fox



Personal Bio of Susan Elizabeth Fox, child of God.

I was born and raised in rural Armour, South Dakota to Lawrence and Elizabeth Villmow. Armour is located in the Southeast corner of the state, about 100 miles from Sioux Falls. I am one of nine children, and have 7 brothers and 1 sister. My parents were farmers, and several of my brothers still farm in that area. Going back there for vacation is always quite exciting, as the family is quite large. My mother lives in the nursing home in Corsica, SD; and my father is deceased.

As for my family, I am a widow. Michael J. Fox (I know....I know!) was a Lutheran pastor as well; and was serving a congregation in Sturgis, SD when he passed from death to life in September, 2011. Collectively, we have 5 children and 10 grandchildren.

After some years of theological study, I was ordained in July, 2010. I served my first parish for 8 years in Northwest South Dakota—in the land of oil wells and ranches. Each weekend, I would travel 350 miles roundtrip to lead worship in all four congregations. My second call was a 3-point rural parish in the fertile, Driftless Area of Vernon County, Wisconsin; and earlier this year, I became brave, answered God's call, and moved still further East to Ridgway, PA, serving First Ev. Lutheran Church. It is good to be here! O be joyful in the Lord!

I enjoy a variety of hobbies and pastimes: singing, gardening, reading, genealogy, camping/boating, playing piano, cooking, baking, sewing, quilting, and bicycling. I am an avid fan of local sports; and enjoy visiting, drinking coffee, and the list goes on...!

Pastor Susan Fox serves at First in Ridgway, PA and was elected to the Camp In-Tents Board at our recent convocation. Welcome to our mission district!

MISSION TRIP

Wilmington, NC January 7-14, 2019

Cost per person:

\$150.00 + transportation
(Meals and lodging at local church included in cost)

Registration Deadline:

December 9, 2018

(Congregation sign-up sheets were emailed to clergy and authorized lay ministers and are also included as an insert in this newsletter.)

This mission trip is organized and sponsored by our mission district and coordinated with our NALC Disaster Relief Coordinator, Mary Bates. However, anyone is welcome to join us as we help our neighbors in need in North Carolina as they recover from the impact of Hurricane Florence. So feel free to invite friends, neighbors, and family members!

Workers are needed for restoration efforts, food preparation, spiritual and emotional caregiving, and any other need that may arise on a daily basis.

Trip organizers and leaders:

Pastor Susan Fox (First, Ridgway, PA): pastorsusanfox@yahoo.com

Pastor Joyce Dix-Weiers (Resurrection Lutheran Cooperative Ministry, Elderton, PA): jadwltsg@aol.com

YOUTH INFORMATION

QUAKE EVENT – FEB. 1-3, 2019

QUAKE

What is quake? Quake has been around for decades, it was originally part of Lutheran Youth Encounter, you remember Captive Free groups over the years, they were part of Lutheran Youth Encounter. When that organization folded it was feared that this wonderful ministry of reaching out to our youth would be lost forever. But that is not what happened. Bob Lenz and his organization of Life Promotions decided that the Quake events fit into their mission of giving hope to youth while telling them about the love of Jesus Christ. So, QUAKE EVENTS are still going on.

Bob Lenz has devoted the last 32 years of his life to talking to youth about our Triune God.

From the Quake website: "Quake events are weekend retreats created specifically for youth in grades 6-12. Since 1966, we have hosted Quake events at hotels and water parks across the country. Quake partners with youth leaders to encourage teens to become established in their faith, empowered for Christian living and enabled to live a life of ministry and leadership. The 2019 Quake theme is Diverge. To live a life of Christ, we need to diverge from the ordinary roads of this world to follow the extraordinary path He created for us."

The Quake events can be attended by any youth group, but has stayed overwhelming attended by Lutherans. The message at Quake is always biblical and never follows a political agenda. This year's Bible verse is Romans 12:2.

Now for the important stuff. The coming event for our area will be February 1-3, 2019 at the Marriott Pittsburgh Airport, 777 Aten Road, Coraopolis, Pa. 15108. If you register by November 27, the cost is \$95.00. after that the cost is \$129.00 till December 18. Late registrations will cost \$145.00. Besides registration the cost of hotel rooms is \$203.00 for the two nights. Up to four people per room. Meals are not included, however, the Mid-Northeast Mission District has provided meals for Friday evening, Saturday lunch and dinner. We secure a large room for the youth of our mission district to gather. As in other years we will start Quake with a Tremor as we gather for food and fellowship before the main event kicks off. Several of our churches have sent youth in the past and I hope more will consider sending their youth to this uplifting weekend.

The Rev. Nila Cogan serves at St. Thomas in Hooversville, PA and chairs the Mid-Northeast Mission District Youth Team.

If you have any questions or need further information, she can be reached at Incogan@comcast.net or by calling/texting her at 814-483-0296

2018 MID-NORTHEAST MISSION DISTRICT CONVOCATION REPORT

ELECTIONS:

Elected Pastor Joyce Dix-Weiers (Senior Pastor – Resurrection Lutheran Cooperative Ministry, Elderton, PA) to a second full term on the mission district council.

Elected Ms. Connie Slope (Holy Trinity, Berlin, PA) to a second full term on the mission district council.

Elected the first six members to the Camp In-Tents Board following the service of a one-year interim (appointed) board. Two youth, two laity, and two clergy were elected by the convocation.

In addition, the board membership also consists of the camp director and two members from St. Thomas (Hooversville, PA).

SAFER CHURCH TRAININGS:

PA State Police and NALC Disaster Preparedness and Response staff provided training regarding church building safety and how to respond in the event of a violent infiltration.

STUFF-THE-TRUCK:

Supplies and gift cards were loaded into a truck header for North Carolina to assist with hurricane relief efforts.

SNAPSHOTS IN MINISTRY:

God has called us to various moments and partnerships of ministry!

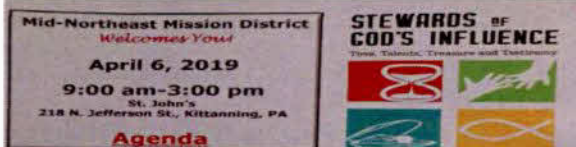


CALENDAR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	CONTACT(S)
"the witness" newsletter deadline	Dec. 3, 2018	4 p.m.	Double issue (December/January)	Rebecka Andrae, Admin. Assistant rebeckaandrae@yahoo.com
Mission District Council Meeting	Dec. 11, 2018	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	TBA	Pastor Carl Johnson, Dean cnarljohnson@gmail.com
Mission District Office Closed	Dec. 22-Jan.1	<i>Time-Sensitive calls and emails will be answered</i>		Rebecka Andrae, Admin. Assistant rebeckaandrae@yahoo.com
Mission Trip	Jan. 7-14, 2019		Wilmington, PA	Pastor Susan Fox pastorsusanfox@yahoo.com Pastor Joyce Dix-Weiers jadwltsg@aol.com
NALC Life Conference	Jan. 17, 2019	TBA	TBA	Rebecka Andrae, Admin. Assistant rebeckaandrae@yahoo.com
MARCH FOR LIFE	Jan. 18, 2019	Noon	Washington, D.C.	Rebecka Andrae, Admin. Assistant rebeckaandrae@yahoo.com
"the witness" newsletter deadline	Jan. 22, 2019	4 p.m.	February issue	Rebecka Andrae, Admin. Assistant rebeckaandrae@yahoo.com
Youth Quake	Feb. 1-3, 2019		Coraopolis, PA	Pastor Nila Cogan Incogan@comcast.net



January 18, 2019



Registration will open January 2.

Pastor Conference Room-Share....

I just reserved my room for the 2019 Pastors Conference in Orlando at the Crowne Plaza. The room has 2 beds and I'll only need one, if any (female) pastor is looking for a room and wanting to cut costs.

Pastor Susan Fox. pastorsusanfox@yahoo.com

NALC LIFE CONFERENCE

January 17, 2019



Trinity Lutheran Church
276 Cleveland St., Warrenton VA 20186

noon-5 p.m. ~No cost – lunch provided

Keynote speaker:

Melissa Ohden
1977 survivor of a failed saline abortion

Event concludes with a service of
HOLY COMMUNION
Bishop John Bradosky, presiding

Registration only required for lunch portion.

Pastor Dennis Di Mauro:
dennisdimauro@yahoo.com

MID-NORTHEAST MISSION DISTRICT OFFICES

Office of the Dean

Rev. Carl A. Johnson
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
218 N. Jefferson Street
Kittanning, PA 16201

Church Phone: 724-548-2051
Mobile Phone: 724-664-3414
Home Phone: 724-548-5512
Email: cnarljohnson@gmail.com

Administrative Office

Rebecka V. Andrae, Administrative Assistant
Mid-Northeast Mission District Administrative Office
131 Starboard Villa Ln. - # 315
Greensburg, PA 15601

Office/Mobile: 724-264-7770
Email: rebeckaandrae@yahoo.com

Treasurer

The Rev. Nila Cogan, Treasurer
Mid-Northeast Mission District
212 Hilltop Rd., Friedens, PA 15541

Mobile phone: 814-479-2204
Email: incogan@comcast.net

Web site administrator

Juhree Polkowski

Email: juhreep@aol.com

PRAYER REQUESTS

- *The Rev. Carl Hendrickson continues to be in need of prayer for debilitating back issues.*

From the office

The office has a

NEW NUMBER!

724-264-7770

Please update your contact information.

www.midnemdnalc.org



**Love. Grow. Serve.
In Christ.**

OUR LEADERSHIP

Dean

The Rev. Carl A. Johnson
St. John's, Kittanning, PA
cnarljohnson@gmail.com

Assistants to the Dean

Pastor Nila Cogan
St. Thomas, Hooversville, PA
Incogan@comast.net

Pastor Joyce Dix-Weiers
Resurrection
Lutheran Cooperative Ministry
Elderton, PA
jadwltsg@aol.com

Mission District Council

Pastor Thomas Beam
Hope, East Smethport, PA
tjbeam@hotmail.com

Pastor Joyce Dix-Weiers
Resurrection
Lutheran Cooperative Ministry
Elderton, PA
jadwltsg@aol.com

Mr. Steve Krepp
Brighton Heights, Pittsburgh, PA
Stevekrepp213@gmail.com

Ms. Connie Slope
Holy Trinity, Berlin, PA
cslope@msn.com

Mr. Douglas Vogel
Dunmyer, Johnstown, PA
vogelswagon@gmail.com

Pastor Mark A. Werner
St. Paul, Trauger, PA
revmaw@wpa.net

**JOIN US IN OUR MISSION
DISTRICT FACEBOOK GROUP!**



**Mid-Northeast Mission District -
NALC**



The Rev. Richard Mahan
(retired from St. Timothy, Charleston, WV)
 was ordained June 23, 1968
 and marks 50 years in the office of Word and Sacrament this year.
Well done, good and faithful servant!

MID-NORTHEAST MISSION DISTRICT

Administrative Office
 131 Starboard Villa Ln. # 315
 Greensburg, PA 15601
www.midnemdnalc.org



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



St. Andrew
 Nov. 30

The **Mid-Northeastern Mission District** is **eXcited** to offer a **Domestic Mission Trip to Wilmington, NC** to help in the restoration efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Florence.

You've donated Flood Buckets, Health Kits, and all sorts of other items, now they need your time and hands!

WHEN: January 7-14, 2019

COST: \$150, plus transportation cost. Refunds will be issued in the event all the monies are not used.

DEADLINE: December 9, 2018

What we need from YOU is a commitment
(*how many buses do we need*). **Sign Up!**

Willing hands is the only requirement for this assignment!!

NAME	CONGREGATION	PHONE NUMBER	E-MAIL

If you have any questions, please contact either Pr. Susan Fox (605-490-4268) or Pr. Joyce Dix-Weiers (412-817-3988).

Many hands make light work!

NALC LIFE CONFERENCE

January 17, 2019



Trinity Lutheran Church
276 Cleveland St., Warrenton VA 20186

noon-5 p.m.

No cost – lunch provided

Keynote speaker:

Melissa Ohden

1977 survivor of a failed saline abortion

Event concludes with a service of Holy Communion
Bishop John Bradosky, presiding

Registration only required for lunch portion.

Pastor Dennis Di Mauro:

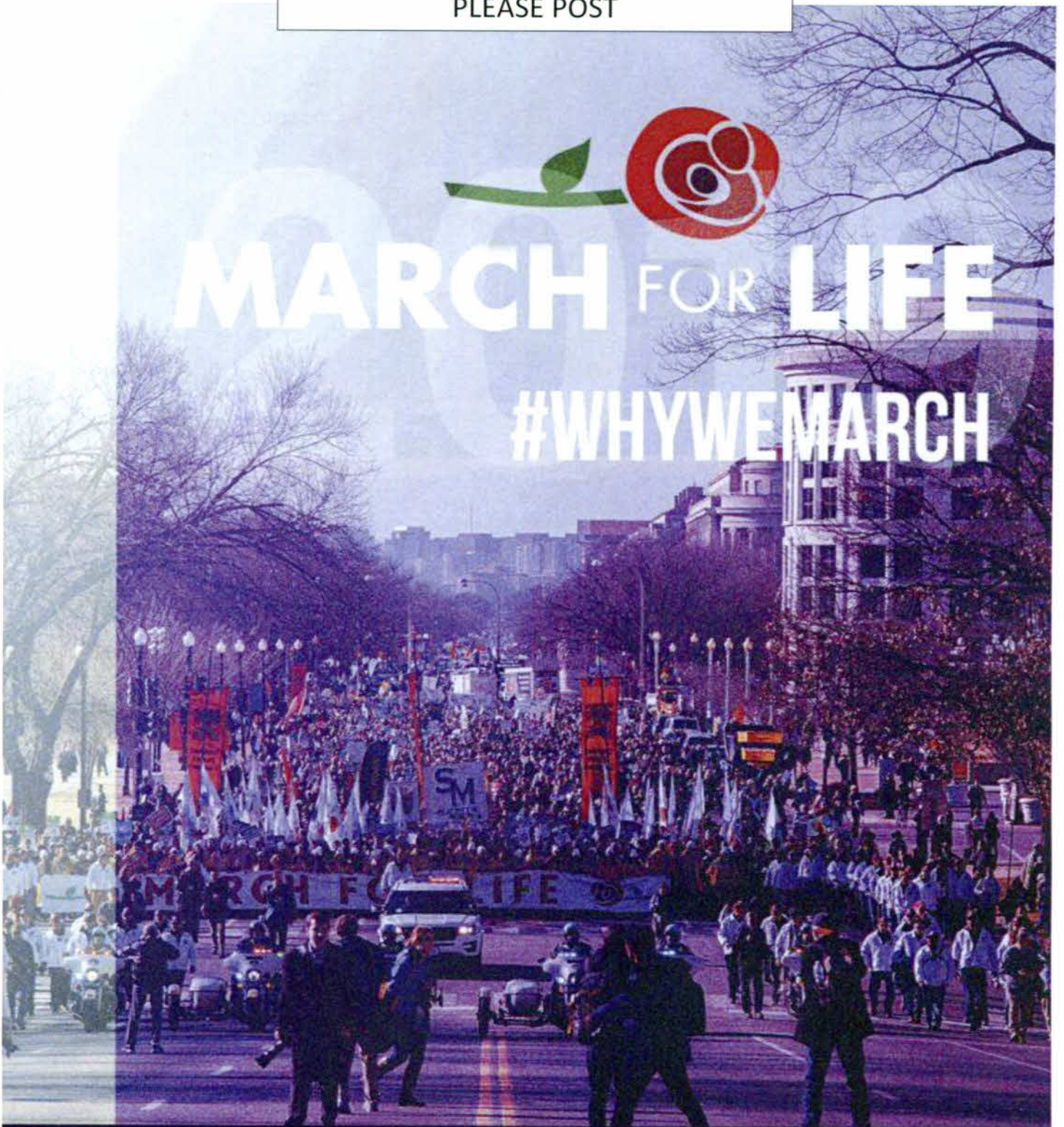
dennisdimauro@yahoo.com

PLEASE POST



MARCH FOR LIFE

#WHYWEMARCH



JANUARY 18 2019 | WASHINGTON, D.C. | MARCHFORLIFE.ORG

Insert 3