



KOINONIA

November — December 2017
LUTHERAN PARISH OF NORTHERN DUTCHESS
PASTOR JAMES MILLER



A NOTE FROM PASTOR JIM

“For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.” Romans 3: 28

Momentous events were put into motion when a young Augustinian monk read these words of Paul and realized how important they were. This young monk, Martin Luther, was consumed by guilt and fear. How could he ever be saved? What could he possibly do to win God’s favor? Paul provided the answer. We can do nothing to save ourselves. We are saved by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ. This understanding propelled Luther and led to events which we now refer to as the Reformation.

Justification. Exactly what does this mean? (Lutherans are always asking “What does this mean”!) I want to share the thoughts of the eminent German theologian, Eberhard Jüngel. He writes, “Is it possible to justify a person who is *in the wrong*? Is it possible, without perverting justice, to set the guilty person free? The gospel of the justification of sinners asserts that God has done exactly this. At the heart of the Christian faith stands the tremendous assertion that human beings, rightfully accused—absolutely in the wrong before God and therefore deserving to be called *sinners* or even *ungodly*—are justified by God. That is, they find acceptance with God.”

In the opening of our worship service, “we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves”. By the grace of God, through *faith in Jesus Christ*, we are justified—our sins are forgiven. Freed from God’s wrath, we are then called to use the gifts we have been given to the best of our abilities for the benefit of each other to the glory of God.

I am thankful to write that in addition the three worship services we hold in the Parish each Sunday, our Christian Education program has begun as has our Wednesday Prayer Gatherings for Healing and Consolation. That service is at St. Paul’s and the last one was held November 8 at 4 PM. These services are a combination of readings, prayer, hymn singing, conversation, and anointing for healing. Members from all three congregations as well as visitors from outside the Parish are attending these services. Please join us and bring friends! I am also thankful to write that the Parish decided to embark on a special fund-raising campaign to aid survivors of the recent floods and hurricanes. In addition to asking for donations, a car wash and yard sale was held a couple of weeks ago. That event alone brought in over \$1,000! All funds collected will be sent to Lutheran Disaster Response, which sends them directly to help the relief effort.

Looking forward into November, the Parish will host the annual ecumenical Thanksgiving service at St. Paul’s. Note that this year it will be at 7PM on November 21, which is the *Tuesday* evening before Thanksgiving. It will be a Service of the Word and is sponsored by the Red Hook Council of Churches. We look forward to joining together as a community of Christians to give thanks to God for blessings that are more numerous than we can name.

I am also pleased to announce that the parish will sponsor a performance of Frank Runyeon’s *3 ½ Stories of Christmas* on December 12 at 7PM at St. Paul’s. Frank Runyeon is a nationally acclaimed author and performer of Biblical theatrical events. This production is a joyful comedy with music for children of all ages and is open to the public. Please plan to join us and bring your friends!

Did you know that Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year? I think we have put together a schedule of worship services that will fit almost any schedule during the Christmas season. There will be a joint service at 10 AM at Memorial on Christmas Eve morning. There will be candlelight services at Third at 5:30 PM and at St. Paul’s at 7:30 PM. There will be a joint service on Christmas Day at 10 AM at Memorial. I’m excited! Come worship with us and bring friends!

A final note: If circumstances are such that you cannot attend worship on a given Sunday, or perhaps, know someone who is homebound, my sermons are video-taped at Third and available for viewing early on the internet. Go to Third’s website www.rhinebecklutheran.org and look in the upper left corner. Click on “latest sermon”.

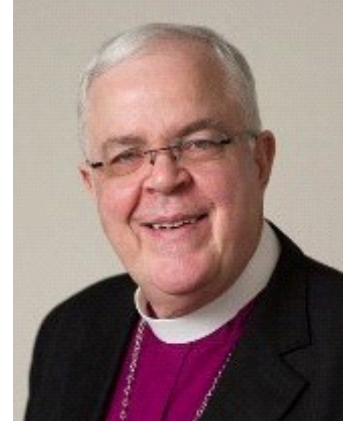
In Christ, Pastor Jim

November 7, 2017

Dear Friends:

I greet all of you in the name of the Triune God.

This coming Sunday's first reading from the prophet Amos concludes with these stirring words, "let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream" (Amos 5:24).



Taking up Amos' call and responding to the overwhelming call at our 2017 Synod Assembly, Faith not Fear, over the summer our Synod Council unanimously adopted a resolution declaring the Metropolitan New York Synod a Sanctuary and Welcoming Synod committed to:

- Develop a network of Sanctuary and Welcoming Congregations;
- Coordinate accompaniment (being silent advocates during check-ins or hearings) trainings;
- Create a plan for awareness building around issues of immigration and refugees;
- Advocate for just immigration policies including fairness in admitting and protecting refugees; and
- Endorse, fully support and help train congregations to do these things.

I invite the pastors, deacons, lay leaders, congregations and ministries of this synod to work together in a variety of ways. We begin our work this Saturday, November 11th at our AMMPARO:SANCTUARY Event where, with leaders from the ELCA, we will focus on awareness-building, accompaniment, advocacy, and start to build our congregational network of welcome and sanctuary. Learn more about this event, [here](#).

A new and promising collaborative resource is the ELCA's AMMPARO (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities) program. AMMPARO seeks justice for thousands of unaccompanied children who have fled the violence, insecurity and human trafficking rampant in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras and come to the United States seeking asylum. The ELCA, by establishing AMMPARO and the Metropolitan New York Synod Council, by declaring us a "Sanctuary Synod," have made ministry to immigrants and asylum seekers a primary focus of our Church's social ministry.

This call to care for "the stranger, the alien and the resident alien" springs from Scripture. Hundreds of biblical texts proclaim this calling, best summed up in Leviticus 19: 33-34: "When the alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt."

This call is rooted in the experience of God's people throughout scripture as, from Abram and Sarah to Mary, Joseph and the infant Jesus, God's people are constantly required to uproot their lives and become refugees in Egypt, Canaan and throughout the Near East.

This call has been a priority for Lutherans in America for over 75 years, epitomized in the formation of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services who, with the cooperation of over 6,000 congregations have resettled thousands fleeing from the ravages of World War II in Europe through the Vietnam War and subsequent wars today.

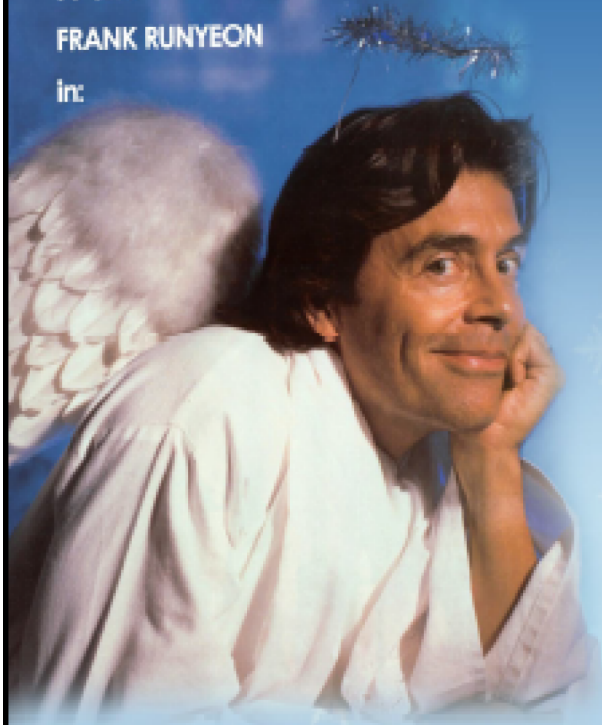
This call "draws on the best of our nation's traditions as a refuge and haven for the persecuted and destitute." (1998 ELCA Social Message on Immigration).

I look forward to our work of building bridges and not walls and to seeing the ways our synod will respond to Amos', ancient yet timely, call.

God grant us wisdom, strength, and courage.

The Rev. Dr. Robert Alan Rimbo
Bishop

TV Star
FRANK RUNYEON
in:



THE 3¹/₂ STORIES OF CHRISTMAS

"REMARKABLE!"

PEOPLE MAGAZINE

"SPECTACULAR!"

GRACE EPISCOPAL, TRUMBULL, CT

**"THE CHILDREN WERE
MESMERIZED!"**

IMMANUEL UCC, STATEN ISLAND, NY

Children and adults will be delighted as all the parts of the
Christmas story are tied together for the first time:

From the light of Creation to the manger in Bethlehem,
from the origin of Saint Nicholas to the secret of

the Christmas Angel himself!

Tuesday, December 12, 2017

7:00 PM

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church
7412 So. Broadway, Red Hook, NY**

Tickets: \$10 Adults; \$5 Children ages 6-12; under 6 Free

**Sponsored by:
Lutheran Parish of Northern Dutchess**

FRANK RUNYEON has starred in over 1,000 television shows over the last 20 years...
opposite Meg Ryan on *AS THE WORLD TURNS*, on *SANTA BARBARA*, *FALCON CREST*,
GENERAL HOSPITAL, *LA LAW* and *MELROSE PLACE*. He is also an honors graduate of
General Theological Seminary and Princeton University.

WWW.FRANKIRUNYEON.COM



Parish is Invited

Christmas Tree Lighting

November 18

3:00 pm (tent.) Caroling
Rhinebeck Bank Parking Lot

5:00 pm

Third Float in Parade

Stay tuned for further updates.

Sinterklaas

December 2

12:00 – 4:00 pm

at

Third in Rhinebeck

Schedule of performances TBA

Refreshments in Fellowship Hall

Advent Potluck Supper & Carols

December 3

6:00 pm

at

Memorial in Rock City

Bring a dish to share

Fellowship & traditional Christmas spirit

Meetings

Third Council Nov. 13 @ 6:00p.m. @ Third
Third W&M Nov. 14 & Dec. 5 @ 4:00p.m. @ Third
Parish Council Nov. 28 & Dec. 19 @ 6:00p.m.
Joint Session of Councils Nov. 28 & Dec. 19 @ 7:00p.m.
Congregational Councils Nov. 28 & Dec. 19 following joint session
Council Meetings Nov. @ Memorial & Dec. @ Third



WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE PARISH? A LOT!

September saw the start of another school year and the re-awakening of the ministries and activities of the Lutheran Parish of Northern Dutchess and our member congregations. Crafty Christians are back knitting and crocheting caps for Seafarers, prayer shawls, and scarves. Men's breakfast has resumed on Saturday mornings. Bible studies are back on Thursday mornings led by Pastor Jim and Thursday evenings led by Steve Bucala. Our Church School has begun using a different format than past years. The children meet once a month together to review their work. The emphasis this year is learning at home with their parents and grandparents. Thank you parents and grandparents for embracing this new concept. A special thank you to Patty Piaget who accepted the position of Church School Superintendent. Also, thanks to Pastor Jim, Lolly and Brad for your assistance leading and organizing Church School.

Third Lutheran displayed the beautiful carved pumpkins on Halloween to greet trick or treaters and their parents. Information cards about our Parish, congregations and worship times are handed out inviting people to join our family.

Those are our regular activities that we have been doing for a few years. A whole host of new activities and ministries have begun in addition to the ones above. Pastor Jim has started a Service of Prayer and Healing, which he leads a few times a month later in the afternoon on Wednesdays. In an effort to assist the hundreds of thousands of people affected by the devastating hurricanes, some members of our Parish organized a car wash and yard sale to raise money. They did an incredible job and raised just over \$1,000...that's a lot of clean cars! We also accepted donations from individuals that will be sent along with the car wash/yard sale proceeds to ELCA's Lutheran Disaster Response. This is a part of ELCA that responds immediately when a disaster like a hurricane strikes.

The Parish Council decided to support a couple of Christmas projects: One that we have supported in the past and a new one. Again this year all three congregations are supporting Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoebox. The new Christmas project this year is Seafarers International House's Christmas At Sea. We have collected sweatshirts, t-shirts, socks, cans of nuts and chocolate bars that will be packaged with the Seafarer hats that the Crafty Christians have been knitting and send them to Seafarers International House in New York City. Their chaplains take the packages to ships departing the Port of New York that will be at sea on Christmas. Each crew member receives a bag with these items so they have something for Christmas. Thank you for your generosity with both to these Christmas projects.

St. Paul's Lutheran will be hosting the Ecumenical Thanksgiving worship service on Tuesday, November 21. This service is sponsored by the Red Hook Council of Churches. All are encouraged to attend this worship service and invite a friend to join you.

Mark your calendars and save December 12 to attend Frank Runyeon's performance of "The 3 ½ Stories of Christmas". It is a joyful comedy that will be pleasing and enjoyed by all. The performance will be at St. Paul's. More information will be available real soon! Look for it!

Now we move into Advent and Christmas Seasons. Look for information regarding worship services. We will have our traditional candlelight services and Christmas Day service.

So, you see.....there is a lot happening around our Lutheran Parish of Northern Dutchess...and we are just getting started! Are you involved? Do you want to be involved? It is real easy to become involved, just talk to your Congregation Council President, myself or Pastor Jim.

God's Peace and Blessing be with you and your family,

Carl Dowden
Parish Council Chairperson



Special Worship Opportunities		
<p align="center"><u>Thanksgiving Eve Prayer Service</u></p> <p align="center">Ecumenical November 21 @ 7:00 pm St. Paul's Lutheran in Red Hook</p>		
<p align="center"><u>Sunday December 24</u></p> <p align="center">Joint Worship Service 10:00 am Memorial in Rock City <i>(no services at Third or St. Paul's)</i></p> <p align="center"><u>Christmas Eve Candlelight Services</u></p> <p align="center">5:30 pm Third in Rhinebeck 7:30 pm St. Paul's in Red Hook</p>		
<p align="center"><u>Christmas Day</u></p> <p align="center">December 25 10:00 am Memorial in Rock City</p>		<p align="center"><u>Sunday December 31</u></p> <p align="center">New Year's Eve Day Joint Worship Service 10:00 am Third in Rhinebeck <i>Rev. Greg Tennermann presiding</i> <i>(no services at Memorial or St. Paul's)</i></p>
<p align="center">Pastor Jim will be on vacation December 26, 2017 – January 1, 2018. Please contact your Council President in the event of urgent pastoral care needs.</p>		
<p align="center"><u>January 7, 2018</u></p> <p align="center">Normal Sunday Worship Schedule Resumes</p>		
Memorial 8:30 am	Third 9:45 am	St. Paul's 11:00 am
<p align="center"><i>Invite a friend!</i></p>		

ANNUAL ADVENT POT-LUCK DINNER

The annual Advent Pot-Luck Dinner will be held on Sunday, December 3, at 6 PM at the Memorial's Parish Hall. Memorial will provide the meats. We ask that members of Third bring sides and members of St. Paul's bring desserts. Of course if anyone has a favorite dish, they are invited to bring that. You all know that Lutherans love to eat!

Another thing that Lutherans love to do is sing! Keeping with our tradition, after dinner we will all sing carols accompanied by Nancy Kelly on piano and Pastor Jim on trumpet.

PARISH LAUNCHES MUTUAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE

The initial meeting of the new Mutual Ministry Committee took place at Third on Sunday afternoon, November 5. Members are Carol Braun and Gary Hack from Third, Linda Woodward and Karen Streifeneder from Memorial, Lolly Humphrey and Tom Cathcart from St. Paul's, and, of course, Pastor Jim. Pastor Sonja Maclary, as Dean of the Conference, presided over the initial meeting.

We discussed at length how our mutual ministry (the ministry of pastor and members) has been going. (General consensus: very well.) We decided to meet regularly, every 3 months, rather than meet only in times of stress in the congregation or to do our annual progress review. A regular schedule will allow us to plan for improvements in our mutual ministry, rather than simply react to events.

If anyone has thoughts about the future of the mutual ministry of the parish, please pass them on to one of the members.

Tom Cathcart, Chair

Service Opportunities

Crafty Christians

Thursday
11:00a.m. – 1:00p.m.
at
Third in Rhinebeck
Upper Meeting Room

Children's Community

Clothes Closet
Nov. 3 & 17
Dec. 1 & 15
9:30a.m – 1:00p.m.
at
Third Rhinebeck

Contact Carol Cronk
889-4168



Faith Building Opportunities

Prayer Gathering

for

Healing and Consolation

1st & 3rd Wednesday
4:00 p.m. @ St. Paul's Red Hook
Upper meeting room

Christian Ed

1st Wednesday
5:00 p.m.
St. Paul's Red Hook

*Contact Pastor Jim
914-441-4360*

Bible Study

with Pastor Jim

Thursday 10 a.m.
Third Rhinebeck
Upper meeting room
Contact Pastor Jim
914-441-4360

Bible Study

Thursday 6:30 p.m.
St. Paul's Red Hook
Downstairs at the church.
"Martin Luther's Commentary on Romans"
Contact Steve Bucala
758-1228

Performance: "The 3 ½ Stories of Christmas" by Frank Runveon

December 12, 2017 7:00 p.m.
St. Paul's in Red Hook

Adults \$10 Children 5 – 12 \$5 Under 5 Free

All are Welcome!

Invite a friend!

St. Paul's Members Birthdays



November

10- Katherine Baldwin
15- Clara Wert
18- Brian Williams
23- Cole Piaget
23- Pastor Jim
24- Gladys Unson
26- Kaylee Kelsey

December

7- Art Smith III
7- Frank McConville
17- Lorraine Humphrey
20- Jennifer Baldwin
21- Alicenne Donegan
26- Art Smith Jr.
26- Evelyn Ness

THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT @ THIRD

This year on Reformation Sunday we had a special visitor to help us celebrate the 500th anniversary. As we approached those big red doors we could see the 95 Thesis tacked there and standing at the top of the stairs was Martin Luther, greeting congregants as they entered church. I did notice that there was a striking resemblance to our own Henry Behrens. Thank you to all who made this special visit possible.

That afternoon some of the folks from Christian Ed joined with Cara, Pastor Jim, and me to carve Christian symbols into pumpkins to decorate the walkway. On Halloween we had the pleasure of greeting upwards of 650 trick or treaters plus many of their parents. Thank you to all who helped for these events and/or provided candy.

On Saturday November 18, the Village of Rhinebeck will once again be kicking off the season with the Tree Lighting and Parade. Our mission here at Third is:

“Through God’s loving grace we are called to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ through word, sacrament and service.”

As Lutherans, verbally proclaiming the Gospel seems to be a bit out of our comfort zone. However, singing is a big part of our culture and Christmas Carols are great way to proclaim the Gospel this time of year. For further details on this opportunity to share the Good News with our community, see the **Invitation to the Parish** below.

See you in church! Invite a friend.

An Invitation to all members of the Parish, Family and Friends

During this time of year we, as Christians, are presented with community festivities which provide an opportunity to “bring the Good News to the street”. On **Saturday November 18**, the Village of Rhinebeck will once again be kicking off the season with the Tree Lighting and Parade.

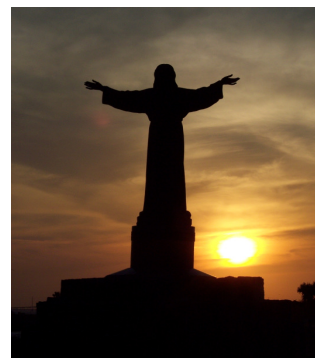
As Lutherans, verbally proclaiming the Gospel seems to be a bit out of our comfort zone. However, singing is a big part of our culture and Christmas Carols are a great way to proclaim the Gospel this time of year. This village celebration provides us with a great opportunity to bring Jesus and the Word of God to our greater community.

To do this effectively **we need YOUR participation**. Meet in the **Rhinebeck Bank parking lot at 3:00pm as we are scheduled to sing**. Pastor Jim and Holly will be accompanying the singers. **At 4:30pm, meet at Third to participate on the float with drums and the manger scene**. Thank you to Curt Birnbaum for once again providing his trailer for the float. The Lutheran Parish of Northern Dutchess banners are displayed on the float and we hand out postcards highlighting the seasonal services and regular worship services of the Parish. The parade route begins near Good Shepherd RC Church and ends at the traffic light. It’s a short route, but attendance along the route is usually very good. In the past we have received radio coverage from the MC of the event.

Looking forward to a robust turnout as **we put Jesus in the parade**, sing carols, and throw candy to the children along the route.

Wishing you a joyous Christmas Season and a Blessed New Year,
Monica C. Gabryszewski

Third Council President 914-475-6613 gabrymc@frontiernet.net





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LUTHERAN PARISH OF NORTHERN DUTCHESS

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Tom Cathcart (St. Paul's), Karen Becker (Memorial),
and Pastor James Miller

<http://www.lutheranparishnotherndutchess.org/>

Dated Material Address Correction Requested

THE SEASONS OF ADVENT & CHRISTMAS



**LUTHERAN PARISH OF
NORTHERN DUTCHESS**

Parish Council President: Carl Dowden
Memorial Lutheran, Rock City, Council
President: Fred Novak

Sunday Holy Communion 8:30 am

St. Paul's Lutheran, Red Hook, Council
President: Steven Bucala

Sunday Holy Communion 11:00 am

Third Lutheran, Rhinebeck,
Church Council President:
Monica C. Gabryszewski

Sunday Holy Communion 9:45 am

Pastor James Miller

Advent



**SEE INSIDE FOR INFORMATION ABOUT
UNCOMING EVENTS**



Christmas