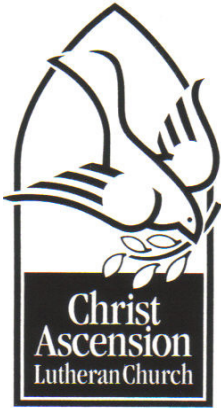


# The Courier

September 2011



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## From the Pastor

This month marks the 300<sup>th</sup> birthday of Henry Muhlenberg. Who was he? Muhlenberg arrived in Pennsylvania from Germany in 1742 as a missionary to immigrants who had requested a pastor to help organize churches. For more than forty years Muhlenberg worked to build up the church, literally and figuratively. In 1748 he helped organize the Ministerium of Pennsylvania, which started as ten congregations coming together to share common worship, raise church leaders and oversee mission activities. Our "big brother" church of St. Michael's in Germantown was one of those first congregations.

Muhlenberg quickly saw that colonial America presented a unique religious setting and adapted the church accordingly. Himself a very committed Lutheran, he was a willing partner when it came to working with other Christians. He also saw the importance of Christian education and good worship as a way to provide stability, faith, and social ethics in a very mobile and rootless society (even way back then, Americans were a restless bunch!). His commitment to serving the common good is visible in letters to leaders like Governor Robert Morris, Judge William Allen, and Benjamin Franklin. One of his sons, Frederick Muhlenberg, served as the first Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. Another son, Peter Muhlenberg, was a general in the Revolutionary War. Muhlenberg cared very much about service.

Muhlenberg is still important for us as a spiritual leader. He believed that being part of God's mission is a noble and valuable task, even if it sometimes seems thankless. His motto was *ecclesia plantanda*: "church planting." In one way, this meant starting new congregations where they were needed. Even more, it meant tending to the fragile roots of faith, so that saving faith in Jesus Christ might grab hold and thrive in a new world. Muhlenberg spent his long career tending to the living organism that is the Christian Church.

I believe very strongly that Muhlenberg's motto of *ecclesia plantanda* remains our mission in this new world of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. How are the roots of our faith doing? How are seeds still being planted? How do we find ourselves living in the one eternal Tree of Life, which is the cross of Christ?

I continue to pray and give thanks for this congregation, for its deep roots in God's word and its wonderful mission to the world. I learned while writing our congregational history that we ourselves have several direct lines back to Muhlenberg's ministry. Please let Muhlenberg's 300<sup>th</sup> birthday serve as a time to reflect on the mission that God still has for us in our time and place.

God bless,  
Pastor Martin Lohrmann

## Thank you for your love and grace!

Thank you to the congregation for your prayers, encouragement, and assistance at the time of two significant funerals this past month. First we grieved with Peggy Wells on the death of George and celebrated his life. We then mourned with the Ansel family after David's death. Please keep these families in your prayers. Thank you for being the Body of Christ together.

*+Blessed are those who have died in the Lord+*

## Choir Practice

Choir practice resumes on Thursday, September 8, 8 PM-9:15 PM. New members are always welcome.



## CALC Concert Series: Kaivama -- Finnish-American Excavators

Come hear some great folk music this Friday, Sept. 9 at 7 p.m. in the CALC sanctuary. Kaivama is a Nordic folk duo that presents both traditional and adventurous takes on the folk music traditions of northern Europe. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and youth. Spread the word!!!

## A Lutheran Social Statement on Criminal Justice

Our national church, the ELCA, has written a draft presenting the church's statement on criminal justice. You can read it at: <http://www.elca.org/What-We-Believe/Social-Issues/Social-Statements-in-Process/Criminal-Justice.aspx> or search "ELCA criminal justice" online. Congregations now have the opportunity to comment on the draft before it is finalized. Our scheduled August discussion of that draft was postponed. Still, if you would like to read it and comment on it, please contact Pastor Lohrmann, Irma Blum or Joe Schultz.

## Ordination of the Rev. George Dietrich

George Dietrich, former Vicar at Christ Ascension, will be ordained on Sunday, September 18— 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 801 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08618.

## Beer and Theology: September 22

Meet with Pastor Lohrmann at Earth, Bread & Brew (7136 Germantown Ave.) from 7:30-9:00 PM. We talk about the Bible, faith, and just about anything else in an informal setting. Purchase of food or drinks is optional. We will meet monthly during the fall.



## Church Clean-up Day, September 25

In preparation for fall and for the Spaghetti Dinner, we will have a church clean-up day on September 25 after worship. Feel free to come to worship in your work clothes. In case the weather does not cooperate, the work day will take place on October 2.

## Anniversary Book & Faith Stories

The eagerly awaited Church History and Faith Stories Anniversary Book will be available this month. Each copy costs \$35 (or 3 books for \$100). Because of Christ Ascension's rich history, the congregation's wonderful faith stories, and many great pictures, this anniversary book will be something you don't want to miss. Copies are available at the church office during the week or on Sunday mornings.

## Christian Education

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Beginning Sunday, Sept. 11, we again offer Christian education for all ages at 9:15 in the parish hall.

- **Sunday School** is for children from pre-kindergarten to fifth grade. Each week features age-appropriate lessons on different figures from the Bible. Jessica Hahn is leading this group with a team of teachers.
- **Youth Group** meets every week for students from 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The first two years of attendance serve as a time of confirmation. Older and confirmed students are always welcome to attend, because there is always more to learn about and discuss (we're not just repeating the same stuff!)
- **Adult Forum** features rich discussion of topics that engage our faith and daily life. Topics this year include mission, stewardship, and Lutheran perspectives on faith, grace, and good works.

All are invited on the lifelong adventure that is Christian education!

## Book (of the Bible) of the Month: 1 Corinthians on September 25

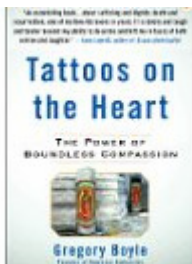
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Each month, we will read and learn about a different part of the Bible during our education hour. This month we start with First Corinthians. This is Paul's first letter to the early Christian congregation in the Greek city of Corinth. They had been reeling from internal fights, lawsuits, and immoral behaviors. Despite these troubles, Paul encourages the people of Corinth by reminding them of Christian communion and the power of Christ's crucifixion and resurrection. If you get a chance, read First Corinthians sometime during the month and come to discuss it during adult forum or just come and enjoy the conversation on September 25.

## Elder Diner

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Elder Diner provides a weekly lunch opportunity, (12 noon on Mondays) for seniors to gather for food and fellowship. In preparation for the October start up of Elder Diner, we would like to reach out to members that may be willing to provide lunch on a rotating basis. If you can help out, please contact Jane Hallock (215-836-0303; email: [janeagost@aol.com](mailto:janeagost@aol.com)) or Irma Blum (215-984-8927; email: [ikblum@hotmail.com](mailto:ikblum@hotmail.com)).



**Pick up and Read: Book Discussion!** The next book discussion will be about *Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion* by Gregory Boyle on Thursday, October 13 at 7:30 PM. It will be hosted by Martha Reumann, Hill at Whitemarsh, 311 Fox Hound Drive, Lafayette Hill.

*Tattoos on the Heart* is the true story of a Jesuit priest who has organized gang intervention programs in Los Angeles. Feel free to come and join in the discussion for the first time!

Thanks to Susan and Douglas Marshall for hosting the August discussion of the book *Gilead* by Marilynne Robinson.

## Spaghetti Dinner, October 15

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With other great volunteers, Myron and Jane Hallock are organizing the congregation's spaghetti dinner on Saturday, October 15. This dinner will help us wrap up our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary year and we hope it will also be a significant fundraiser. Ralph Wellington's band, Standard Time, will perform. You can volunteer to help by calling or e-mailing the Hallocks (215-836-0303; [myronhallock@aol.com](mailto:myronhallock@aol.com)). Tickets are available now. Please spread the word (and sell some tickets) with your neighbors, friends, and colleagues!



## Youth Concert: Citizens with the Saints

Coming to SEPA Synod on Sunday, October 23—7 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, Lansdale, PA  
(An offering will be taken to benefit the ELCA World Hunger Appeal)

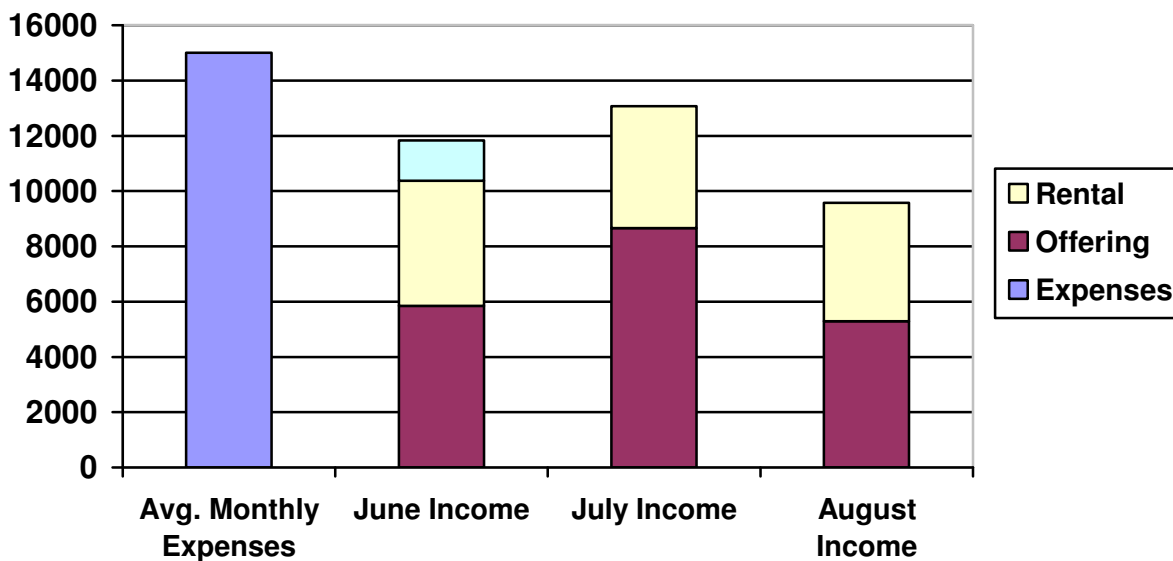
## Church Finance Update

To meet expenses, the congregation needs about \$10,000 in offerings per month (\$2,300 per week). The congregation withdrew \$4,068 from savings and \$3,147 from the Anniversary Fund to meet August expenses. This has emptied our longstanding savings account, meaning that your offerings this fall and winter are more essential than ever to our financial stability! Please consider how you can support your church.

### *A simple and convenient way to give.....*

This fall, consider signing up for electronic giving. Christ Ascension relies on weekly offerings from the congregation. Electronic giving offers an easy way to give on a recurring basis. Please contact the church office for details and/or enrollment form. Thank you!

*“The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly,  
and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully” (2 Corinthians 9:6)*

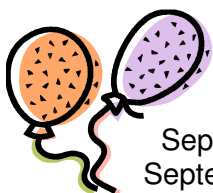


	June	July	August
Avg. Monthly Expenses:			\$15,000
Offering:	\$5,845	\$8,663	\$5,293
Rental Income:	\$4,530	\$4,410	\$4,281
Strawberry Festival	\$1,456		

## Anniversary Fund Update

Forty-five thousand dollars (\$45,000) has been pledged to our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fund. If you made a pledge to this fund, please remember to make your payment so that we may move forward with planning. Thank you for your generosity.

## September birthdays!



September 2—Gordon Lathrop  
September 6—Kelcey Johnson,  
Karen Rile Smith  
September 15—Pam Ansel  
September 18—Cameron Brown

September 20—Megan O’Leary  
September 21—John Bartlett, Louise Whitelaw  
September 26—Noelia Rivera  
September 28—Celeste Rivera

*If we don’t have your birthday information and you would like it listed, please contact the office. Please keep the Ansel family in your prayers, as David’s birthday was September 10.*

## Photo Directory

Thank you to Dianne Loufman and Sue Maska for leading the effort to create a new church photo directory. A draft is available this month. Please check it to see if you need to change your contact information. If so, please contact the church office ([office@christascension.org](mailto:office@christascension.org)) You can also send or update your own digital picture at any time, since we're using our existing church software.

In order to protect your privacy, the directory will not be posted on the internet and it will not be sent electronically. Directories can be picked up at church.

## Germantown Avenue Lutheran Parish (GALP)

God's Work, Our Avenue

### GALP Calendar:

Free Community Meal (St. Michael's)	Every Saturday 11-1
Rejoicing Spirits (Trinity)	Every 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat., 4pm
Monthly GALP meeting (Christ Ascension)	September 20 <sup>th</sup> , 7pm
Muhlenberg 300 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary (St. Michael's)	September 25 <sup>th</sup> , 3pm
150 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner (Christ Ascension)	October 15 <sup>th</sup> , 5-8pm
175 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary (Trinity)	November 13 <sup>th</sup> , worship 11am
AIDS Fundraiser (St. Michael's)	December 1

**NOTE:** GALP has a steering committee to increase communication and planning. Pastor Lohrmann and Joe Schultz represent Christ Ascension. Feel free to contact them with your input and ideas.

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## National Youth Gathering: July 18-22, 2012

The ELCA's 2012 national youth gathering for high school students will take place in New Orleans. Students currently between 7<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade will be eligible to go. Please contact Pastor Lohrmann to help plan how Christ Ascension can make this trip happen!

**Prayer** *"Are any among you suffering? You should pray.*

*Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise" (James 5:13)*

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Barbara Hoy	Peggy Wells	Ansel Family
Libby Edwards	Cameron Brown	Blair Hagelgans
Gwennell Edwards	Radi Kowalski	Christine Hagelgans
Jim McCloud	Michael Furia	Eugene Smith
Jane Strasbaugh	Tracy Hall	
Misha Agostinelli		

# September 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting	2	3
4 9:30 a.m. Worship	5	6 Henry Muhlenberg's 300 <sup>th</sup> Birthday	7	8 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting  8 p.m. Choir Practice	9 7:00 p.m. Kaivama – Nordic Folk Concert	10
11 9:15 Christian Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship	12 7:00 p.m. Church Council	13	14 7:00 p.m. Sunday School Teacher Meeting	15 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting  8 p.m. Choir Practice	16	17
18 9:15 Christian Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship	19	20 6:30 p.m. Child Care Comm  7:00 p.m. GALP Meeting	21	22 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting  Beer & Theology @ Earth Bread, 7:30 p.m.  8 p.m. Choir Practice	23	24
25 9:15 Christian Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship <i>Clean Up Day after worship</i> 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. Muhlenberg Celebration @ St. Michael's	26	27	28	29 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting  8 p.m. Choir Practice	30	

## Worship Assistants for September, October, November 2011

<b>Date</b>	<b>Worship Assistant</b>	<b>Communion Assistant</b>	<b>Lector</b>	<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Altar Guild</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Coffee Hour</b>
<b>September 4</b>			<b>Beryl Evans</b>		<b>Celia O'Leary</b>		<b>O'Leary</b>
<b>September 11</b>	<b>Gail Ramshaw</b>		<b>Gordon Lathrop</b>		<b>Gordon Gerhart</b>		<b>Beryl Evans</b>
<b>September 18</b>	<b>Brad Gow</b>		<b>Gail Ramshaw</b>		<b>Brad Gow</b>		
<b>September 25</b>	<b>Amanda Joy Bernecker</b>		<b>Sarah Farrell-Gow</b>	<b>Brad Gow</b>	<b>Sue Maska</b>		
<b>October 2</b>	<b>Brad Gow</b>		<b>Beryl Evans</b>				
<b>October 9</b>	<b>Brad Gow</b>		<b>Elaine Gerhart</b>				
<b>October 16</b>	<b>Gail Ramshaw</b>		<b>Douglas Marshall</b>	<b>Brad Gow</b>			
<b>October 23</b>	<b>Brad Gow</b>		<b>Gail Ramshaw</b>				
<b>October 30</b>	<b>Amanda Joy Bernecker</b>	<b>Brad Gow</b>	<b>Sara Calderon</b>				
<b>November 6</b>	<b>Gail Ramshaw</b>	<b>Brad Gow</b>	<b>Larry Smith</b>				<b>Beryl Evans</b>
<b>November 13</b>	<b>Amanda Joy Bernecker</b>	<b>Brad Gow</b>	<b>Gail Ramshaw</b>				

<b>November 20</b>			<b>Beryl Evans</b>				

\*\* There are a number of slots to be filled. If you are willing and able to assist in one (or more) of these slots, please contact the church office, or Gordon Lathrop: [gordonlathrop@verizon.net](mailto:gordonlathrop@verizon.net), or seek out the sign up sheet on the bulletin board in Kimes Hall. Thank you! \*\*