

On the Spiritual Side

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Bishop helps St. John's celebrate 250th anniversary

The Rev. Claire S. Burkat, bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America's Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, helped St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Spinnerstown celebrate its 250th anniversary as an independent congregation by participating in the Sept. 22 worship service and attending a luncheon.

Members and guests of St. John's heard the day's message and received communion from Bishop Burkat, who serves as spiritual leader for approximately 160 congregations in Philadelphia and Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery counties. Leading the service was the Rev. Richard Mathisen, interim pastor at St. John's.

At the luncheon, Bishop



A tuxedoed Pastor Richard Mathisen entertains luncheon guests.



Burkat cut a celebratory cake, assisted by four of St. John's longest members, all baptized, confirmed and married in the church: Dick Henry of Quakertown, a member for 81 years; Grace Freier of

Quakertown, 89 years; Fern Lorish of Pennsburg, 83 years; and Freier's sister, Loretta Thorsen of Quakertown, 79 years.

In a grand finale to the luncheon, the Rev. Mathisen, a trained

Bishop Burkat, center, cuts the celebratory cake with the help of Fern Lorish, left, Grace Freier, Loretta Thorsen and Dick Henry.

classical pianist, donned a tuxedo and played two pieces by Chopin. Pastor Mathisen has presented 47 full-length recitals. His luncheon performance can be seen on YouTube.

St. John's of Spinnerstown, the oldest Lutheran church in Bucks County, traces its roots from 1734 when it shared worship services with Trinity Great Swamp Reformed Church (now known as Trinity Great Swamp United Church of Christ). In 1763, St. John's constructed its own church, after separating from Great Swamp.

Ottsville Lutheran congregation continues 250th celebration

Join the congregation of St. Luke's Lutheran Church on Sunday, Oct. 13, as it continues its 250th anniversary celebrations.

Members of St. Luke's U.C.C. Ottsville will join the congregation for a service and an organ recital by former Lutheran church organist, Edwin A. Ohl, and fellowship.

St. Luke's Lutheran and St. Luke's Reformed (now known as St. Luke's U.C.C. of Ottsville), were formerly a union congregation, sharing the site from 1804 to 1976.

the Rev Suzanne Spaulding,



pastor of the U.C.C. congregation, will assist the Rev. William Rex, pastor of the Lutheran congregation, with the 10 a.m. service at the church on Church Hill Road, Ferndale.

Ohl was organist at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Philadelphia for 27 years, and from 1988 to 1992, he was organist at St. Luke's Lutheran Church. He is considered to be one of the pioneers of the Tracker organ revival in America.

St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Ferndale celebrates 250 years.

Church hosts CROP Walk to combat hunger

Doylestown United Methodist Church hosts the 2013 multi-church CROP Walk on Oct. 13.

Registration is at 1 p.m., and the walk begins at 2 p.m. Sponsors and walkers are needed.

CROP Hunger Walks are communitywide events sponsored by Church World Service and organized by local congregations or groups to raise funds to end hunger at home and around the world.

Donations not only support critical needs like food provision and well digging to supply fresh water to villages, but often are used to empower those in need to become self-sufficient as farmers.

DUMC has had a long tradition of support for this important project.

Donations helps as follows: \$24 provides a one-year supply of nutrition packets for 20 children; \$50 buys seeds and tools to help a fam-

ily grow their own healthy food to eat and to sell at market; and \$100 provides an emergency food package - locally purchased and culturally appropriate - to feed a family of five for one month.

Donations of \$140 buy pigs in a pair - soon providing a piglet to share with another family in need of a source of food and income; \$300 provides 10 meters of a shallow borehole well for a community desperate for clean, safe water and sustainable food security; and \$1,000 pays for pump and maintenance training, which allows women and girls to grow food and attend school, instead of carrying water long distances daily.

Sign up at crophungerwalk.org or in the church lobby on Route 313. There is a short walk and a long walk.

Call the church office at 215-348-5224 for information.

Archdiocese leases cemeteries to Bucks County company

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia has reached an outsourced management agreement and long-term lease with StoneMor L.P. through which the company will manage 13 Catholic cemeteries located in the five-county region.

According to the announcement, the Archdiocese will retain ownership of cemeteries, which will continue their mission with no perceptible change.

The move is the latest in a series of actions taken by the Archdiocese to reform a firm fiscal foundation, according to a press release. Audited financial statements for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2012 disclosed a

\$39.2 million operating deficit for that period, as well as several very significant and ongoing balance sheet liabilities that measured in the hundreds of millions of dollars, according to the archdiocese.

StoneMor Partners L.P., headquartered in Levittown, is the second largest owner and operator of cemeteries in the nation. It currently owns and operates 277 cemeteries and 92 funeral homes in 27 states and Puerto Rico.

StoneMor will provide an initial lease payment of \$55 million to the archdiocese. Subsequent annual payments will range from \$1 million to \$1.5 million.

The impacted cemeteries are:

All Souls, Coatesville, Chester County; Calvary, West Conshohocken, Montgomery County; Cathedral, Philadelphia; New Cathedral, Philadelphia; Holy Cross, Yeaton, Delaware County; Holy Sepulchre, Cheltenham, Montgomery County; Immaculate Heart of Mary, Linwood, Delaware County; Resurrection, Bensalem, Bucks County; Saint John Neumann, Chalfont, Bucks County; Saint Michael, Chester, Delaware County; Saints Peter and Paul, Springfield, Delaware County; All Saints, Newtown, Bucks County; and Holy Savior, Penn Township, Chester County.

HAPPENINGS

CROP Walk scheduled

Walk to eliminate hunger in the local community and around the world on Oct. 13 by joining the Indian Valley CROP Walk.

The 5K event begins at 1 p.m. at Souderton Mennonite Church on West Chestnut Street, and the route circles through town with stops at Keystone Opportunity Center and Generations of Indian Valley. Both organizations will benefit from the walk as local aid for hunger organizations.

Donations for the food pantry at Keystone can be brought along and dropped off as walkers stroll through the pantry. If 5K is too long, walkers can do a shorter one-mile trek.

Self-forgiveness subject of talk

Spirituality and the Journey

toward Self Forgiveness, with Dr. Michael Barry, author of the "Forgiveness Project" and director of pastoral care at Cancer Treatment Centers of America in Philadelphia, takes place 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 27 at St. Francis Center for Renewal, 395 Bridle Path Road, Bethlehem.

Register by Oct. 11 at 610-217-5993 or catherinecampanaro@verizon.net.

The event is sponsored by Spiritual Directors of Greater Lehigh Valley and Next Step.

Temple hosts book club meeting

Darkaynu hosts a Book Club meeting upstairs at Wegman's in Warrington at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 15. The book is "Dancing with Arabs" by Sayed Kashua. Everyone is welcome, whether or not they have read the book.

Rally for public Rosary scheduled

There will be a rally in attempt to get a large crowd of people to say a Public Rosary at noon Saturday, Oct. 12, rain or shine, in front of the school at St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church, on Route 412, just off of Route 611, in Ottsville.

The event is part of a nationwide rally, according to Elsie N. McHale of Kintnersville, a local rally leader.

There will be a large banner with a picture of "our Blessed Mother and another symbolic picture and a timely message," McHale said.

She said the rally date is in honor of the 95th anniversary of the Blessed Mother's appearance to the children of Fatima and the Miracle of the Sun on Oct. 13, 1917.

New Hope church offers nontraditional gathering

For those who describe themselves as "spiritual, yet not religious," St. Philip's Episcopal Church in New Hope offers "Night Prayer," a nontraditional gathering, at 7 p.m. Wednesdays.

The church, at the corner of Chapel Road and Route 32 (River Road), is located in a 19th century schoolhouse, but is not "old school."

The Rev. Michael Ruk, who began leading the parish in 2012, wants to help as many people as possible have a spiritual life. His mission is to reach out into the community.

Ruk's previous efforts have

included "Ashes to Go," on Ash Wednesday, on a street corner near a coffee shop, and on Oct. 6, a pet blessing in honor of St. Francis in a riverside park.

On Wednesday evenings, he opens the church to anyone interested in exploring spirituality using prayers and readings in a quiet, contemplative gathering.

"It's brief, just 30 minutes, so people are free to return to their evening's activities," Ruk said.

For information, visit stpphilipnewhope.org, e-mail Michael@stpphilipnewhope.org or call 215-862-5782.

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APOTHECARY SHOPPE

Worship Directory

SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sunday, October 13, 2013
The Rev. Dr. Tyson Frey, Sr., Pastor
9:30 am Worship / Blessing of the Animals
10:30 am Fellowship and Refreshments
Nursery Service available

Faith@5 - Engaging Contemporary Worship Saturday at 5 pm
186 E. Court St., Doylestown • www.DoylestownSalemUCC.org
215.348.9860

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