

Welcome to PFLA Religious Activities of Summer 2024

We look forward to worship and other religious activities this summer. The visiting pastors include some new faces and many of our favorites!

Communion services will be celebrated on first and third Sundays of each month, and Beach worship will be held on the second Sunday, weather permitting.

Save the Date! PFLA will enjoy a special concert by the Presbybop Jazz Quartet on Sunday, July 28, beginning at 4 p.m. in Social Hall

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

May 2—Pastor Bob Linders will lead our annual Memorial service in Social Hall. We will remember those of our community who have died since last Memorial Day: Cameron Olson, Elton Richards, David Magill, Lester Hallman, Martha Sue Gally, and Carlene Johnson. Adam Bergstresser is the pianist. Fellowship time will follow worship.

June 2—Pastor Fritz Fowler will lead our communion service in Social Hall. Judy Grauso is the pianist.

June 9—Pastor Bo Bannister will lead our worship at the Beach. Tom Woodward is the pianist.

June 16—Pastor Kayla Hopgood will lead our communion service in Social Hall. Linda Beck is the pianist.

June 23—(opening weekend) Member Nancy Pedulla will lead worship in Social Hall. Lynn Grimm is the pianist.

June 30—Pastor Becky Schanely will lead worship in Social Hall. Linda Beck is the pianist.

July 7—Pastor Karyn Wiseman will lead our communion service in Social Hall. Tom Woodward is the pianist.

July 14—Pastor Julie DeWerth will lead our worship at the Beach. Either Linda Beck or Tom Woodward will be the pianist - TBD.

July 21—Pastor James Thomas will lead our communion service in Social Hall. Lynn Grimm is the pianist.

July 28—Member Pastor Marcia Bell will lead a service of hymns, “Through the Church Year in Song,” in the Social Hall. Linda Beck is the pianist.

July 28—4 – 6 p.m. The Presbybop Quartet will present a Jazz Concert in Social Hall, followed by light refreshments. The public is warmly invited and a free will offering will be collected. Please bring your friends!

August 4—Pastor Dan Krewson will lead our communion service in Social Hall. Either Linda Beck or Tom Woodward will be the pianist - TBD.

August 11—Pastor Carolyn Hellerich will lead worship at the Beach. Tom Woodward is the pianist.

August 18—Pastor Bill Mueller will lead our communion service in Social Hall. Linda Beck is the pianist.

August 25 –Pastor Ghislaine Cotnoir will lead worship in Social Hall. Lynn Grimm is the pianist.

September 1—Pastor Bob Linders will lead our communion service in Social Hall. Tom Woodward is the pianist.

Volunteers needed:

Can you help as an usher or reader, provide flowers, assist with Fellowship Time, or join a pickup choir?

Email or phone Nancy Tkacs (ntkacs@gmail.com, 267-408-0942)

Signup sheets will be available at every worship service.

Pastors' Bios

Rev. Dr. Robert Linders

Bob Linders has served as senior pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, since August 1977, where he currently serves as Theologian in Residence. One of the largest Lutheran congregations in the greater Philadelphia area, the church celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2011.

He was ordained in 1967 following his graduation with a Master of Divinity degree from The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. A graduate of Gettysburg College, he also holds an M.A. in English from Monmouth College in New Jersey. In addition, he has earned master's and doctoral degrees, both from Princeton Theological Seminary.

Pastor Linders was the New Jersey State Champion in the 800-meter run in 1960 and the Most Valuable Athlete in his high school graduating class at Northern Valley Regional High School in Demarest, New Jersey. He was inducted into the inaugural Hall of Fame class at his high school in 2011. In 1964 he represented the United States in a dual track meet against Great Britain in London, England. He was inducted into the College Hall of Athletic Honor at Gettysburg College in 2001. His 800-meter record of 1:50.7 has been unsurpassed at Gettysburg for 60 years.

He has lectured or preached at Catholic, Princeton, Cornell and Penn State universities, as well as The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. In addition, he has conducted numerous seminars on preaching.

His publications include "Preaching About Evil," an article in *Homiletical Accents*; sermons in the book "Selected Sermons" published by the Episcopal Church; articles in *Partners and Theology Today*; as well as an article included in "Book of Readings" used in the Second International Ecumenical Congress on the Meaning of Human Suffering in Houston, Texas. He has also published three books of sermons and essays: "No Time for Rest," "No Safe Route," and "Musings from Main Street."

Pastor Linders has inspired eight members of St. Paul's to enter the seminary and prepare for the ordained ministry.

From 1970 to 1977, he served as pastor of Lutheran Church of the Reformation, West Long Branch, New Jersey. From 1967 to 1970, he was pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Leonia, New Jersey.

This fall, Pastor Linders will receive a Celebrated Lifetime Ministries award from the Alumni Association of the United Lutheran Seminary.

Rev. Fritz Fowler

Pastor Fritz was called to serve as Lead Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Lansdale, Pennsylvania, on Reformation Sunday, October 25, 2020.

A native of upstate New York, he graduated from Kingswood University, Sussex, New Brunswick, Canada, with a Bachelor of Arts degree. He attended the Lutheran Theological

Seminary at Gettysburg and completed his internship in Portland, Oregon. Before Trinity, he served at University Lutheran Church for six years and served as the Lutheran Campus Pastor at the University of Pennsylvania. In 2018, Pastor Fritz was named a G. Douglas Lewis Fellow from the Lewis Center for Church Leadership at Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, D.C. The Lewis Fellows program is a post-graduate, post-ordination ecumenical fellowship for outstanding young clergy that meets together over the course of a year for four-day meetings around the country.

In addition to his role as pastor, Pastor Fritz serves on the board of Bear Creek Camp and the Interfaith Philadelphia. In 2016 he was elected at the Churchwide Assembly to the ELCA Committee on Appeals, where he serves as the vice chair. From 2016-2019 he was also a Big Brother mentor with Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Pastor Fritz is grateful for his husband of four years, Trevor, and their five-year-old husky, Jensen. They enjoy hiking, camping, and exploring all Lansdale has to offer. Pastor Fritz is a triathlete in his spare time, brews his own Kombucha and enjoys baking his own sourdough bread.

Rev. Bo Bannister

My name is Stratford Cuthbert Bannister V, and I go by simply “Bo” and have since birth. Somewhere along the way, people started calling me Pastor Bo. My Superhero name is Captain Sunshine. I am an Air Force “brat,” and moved around a lot as a kid. I consider myself to be from Florida, and that is where my parents currently live. I enjoy all types of music and love to play guitar and sing.

My wife Annette and I have been married for almost 25 years, and we have four children – Joy (18), Strat (17 – he’s the VI), Elizabeth (14 – “Beth”) – and Benjamin – (12 – “Ben”). Joy will attend East Stroudsburg this fall! I come from non-Lutheran traditions but have fallen in love with Lutheran thought and worship. My main goal as a pastor is to help Christians be instruments of God’s peace, kindness and grace in a world that so desperately needs just that.

Rev. Kayla Hopgood

Rev. Kayla Hopgood is the pastor at Ascension Lutheran Church (Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania). She completed her Master of Divinity degree at Princeton Theological Seminary (2018) and is trained as a spiritual director through Oasis Ministries for Spiritual Development. Prior to discerning a call to ministry, she worked in non-profits focused on educational equity in both New York City and Boston.

Pastor Kayla grew up in Plattsburgh, New York, a small city nestled between the Adirondack Mountains and Lake Champlain. From an early age, hiking became a way to understand both

the spiritual journey and the grace God has given us. Pastor Kayla now lives in Ewing, New Jersey, with her husband, the Rev. Dr. Miles Hopgood and their two young children, Felix (4) and Alma (almost 2). Together they enjoy caring for their chickens, exploring hiking trails nearby, and hosting dinner parties at their home. During their stay here at Paradise Falls, the Hopgoods are most likely to be found at the beach building sandcastles and splashing in the water. Come join them in the fun!

Nancy Pedulla

Nancy Pedulla works for InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, a nondenominational campus ministry serving undergraduate students, graduate students, and faculty. She is currently the Associate Director for Faculty Ministry. She has expertise in leadership development, training, coaching and talent management and has led and sponsored multiple programs and initiatives to serve and develop women leaders. She particularly relishes providing leadership coaching for emerging leaders and enjoys public speaking and preaching.

Nancy has a B.S. in Psychology and a M.Ed. in International and Development Education, both from the University of Pittsburgh. She has previously worked for the Coalition for Christian Outreach, Habitat for Humanity and New York University. She leads a leadership coaching and training LLC.

Nancy and her husband, Albert, live in Jersey City and have three adult children. They have been members of PFLA since the fall of 2020. Nancy enjoys hiking, biking, gardening, reading great fiction and socializing.

Rev. Becky Schanely

I am a lifelong Lutheran who has spent almost my entire life in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. I was born and raised in Gilbertsville, attending New Hanover Lutheran Church there. I attended college at Ursinus College in Collegeville, earning a dual degree in English Literature and Religion/Philosophy, graduating in May 1996. My seminary years were the only ones spent outside of Montgomery County. I attended The Lutheran Theological Seminary of Philadelphia, doing my CPE in Toms River, New Jersey, and my internship year in Gahanna, Ohio, before graduating in May 2000.

I have served three congregations over the last 24 years — associate pastor at Redeemer Lutheran in Jamison (Bucks County), associate pastor at Trinity Lutheran in Lansdale (Montgomery County) and my current call as solo pastor at St. John's Lutheran in Sumneytown (Montgomery County) where I have been for 12 years.

I am married to Kevin R. Schanely and we reside in Harleysville, Pennsylvania, with our five year old twin sons, Keaton and Coulson. I also have two older children from my first marriage – Erin Eisenhart, 21, and Alex Eisenhart, 19. In what little free time I have between parish ministry and parenting, I enjoy baking, long walks at the local parks, finding new playgrounds with my twins

and reading. And just a few days after sharing in worship at PFLA on June 30, I will celebrate my 50th birthday.

I'm excited to lead worship at PFLA and look forward to seeing you all in late June!

Rev. Dr. Karyn Wiseman

The Rev. Dr. Karyn L. Wiseman is an ordained pastor in the United Church of Christ. She grew up in Texas, where she went to college at Texas Tech University. Later she received her MDiv at Saint Paul School of Theology in Kansas City. Karyn has 21 years of experience pastoring churches in Kansas, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. Most recently, she served as the Lead Pastor at Gloria Dei Church in Huntingdon Valley, Pennsylvania.

She has a Ph.D. in Liturgical Studies/Preaching and Worship from Drew University. Dr. Wiseman is the Stuempfle-Folkemer Professor of Homiletics at the United Lutheran Seminary, where she teaches on both the Philadelphia and Gettysburg campuses. Her first book, "I Refuse to Preach a Boring Sermon," was published by Chalice Press. Her new book will be published in the Fall by Cascade books. It is called "Queering the Pulpit." She is already working on her next book, "Delivery Matters."

She is married to Cindy Clawson, a clinical coordinator in Philadelphia. Karyn and Cindy have a son, Shelby, who lives in Pittsburgh. Karyn loves action movies, social media, Broadway musicals and plays, New York Yankees baseball, and the Dallas Cowboys. Her love of the church means she is often dreaming of new ways for the church to be all it can be in a new and changing world.

Rev. Julie DeWerth

Rev. Julie DeWerth has served as the pastor of The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in King of Prussia since August 2010 and this February was elected to be the Dean of the Lower Montgomery Conference. Prior to serving at Good Shepherd, she served four other congregations in the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod. She grew up in Westport, Connecticut, and graduated from Saint Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, in 1987. In 1991, she was ordained after graduating from The Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. Rev. DeWerth resides in Havertown, Pennsylvania, and has three sons. She is delighted to be back at Paradise Falls to lead worship.

Rev. Dr. James Thomas

Rev. Dr. James R. Thomas has had a diverse career as a pastor and educator. He is a 1976 graduate of Seminex – Concordia Seminary In Exile, a product of a schism in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. His first congregation in Harlem had a school, which prompted him to seek a Master's degree in Education from the City University of New York. Concurrently he began his study of African American Lutheran history at Union Theological Seminary, from which he received a Master's degree in Sacred Theology. He continued that study at the

University of Minnesota while Assistant to the Bishop of the Minneapolis Area Synod, earning his Ph.D. there. His book, "A Rumor of Black Lutherans," will be released in May 2024.

Dr. Thomas has served four different congregations in New York City, the last of which had congregants who were native speakers of six different languages. During that part-time pastorate, he worked in the New York City school system and earned a degree in Special Education. In 2008 he accepted a call to become Associate Professor of Church and Ministry at the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary where he has taught a variety of courses and advised students from various denominational backgrounds.

In addition, Dr. Thomas served for 30 years as a chaplain in the Air Force Reserves, and on many community service boards and committees. He was a 2014 recipient of an LSTC Alumni Award. He has been active in the Christian Peacemaker movement and spent last fall teaching at Good News College and Theological Seminary in Accra, Ghana. Since retiring to live in East Stroudsburg, he has served as an interim pastor in local churches and conducted antiracism workshops for the NEPA synod.

Rev. Marcia Bell

The Reverend Marcia Bell was born in Philadelphia and grew up in Abington.

After receiving a BA degree from Susquehanna University and a Master of Divinity degree from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, Pastor Bell was ordained in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in 1989. She served St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Perkasio and Trinity Lutheran Church in Fort Washington, before accepting a call to serve as Director of Student Services at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. For the past 13 years, she has been an intentional interim pastor in four congregations of our synod. Most recently she served during the interim time at Trinity Lutheran Church, Perkasio.

Pastor Bell has just completed serving our synod as the Director of Mobility and Chairperson of the Committee of Deans, and she is now fully retired. Formerly she served as Dean of Interim Ministry. She was elected to two terms as a member of Synod Council and represented Southeast PA (SEPA) Synod at both the 2007 and the 2009 ELCA churchwide assemblies.

Pastor Bell and her husband, Robert, reside in Telford and enjoy spending time at their cottage in Paradise Falls. They are the proud parents of two adult daughters and thoroughly enjoy their role as grandparents to Caleb, Chloe and Christian.

Rev. Dan Krewson

Dan Krewson is the Lead Pastor at Calvary Lutheran Church, West Chester, Pennsylvania, where he has served for 15 years. Previously, he served congregations in Fairfax, Virginia, and Doylestown, Pennsylvania. Dan is married to Jill and they have three teenage children. Dan enjoys spending time with family and Muffin the dog. He also enjoys cooking, music, reading and exercise.

Rev. Carolyn Hellerich

Pastor Carolyn Hellerich is a retired Minister of Word and Sacrament in the ELCA.

A native of Fredericksburg, Virginia, she resides in Minneapolis, Minnesota, with her husband, Dave, a retired Minister of Word and Service in the ELCA, and their cat, Joey.

Carolyn is a graduate of Newberry (Lutheran) College in Newberry, South Carolina. She attended the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago three times, earning Master of Arts in Religion, Master of Divinity, and Doctor of Ministry in Preaching degrees. She also holds a Master of Business Administration and Master of Social Work from the University of Nebraska.

Carolyn was a member of the Deaconess Community of the ELCA before being ordained a pastor. As a deaconess, she served congregations in Lansing and Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Hallettsville, Texas, and Texas Lutheran University in Seguin, Texas, as Church Relations Director. She was also a Social Worker at a rehabilitation hospital in Lincoln, Nebraska.

After being ordained as a pastor, she served St. Mark's Lutheran Church in St. Paul, Nebraska, and Central Lutheran Church in Yakima, Washington.

She and Dave have two children, Dan in Plymouth, Minnesota, a suburb of Minneapolis, and Bethany in San Francisco, California. She has many hobbies and has enjoyed sewing, crocheting and quilting. She loves to read and is currently most interested in weaving. She and Dave enjoy traveling together and were especially blessed to join a seminary professor on a tour of the Holy Land in the fall of 2022.

Carolyn and Dave visited Paradise Falls long ago when the Deaconess Community had cottages here, and they look forward to their August visit very much!

Rev. Bill Mueller

The Rev. William R. Mueller serves as Pastor at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Audubon, Pennsylvania.

Pastor Mueller graduated from LaSalle University with a degree in Elementary/Special Education and received his Master of Divinity from Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. Prior to attending seminary, he was a teacher in the Pennridge School District (Sellersville, Pennsylvania). Pastor Mueller served at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Smithtown, New York, and Advent Lutheran Church in West Chester, Pennsylvania, before joining the staff of St. Andrew's, Audubon in February 2010.

The road to ordained ministry was paved for him through his involvement in camping/outdoor ministries (Camp Fernbrook in North Coventry Township and Bear Creek Camp in Wilkes Barre) as well as his involvement in his home church, St. Paul's, in the Olney section of Philadelphia. He has done much work in Youth and Family Ministry, has spent much of his time in recent years of ministry with senior citizens from local retirement communities, and is passionate about preaching and teaching with people of every age and stage of life. He enjoys hiking and is a lifelong (and long-suffering) fan of the Phillies and Eagles.

His wife, Laurie, serves as Music Director at Augustus Lutheran Church in Trappe and as Parish Administrator at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in King of Prussia. In their few spare moments, they enjoy spending time with their adult children and tiny dog. Pastor Mueller is so grateful for the opportunity to share with PFLA.

Rev. Ghislaine Cotnoir

Pastor Cotnoir (or Pastor G as most folks know her) has been a pastor in the ELCA for 36 years. After graduating from the LTSP (now United Lutheran Seminary), she began her ministry in Rochester, New York. Her ministry has combined professional chaplaincy with parish ministry. She returned to the Philadelphia area 10 years ago and currently works for Liberty Lutheran serving as chaplain at Artman Home and at The Hearth at Drexel. Pastor G is also a trained interim pastor and has assisted several congregations during pastoral transitions. She has two grown daughters and, when not working, loves anything on the water, anything with family, and anything with food!

Rev. Dr. Robert Linders

Pastor Linders will lead us in worship for the closing service of 2024. (See his biography at the beginning of the list.)