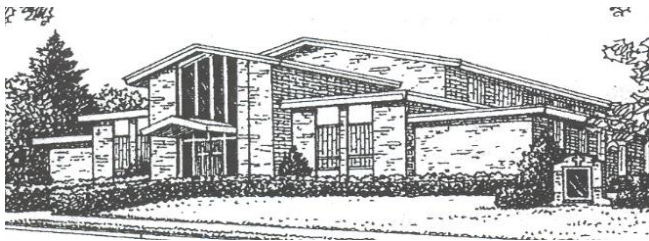


The BUZZ

Volume 31 Issue #4

APRIL 2025



Lower Saucon United Church of Christ
Reverend Rebekah Thomas
1375 Third Avenue
Hellertown, PA 18055
610-838-8821

Sunday Worship 9:00 am
Sunday School 9:15 am

Lower Saucon UCC, a progressive congregation rich in history, exists to:

- Promote spiritual growth in all people of all ages
- Nurture a loving and caring Christian community
- Worship our Living God through faithful service

Lower Saucon UCC: a place to believe, belong and worship together.

2025 CONSISTORY

Alan Byerley (Pres.)	Cheryl Christman
Kate Griffiths	Judy Koch
Tim Mattes	Tony Nauroth
Tom Sofka (VP)	Lindsey Sanders (Sec.)
Tina Seifert	Paul Wilhelm
CHURCH TREASURER Kirk Gorkos	

Church Office Hours
Church Office
Fellowship Hall/Kitchen

Tuesday-Thursday 9 am to 12 noon
(610) 838-8821
(610) 838-2659

Website
Church Email
Pastor's Email
Online Giving
Visit us on Facebook
Email for BUZZ Articles

www.lowersauconucc.org
churchoffice@lowersauconucc.org
pastorbecky1121@gmail.com
lowersauconucc.org/donate/
[facebook.com Lower Saucon UCC](https://facebook.com/LowerSauconUCC)
info@lowersauconucc.org

Lay Leader Schedule

Usher of the Month Lindsey Sanders

Ushers/Greeters	Scripture Reader	Children's Sermon	Sunday School
Apr 6 Carlene Barrell Cheryl Christman	Diana Severn	Nancy Gorkos	Judy Koch
Apr 13 Tina Seifert Diana Severn	Paul Wilhelm	Diana Severn	Lindsey Sanders
Apr 18 Consistory Members Present	NA	NA	NA
Apr 20 Betty Byerley Kris Breidenbach	Betty Byerley	Tony Nauroth	NA
Apr 27 Jo Ann Sofka Tom Sofka	Doug Lander	Josh Sanders	Andrea Keller

FROM PASTOR BECKY ...

Everything is starting to turn green again. I know that I'm about to see signs of my favorite flower popping up around the tree in my front yard. For me it has become a bit of a bittersweet sight. You see, I can no longer decorate my house with my favorite flower as it is now the flower that I'm most allergic to. Still, there is something about the purple hyacinth that just makes me want to smile. Just looking at them makes me remember the scent that I used to love. For me, that is and always will be the scent of Easter.

It always feels a little odd to be journeying with Jesus to the cross, remembering his suffering, just as everything comes back to life at the beginning of spring. But, then again, both spring and Easter bring hope of new life. Just as we need to deal with the dreary April rains to see the flowers burst forth, we must walk through the darkness of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday to get to the joy of Easter. So, I sit here waiting for the rain to pass and the sun to begin shining, remembering that we are a people of Easter faith. We are people that believe in new beginnings even while this world threatens to weigh us down. May your Easter faith be strong, my friends, and may you always look for those signs of new life.

In light and love,
Pastor Becky



Just What He Said by Vince Amlin

Now the Lord was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah what he had promised. Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age at the very time God had promised him. – Genesis 21:1-2 (NIV)

My daughter has a lot of bedtime rituals. They're comforting to her. Her water on the bedside table. Her sound machine set to ocean waves. Her stuffies tucked into their designated spots.

Then begins the recitation of requests for the morning. Will I wake her up? Will I do it in the voice of whatever character she's currently obsessed with? Will I make her chocolate chip pancakes?

After all the questions have been answered, she confirms the whole thing one more time: "You promise all the things?"

"I promise all the things." Only then can she sleep. So much of scripture is a confirmation that God keeps God's promises. Checked and double checked. Three times in these two short verses. We're told that God was good to God's word to Sarah. God did what God promised Abraham. And God did it all, "at the very time God had promised."

Rainbows are slung across the sky. Ways open through the sea. Needlessly complicated tasks are performed—all to fulfill what some prophet said.

It's comforting. That kind of dependability. Regularity. Faithfulness. To know that something at least will be as promised.

In a world of chaos, at a time of such unpredictability, when nothing lasts and few can be relied on, it's the one thing that we can rest on.

Prayer

Rock of Ages, promise us again, all the things.



Consistory Corner

LSUCC CONSISTORY MINUTES (Pending Approval)
March 13, 2025

In attendance: Kirk Gorkos, Judy Koch, Tina Seifert, Cheryl Christman, Tom Sofka, Tim Mattes, Alan Byerley, Paul Wilhelm, and Pastor Becky Thomas.
Missing: Lindsey Sanders, Kate Griffiths, Tony Nauroth

Judy led us in devotions: A Quiet Place (Luke 4:42).

In Lindsey's absence, minutes for the March meeting were taken by Tim and Cheryl.

Secretary's report: Sent ahead of time by Lindsey. Tim made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Tina seconded. All voted to accept.

Treasurer's report: Kirk presented a summary of our account balances as of 3/10/25. Paul made a motion to accept. Judy seconded. All voted to accept.

Pastor's Report:
2/10 – 3/9/2025

Period	Hours	PCE	Notes on Activities
2/10-2/16	23	4	Consistory
2/17-2/23	21	3	Community of Practice; PNEC Nominating Committee
2/24-3/2	22	3	PNEC Staff & Personnel; Book Club
3/3-3/9/24	4		
Total	90	14	

Notes: Doctorate classes begin 4/22

Doctorate intensive week 5/19-5/23

Celebration of life for Marge Johnson is 4/26 – bakers are needed

President's Communication:

There was a request made to Alan for rails along the walls. He and the Property Committee will look into it.

Committee reports:

- Property –
 - We are expecting to take down the 210 feet of vinyl green fencing on the Miller Street side of the building.
 - Need to replace/repair the roof on the shed
 - Will be bringing in a team to replace the lights in the Sanctuary
- Supper –
 - Will be doing a chili sale in October instead of chicken pot pie
 - Discussed ideas for Mother's Day – breakfast or salad takeout

- Service –
 - We have received lots of positive feedback from members of the congregation as well as members of our immediate community about the groups that use our building.
- Worship –
- Christian Ed –
 - March 22nd – Dinner and a Movie (Toy Story)
 - April 20th – Egg Hunt
 - Next Christian Ed meeting April 27th

Concerns from the Past:

- Computers – Tim is still working on them and they are almost ready
- The Ring cameras are working well and Tim has a schedule set to charge them every 5-6 weeks. However, there was a comment that the doorbell isn't loud enough.
- Judy sent the Cross Carry information to Diana to include in the Buzz.
- Heritage Day is May 17th – Re-enacting early life in Hellertown
- A meeting will be scheduled with anyone interested in joining the WISE Church committee
- LSUCC is hosting the HAM Lenten dinner on March 26th – Property Committee will help with setup.

Concerns for the Future:

- April Consistory meeting will be held Thursday, April 10th

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 10th at 6:30pm. Meeting was adjourned, and all joined in the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Lindsey

Consistory usually meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 PM, but for April will meet on Thursday to accommodate our Lenten schedule. Meetings are open to every member of our congregation. For comments, concerns or further details, please see any member of Consistory.



*** H O M E ***
HELPING OUR MEMBERS EMERGENCY

FUND

Contributions to our "Helping Our Members Emergency" fund are coming in. You can give to this fund anytime simply by writing "HOME" on your church envelope. The amount you give will be credited to your church offering statement. Lower Saucon will also add to the HOME fund by giving 10% of all fundraising profits.



Scammers are targeting pastors by using online sermon recordings to create requests for financial support. Be aware that Pastor Becky will **NEVER** text or email financial requests. Protect yourself, Never send money or gift cards to anyone, even family members, unless you have spoken to them directly and are sure they are who they claim to be.



AMONG
OUR
MEMBERS

Information has been ommitted from this online version for the privacy of our members.

stewardship report

February Income

\$4,297.00 Current Expenses
 601.00 Benevolences
 380.00 Facilities Use
 295.00 Memorials
 560.00 Fundraising
 \$6,133.00 Total

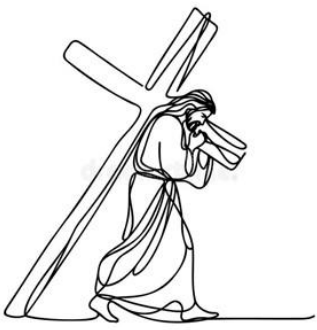


If you ever question if Sunday morning's worship or other events at LSUCC will be canceled for inclement weather, you can watch Channel 69 WFMZ Storm Center Updates on TV or online. The info will also be emailed and posted on our website and Facebook Page.



Our church family wants to share in your joys and sorrows. Hospitals and care facilities do not notify churches or share information, so please contact the church office with information about family

members who are hospitalized, in care, or in need of prayer for any reason. We'd also like to share your joys so be sure to let us know those as well.



Christ Church UCC, 75 E Market St, Bethlehem and I (Judy Koch) invite you to attend or take part in our Good Friday Cross Carry. We act out the Stations of the Cross at a 10 AM morning service and then we carry the cross through

Bethlehem. We have plenty of costumes if you want to take part or you can follow behind. It is about a 1.5 to 2 mile walk that goes through downtown Bethlehem. This has been a part of my life since I participated back in high school. In the evening, there is a Tenebrae service and we bring the cross back into the church. If you can't attend at night, please consider joining us for the walk. If you need more information you can call Judy at 484-554-4545.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- April 1 Spencer Lysek
- April 2 Noelle Roth
- April 12 Tom Sofka
- April 13 Nancy Gorkos
- April 14 Pastor Dale Sattizahn
- April 16 Jacob Klotz
- April 24 Barbara Bredler
- April 26 Susan Donchez
- Silas Rodenbach
- April 28 Matthew Murphy
- Danaka Seifert



APRIL ANNIVERSARYS

- April 3 Don & Diana Severn
- April 16 Larry & Pam Wolf
- April 23 Kirk & Nancy Gorkos



If you, or your family members, were omitted from the celebration lists please accept our apologies and contact the church office to see that the information is updated.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Family Game Event

April 12, 2-5 PM

All are welcome to join us as we enjoy the pleasure of friendly, family competition playing games together. Bring your favorite game along or learn a new one. It's all part of the fun. We have added Pickle Ball to our game options.



SPIRITED AWAY BOOK CLUB



Come escape with us as we explore books that will nourish your Spirit! We will meet at LSUCC on the last Thursday of the month 7pm. Join us for one book or all the books!

April 24: *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* by C. S. Lewis.



If you agreed to fill eggs for our Easter Sunday Egg Hunt please be sure to bring them in by Palm Sunday. And come to worship on Easter Sunday prepared to spend a few minutes outdoors after the service.

Save the Date!



This summer, get ready to hit the trails for the ultimate Alaskan adventure!

What: True North VBS

When: June 23-26

Time: 6 pm - 8:30 pm

Where: 1375 Third Ave, Hellertown

Register at: Lower Saucon UCC
610-838-8821

CHRISTIAN SERVICE NEWS

Easter Candy Making

Easter candy is expected to be packed, April 4 and picked up April 5-12. Help to make and pack is still needed. Please let Gerrie Koch (call 610-838-9350 or email gkoch3@verizon.net) know of your availability.



Grocery Gift Cards



Sign up for May Gift Cards by April 20 with delivery scheduled for Sunday, May 4. Remember to include your Easter Holiday Shopping when placing your order. The Church earns 5% of the amount we sell. If there are any questions please see or call Gerrie Koch.



You can sign up for cards in the side hall, Fellowship Hall or by phoning Gerrie or the church office.

SHOO-FLY PIES



Shoo-fly pies will be baked on April 12. The price is \$10.00 and pies can be picked up from 10am – Noon. Pies should be pre-ordered on the sign-up sheet posted in the side hall or Fellowship Hall or you can call Gerrie (610-838-9350) or the church office by Apr. 10.

Paint Like Bob Ross Event

**April 6
2 PM at LSUCC**



Sign up today for this or any other upcoming class online at <https://www.letsaintapicture.art/>. There are 12 seats available in each class. Share the information with your friends and neighbors. It's really a lot of fun and you may discover a talent you never knew you had. The cost is \$60 and all supplies are included except a roll of paper towels.

EVANGELISM & MISSION NEWS

ALLIANCE STAMP MINISTRY

Please continue to be on the lookout for the envelopes you receive with stamps. Just trim your used envelope postage so there is 1/3 inch of paper surrounding the stamp, and then drop them in one of the collection containers located in the Narthex or Fellowship Hall. If you want to know more about this ministry visit:



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fj0G11S3j6Ec>

Make a
JOYFUL NOISE

Our JOYFUL NOISE campaign raised \$36.00 in February for the Blanket the World with Love Campaign. In April the money collected will support the H.A.M. Crisis Fund.

Phoebe Partnership

Thank you to everyone who donates or helps make items. Phoebe staff and residents appreciate our efforts. Donations of large print puzzle, word-search and fill-in books, adult coloring books, small boxes of crayons or colored pencils are always welcomed by the residents.



Look for a collection basket in the side hall. If you'd like to do some simple sewing to help create prayer items or if you knit, crochet or have extra yarn—any colors, prayer blankets size 3' x 3', are being made for our ministry at Phoebe Richland. **Yarn and/or blankets can be dropped off at church or someone can pick them up.** Questions? Call or text Cheryl at 610-657-1787



S.T.A.R.-Serving to Aid & Restore

is currently in need of –

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Hospitality items- | Clothing- |
| Body wash | Socks (m&w) |
| Shaving cream (m&w) | Underwear (m&w) |
| Toothpaste | Thermals (m&w) |
| Deodorant (m&w) | Hats (m&w) |
| Toilet Paper | Gloves (m&w) |
| Tissues (Individual packs) | |

Clothing can be new or gently used. They cannot accept any other clothing at this time. Cash donations are welcome as well – They have an inexpensive source for hand and foot warmers. We will deliver any items brought to LSUCC during April.

Fellowship Hour

- Apr 6: The Severn Family
May 4:
Jun 1:

Thank you to the Gorkos family for sponsoring Fellowship Hour in March. You can sign up to sponsor a Sunday on the side hall bulletin board. Contact Kate Griffiths if you have questions.

COMMUNITY FOOD BANKS

Please continue to support both of our area Food Banks. Monetary donations can be made through your church offering or directly to: New Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church, ATTN: Food Bank, 3233 Apples Church Road, Bethlehem, PA 18015, or the Emergency Food Bank at Word of Life, ATTN: Food Bank, 3221 Bingen Rd, Bethlehem, PA 18015.



This club meets at Elaine Kantor's home, usually monthly. They are reading, *The Wedding People* by Alison Espach. For date and time information please see Martha Sterling or Elaine Kantor.



Our Mission Committee will be packing and distributing college snack boxes at the end of April. If you would like to contribute individually packed powder drink mix, snacks, nutrient bars, money for postage, or shoe boxes please see

Martha Sterling or any other committee member.

LSUCC QUILTERS

Our quilters have begun to collect prizes for next year's raffle. Anyone interested in sponsoring a prize, please speak to Martha Sterling. The quilters meet each Tuesday from 9 AM to 3 PM. New members are always welcome. No experience necessary. Just a willingness to learn.

March 5, 2025

Lower Saucon United Church of Christ
1375 3rd Avenue
Hellertown, PA 18055



Dear Members of Lower Saucon United Church of Christ,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Bethlehem Emergency Sheltering, Inc., our dedicated volunteers, and especially our street neighbors, I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for your tax-deductible donation of \$200, dated January 30, 2025. Your generosity plays a vital role in providing shelter and a supportive network to restore hope to those experiencing homelessness in Bethlehem.

Your contribution will be directed toward supporting men and women in our community who seek emergency overnight shelter, nutritious evening meals, and essential support services.

This letter serves as both a thank-you and a receipt for your donation. No goods or services as defined by the Internal Revenue Service have been provided by Bethlehem Emergency Sheltering, Inc as a consideration for your making this gift. Bethlehem Emergency Sheltering, Inc. is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit corporation (EIN: 45-5235845). Any questions regarding the tax deductibility of your donation should be addressed to your tax advisor. Should you have any questions about Bethlehem Emergency Sheltering, Inc. or wish to learn more, please feel free to contact the office at (484) 379-6694.

Thank you once again for your kindness and support.

Peace and blessings,

Robert "Bob" T. Rapp, Jr.
Executive Director

www.BethlehemEmergencySheltering.org

75 E. Market Street • Bethlehem, PA 18018 • 484.379.6694

WORSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

LENTEN WORSHIP SCHEDULE



what are you up to?—Get up to something instead of giving something up this Lent.

Soup Dinner at 6pm Worship Service at 7pm.
March 26 - Lower Saucon UCC

1375 Third Ave, Hellertown PA

April 2 - New Jerusalem

3233 Apples Church Rd, Bethlehem PA

April 9 - First UCC

501 Northampton St, Hellertown PA

Labeled offering will be distributed to the designated congregation.



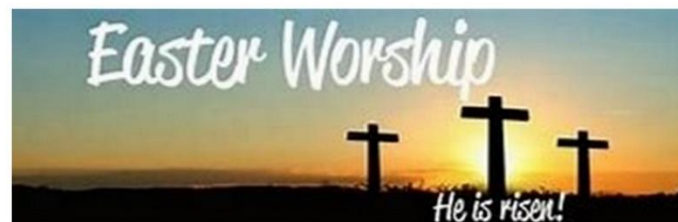
Sunday, April 13, 9 AM at LSUCC



Joint Service Thursday, April 17, 7PM at First UCC



Joint Service Friday, April 18, 7 PM at LSUCC



Sunday, April 20, 9 AM

HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY

April 27 9 am

DAILY DEVOTIONS



The new "These Days" & "Upper Room" are in. If you want one dropped off to you, call or email the church. If you are more techno-savvy and would like a free Stillspeaking daily



devotional message delivered to your email inbox visit <http://www.ucc.org/feed-your-spirit/daily-devotional/>



JOINT YOUTH MINISTRY

A meeting of a joint group of youth in 7th to 12th grade will be held monthly at First UCC. For further details contact Pastor Becky.



Musical Arts Chorus

presents

The Rose of Calvary

A Lenten Cantata

by

Joseph Martin

Sunday, April 6, 2025

at 3:00 pm



St. Andrew's Lutheran Church
3900 Freemansburg Rd.
Easton, PA

Donation \$8.00

Drive Thru Roast Beef Dinner
at Friedens Lutheran 2451 Saucon Valley Rd.
Center Valley
Saturday, May 3rd ~ 4-6pm

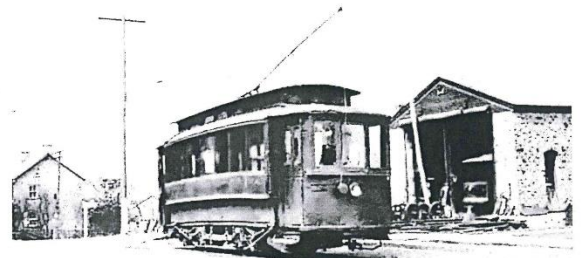
(Yummiest beef in town! Cost = \$15/meal)

This delicious meal consists of roast beef, mashed potatoes, mixed veggies, dinner roll, salad, and dessert.

Place your order by calling the office (610-865-4144), emailing (friedens@ptd.net), or through our website (friedenscentervalley.com). ☺ Thanks!

LOWER SAUCON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PRESENTS THE JOURNEY



JOIN US ON APRIL 10TH AT 7 PM AT
SEIDERSVILLE HALL, 3700 OLD PHILADELPHIA PIKE.
FOR AN EXCITING PRESENTATION BY DOUG PETERS ON
THE HISTORY OF TROLLEY LINES BETWEEN LOWER
SAUCON TOWNSHIP AND CENTER VALLEY.

DOUG, A PUBLISHED AUTHOR ON THE LEHIGH VALLEY
TRANSIT COMPANY, WILL SHOWCASE A COLLECTION OF
VINTAGE PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE 1950S AND BEYOND,
CAPTURING THE TROLLEY ERA IN THE LEHIGH VALLEY,
INCLUDING SCENES FROM ALLENTOWN AND BETHLEHEM.
DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO STEP BACK IN TIME
AND EXPERIENCE THE DAYS OF TROLLEYS!
ADMISSION IS FREE. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED.

LOWER SAUCON CHURCH CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

Although this cemetery is now an independent non-profit, it was once owned by our congregation. Many of the ancestors of our congregation are buried there, perhaps some of yours. The Board would like to remind you that grave sites are still available at reasonable rates. For more information check the posting on our bulletin board or for assistance please contact, Kathy J Kline at 610-419-0264 or Justina McCardle at 610-838-6784.



Letter from Our Conference Minister Dated March 15, 2025

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, English Standard Version)

Dear friends,

It’s Lent. You all know that, but sometimes in the busyness of my life, I forget to stop and pause, to think about the liturgical season in any depth at all. I know how important the ebb and flow of the liturgical seasons are and how our hearts are moved in different ways throughout the year. Those of you who are leading Lenten bible studies and worship every Sunday are enmeshed in the season, and those of us who preach by invitation on some Sundays, are less connected.

I can remember Lent when I was a child. It involved (I was Roman Catholic at the time) giving up several things important to me – sometimes candy, sometimes TV, sometimes a favorite activity, and it involved confession weekly with a priest in a confessional booth. I often didn’t remember the things I had done wrong during the week, so I made some things up – always beginning with having lied because I knew I was making things up. I wonder how the priest thought about this little girl obsessed with lying and what God thought about this whole process. After my confirmation, I stopped going to confession. I couldn’t figure out why I needed to share sins with a priest if God already knew what I had done and could forgive me the moment I apologized or repented.

Years after I became a member of the United Church of Christ, my grandmother gave me a rosary. I had forgotten how to pray using the rosary, so I had to look it up. Praying in the sequence and recalling the mysteries of my faith was comforting – even though I was no longer Roman Catholic. In recent years, a friend gave me beads to pray with – not a rosary but larger beads, a shorter length and some prayers that could be used with the beads. I have used them – and I often draw on that experience during Lent or when I am having trouble framing my prayers.

How are you praying this Lent? Are you seeking regular time with God, regular times of confession, of seeking God’s presence, of gratitude and joy? We are, after all, called to pray without ceasing. When I read that in the scripture I think about every act of my life as an act of prayer. That’s a little concerning when I lose my temper or when I speak in ways that aren’t very

prayer-like. And God knows my heart. God knows I regret speaking in anger or hostility almost before the words come out of my mouth. I suppose that is the frailty of being human – and God knows, I am truly human. So, I will continue living my life as prayer, living my life as worship (BTW the title of the very first sermon I ever preached). How are you praying and worshipping? Please anchor your life in God and in prayer, in all seasons of the calendar and your life. That makes a huge difference. ~ Blessings, Bonnie

A special thank you to Betty Byerley & Tony Nauroth for acting as proof readers.

PLEASE SUBMIT ANY INFORMATION FOR THE BUZZ BY THE 15TH OF THE MONTH TO

info@lowersauconucc.org

I WILL REPLY SO YOU KNOW I RECEIVED IT.

Search-A-Word Puzzle

Based on John 8:41-42 (NRSV)

N C L J D K D L U O W W W A
V E O T N E S E A D I D O E
H E R M U I E M E G M G W R
U E R D E B E D M J N U N E
F V R A L V P H N I E G Y W
L O H E A I M Y O I W S L Y
E L E H A F H D E P H U U M
S L N G T N A C A H A M O S
M E O R S S D T G T T O F Y
I F T Y C A D U H H C R G W
H H O Y A S I O W E U F O O
A C O R M A I D E M R M D N
W U E L E E N O T S S M I W
R E T A M I T I G E L L I H

John 8:41-42

“You are indeed doing what your father does.” They said to him, “We are not illegitimate children; we have one father, God himself.” Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now I am here. I did not come on my own, but he sent me.”

OUR CALENDAR PAGE

Please see

<https://lowersauconucc.org/our-calendar/>