

On the Move

Providing meals to the homebound in the State College area since 1971



Fall 2018 Newsletter

www.scmow.org

Annual Fund Drive Now in Progress

Please consider a donation to State College Meals on Wheels this holiday season. 100% of your donation stays locally to fund nutritious, home-delivered meals for our clients. SCMOW relies heavily on donations from individuals, groups, and organizations.

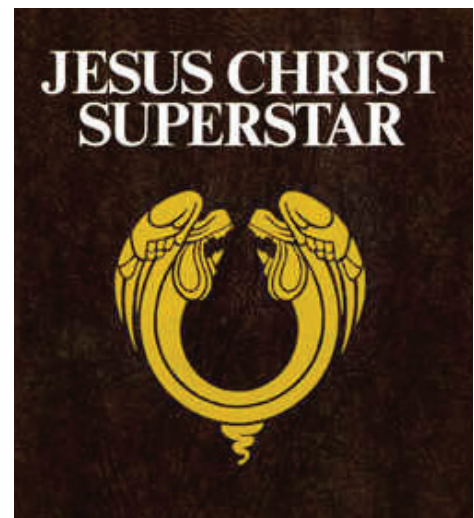
Now in its 48th year, SCMOW has been privately funded from its humble beginnings in August 1971. We send our grateful appreciation to all past and current donors for helping to sustain the independence and quality of life of our clients.

Did you know?

State College Meals on Wheels has prepared and delivered more than 1.6 million meals since its founding in August 1971.

Broadway Returns to A Meal that Matters

State College Meals on Wheels is pleased to announce that FUSE Productions cast members will present selections from *Jesus Christ Superstar* at our annual benefit dinner, **A Meal that Matters** on **May 9, 2019** at the Nittany Lion Inn.



Hearing the Call

How Grace Lutheran's new senior pastor found his way to the ministry

On September 1, 2018, Scott Schul, formerly Pastor for Education and Outreach, became Grace Lutheran's Senior Pastor. He applauds the church's involvement with State College Area Meals on Wheels, saying, "I am so proud of the great relationship Grace has with Meals on Wheels...I would love one day soon to participate on a route. All ministry is relational, and I can't think of a more fulfilling experience than to place those wonderful meals in the very hands of the people who so gratefully receive and need them."

Pastor Schul recently generously shared information about his life and journey to his present role. He grew up in Kane, Pennsylvania and went to Clarion University of PA, where he met his wife of 30 years, Linda. Initially a music major, he came to feel that music would be a beloved hobby, but not his life's work. A vocational aptitude test informed him that he was best suited

to be either an
or a pastor—
result gave him a
his undergraduate
economics. From there,

he moved on to West Virginia University College of Law, then to Boston University School of Law for an LL.M. in Taxation (the terminal degree in law). Later in life, he earned a Masters of Divinity at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg.

When asked how he came from the law to the ministry, he provided a compelling response:

"I worked for 16 years in the law; 14 of those years I was in large firms, and for two I served in an executive position in Maine state government. Though I had many positive experiences in law, there were many (*continued on page 2*)



economist
the pastor
good laugh, so
degree was in

negative ones too. It quickly became clear, especially in private practice, that my worth was determined solely on the basis of numbers: How much business did you bring in? How many hours did you bill and collect?

Before long, I was evaluating others (even outside the law) on the basis of their economic worth. It was a graceless way of living. But in the midst of this, Jesus nudged my wife Linda and me to Mexico to adopt our second child. He was born to a 14-year-old girl in an impoverished family, had a birth defect with his foot (subsequently fully corrected) and was likely going to end up quietly placed in a dumpster to die.

As that little boy was placed in my arms for the first time, a jolt went through me. The lessons I learned long ago at Tabor Lutheran Church in Kane resonated once more in my heart after a long absence. I rediscovered that—thanks be to God—we DON'T get what we deserve. God loves us because we ARE, not because of what we DO.

All of a sudden, GRACE was no longer an obscure definition. It was a little baby in my arms. The ice around my heart began to melt in a way I never thought possible, and within two years we sold our house, shed many of our possessions, loaded up the rest in a truck, and headed off to a new life in Gettysburg to follow God's call to ministry.

Looking back, it should have been mighty scary for a 40-year-old man to switch careers and haul his family across the country for something totally new. But in that moment, it was the easiest decision I had ever made, because I knew that's what God wanted me to do.

I am constantly amazed that I went to Mexico to rescue a little boy, and he ended up rescuing me. And believe me, many times I have thought back to that

vocational aptitude test I took at Clarion and realized that Jesus had the last laugh!"

That little baby, the Schul's son, Emilio, is now an 8th grader at Park Forest Middle School. Their daughter Annika is a senior at Thiel College in Greenville, PA, majoring in elementary and special education and is engaged to be married.

Before coming to Grace in November, 2014, Pastor Schul had served as pastor of St. Matthew Lutheran in Martinsburg, PA; he wrestled with the challenge of coming to a such a large and active congregation. He believes his experience with the law helped to prepare him for his current role: "A lawyer

provides guidance and counsel, expertise in navigating and understanding the law, helps clients in both times of sorrow and times of celebration, and must be prepared to write and publicly speak well. The same is true of a pastor."

Grace, as the largest Lutheran congregation in the Allegheny Synod (and one of the largest in Pennsylvania), has a scope bigger than anything the Pastor worked with before. He notes that it is a privilege and honor to serve in this capacity, and believes that he is able to do so in large part because of the incredible talents of the church staff. He is excited that in December, Rev. Carolyn Hetrick, a seminary classmate of his, will join the staff.

Pastor Schul also shared his joy in music. He plays (or has played) organ, piano, guitar, bass, and a little banjo and mandolin. He loves to sing as well, and actually met his wife in the Clarion University choir. Music is a big part of Lutheran worship, and so he says "my background in music was yet another way God was preparing me for this call long before I had any idea I would be serving in this way."

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