

**BETHEL EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

301 Scott Avenue Glenshaw
Pennsylvania 15116
Phone: (412) 486-5777
www.bethelglenshaw.org

BethelLutheranGlenshaw@gmail.com



**ZION EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

237-37th Street Pittsburgh
Pennsylvania 15201
Phone: (412) 621-2720

pastor_bethel_zion@yahoo.com

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<u>The Pastor's Desk:</u>	
Volume 24	
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Dear Beloved in Christ:

It's All In the Heart ...This is the month we celebrate that which is the central part of a person. The heart. The heart is the nature of a person, and to know the heart of someone is to know that person's innermost character, feelings, or inclinations (see: Proverbs 4:23 and 16:1). The heart of God is the essence of who He is, what He desires, His will, and His purposes. By reading the Bible, knowing Jesus, and spending time in prayer, a person can come to know the heart of God. And Lent is a perfect time to establish this most important habit and activity.

The Word of God reveals the heart of God. To know the heart of God, we must read His Word, for that is God's revelation of Himself and His message to all. People read autobiographies about celebrities to get an idea who they "really are." Historians read journals and letters from people in history to understand what their life was like and what influenced and motivated them. In a more profound way, the Lord has given us His Word so that we can know Him. And know Him intimately. By reading the Bible, we can know the heart of God because Scripture was divinely breathed out by Him (2 Timothy 3:16). From Genesis to Revelation, the entire Bible speaks of God and reveals who He is and what He is like. Reading the Bible merely to gain facts about God will not bring a person any closer to the heart of God (see: John 5:39). Instead, reading Scripture should cause a person to worship and love Him.

Studying Jesus reveals the heart of God. Anyone who has seen Jesus has seen the Father (John 14:9). No one can truly know the heart of God without knowing and trusting in Jesus for salvation. Jesus Christ revealed the Father, for "He is the image of the invisible God" (Colossians 1:15, ESV). Since Jesus and the Father are one, Christ visually represents the heart of God, the essence of who He is (John 10:30). Jesus dying for the sins of the world and being resurrected to bring life to those who believe in Him vividly presents the love, judgment, and mercy of God (John 3:16). In Christ we see God as the Savior of mankind who desires all to come to know Him and experience the salvation He offers (2 Peter 3:9).

Prayer reveals the heart of God. Spending time with the Lord in prayer assists in knowing His heart. Just as a child must spend time with his/her parents to know them personally, so we also must spend time with God in prayer to know Him more deeply. The first part of James 4:8 says, "Come near to God and he will come near to you." Spending time alone with God in prayer will encourage a deeper relationship and create a greater intimacy between us and God, in which our desires will become more aligned with His. Seeking to know the heart of God is a serious endeavor, as knowing Him will change a person's entire life. The more a person learns and knows about the Lord, the more he or she will long for Him and declare with the psalmist, "As the deer longs for streams of water, so I long for you, O God" (Psalm 42:1, NLT).

God's Blessings Always*Rev. Donn Woolweber*

SOUP R BOWL FUNDRAISER

LWML sale of homemade soups to raise money
for mission projects to
Columbia and Venezuela.

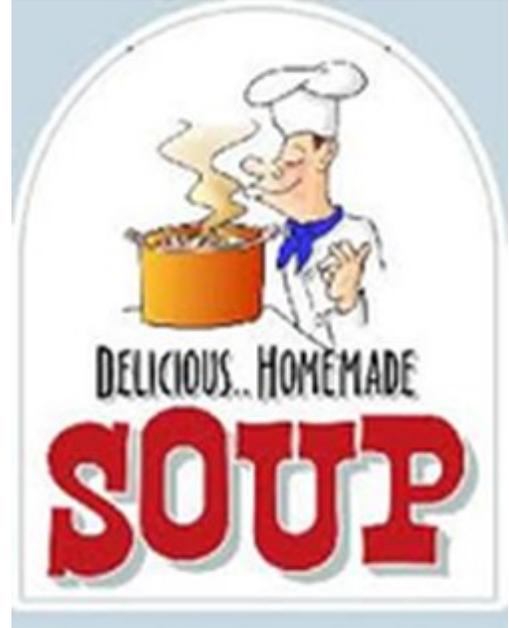
Choices are Vegetarian Potato
Wedding Soup, Beef Vegetable

The cost is \$10 for a quart.

Deadline for ordering is FEBRUARY 7

Pick up FEBRUARY 11

Sign up in church narthex or call 412-486-5777



FINANCIAL NEWS FOR BETHEL

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR DECEMBER

	<u>December</u>			<u>Year-to-Date</u>		
	Budget	Actual	+/(-)	Budget	Actual	+/(-)
Income	\$17,359.17	\$21,699.64	\$ 4,340.47	131,216.77	\$150,590.89	\$19,374.12
Expense	11,058.75	12,270.84	(1,212.09)	127,916.77	132,321.56	(4,404.79)
Income less exp	6,300.42	9,428.80	3,128.38	3,300.00	18,269.33	14,969.33

- Executive Director.....Al Todd III
- Director of Doctrine and Worship....Ross Betts
- Director of Finance.....Curt Hetz
- Director of Christian Service.....Gary Swanson
- Director of Parish Education.....Paul Hoffman
- Director of Property.....Will Gurtner
- Director of Mission.....Donna Heintz
- Financial Secretary.....Fred Heintz
- Recording Secretary.....Debbie Woolweber



For BETHEL

2024

2024 SCHEDULE FOR LENT

2-14-23	Ash Wednesday	Zion	12:00 pm	Service
		Bethel	6:30 pm	Service

Music by Luke Swanson, Katya Janpoladyan, and Java Jam



Title of the Lenten Service Series is **“He Did This Just For You!”**

God’s longing for you to come home!

This will be an evening of Readers Theatre with Pastor’s commentary as we follow the stories of Joe the butcher and his daughter Katie.

2-21-23	Lent Wed. 1	Zion	6:30 pm	Service
			7:00 pm	Light Meal
2-28-24	Lent Wed. 2	Bethel	6:30 pm	Service
			7:00 pm	Light Meal
3-6-24	Lent Wed. 3	Zion	6:30 pm	Service
			7:00 pm	Light Meal
3-13-24	Lent Wed. 4	Bethel	6:30 pm	Service
			7:00 pm	Light Meal
3-20-24	Lent Wed. 5	Zion	6:30 pm	Service
			7:00 pm	Light Meal

The cross is the universal symbol of Christianity. How can such a terrible tool of torture be the embodiment of a movement of great Hope? Come to Wednesday Night Lenten Services to find out why!



