



**BETHEL EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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**THE PASTOR'S DESK:**

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Dear Beloved in Christ:



## CONSIDER SPRING

How shall we prepare for spring?

It is now the time for the rising up of dormant life by the warmth of the sun and the moisture of our Pittsburgh rains. Have you sensed the fragrance of spring approaching? Is not the warmth of God's favor beginning to stir the dormant life of God's church? Is not the God of hope about to apply to us this promise?

“For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour *my Spirit* upon your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants. They shall spring up among the grass like willows by flowing streams.” (Isaiah 44:3–4)

Just like in nature, so in the church springtime is a gift of God. No one can stop the coming of spring when God has appointed its time. And no one can bring forth the life of spring unless God sends it.

“It is the *Spirit* who gives life; the flesh is no help at all” (John 6:63). If we are to have a springtime flow of new life, it will be “Not by might, nor by power, but by *my Spirit*, says the Lord of hosts” (Zechariah 4:6).

Therefore, since we all love the new life in spring, let us all plan to meditate on the Holy Spirit. What does it mean to be born of the Spirit (John 3:5), to walk by the Spirit (Galatians 5:16), to be baptized in (1 Corinthians 12:13) and filled with (Ephesians 5:18) the Spirit, and to use the gifts of the Spirit (Hebrews 2:4)?

You and I should always talk to Him. He is here now, and He is on His way to us with springtime power. We will take strength from His *presence* to entreat His *abundance*. The Spirit is like an ocean of love. Most of us are still wading along the shore. Pray with me that a great breaker would knock us off our feet and the great undertow of grace would sweep us into its merciful depths!

In the month of May the Church experiences another transition according to the Church year calendar. We celebrate Jesus' Ascension. Throughout the season of Pentecost the Church remembers that she and her members live a new life in God's Son through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

In chapter 2 of the book of Acts, Peter gives a sermon proclaiming God's plan of salvation in Christ. The day he gave this sermon is the Day of Pentecost. At the end of his proclamation the people asked this question, "Brothers, what shall we do" (Acts 2:37)? Peter responds, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). As we look forward to the summer months of "life in the Spirit" as God's forgiven, Spirit-filled, baptized children, let us consider that we should use this time to grow in our Christian faith and in our boldness to "give a reason for the hope that we have with all gentleness and respect" (1 Peter 3:15).

In conclusion, I praise and thank God for each and every one of you! And I am most grateful for all of your prayers and well wishes regarding my recovery. Let us continue to be united as one in Christ. I miss you all so very much and eagerly look forward to my return.

God's Blessings Always  
Rev. Donn Woolweber



## **PRAYERS PLEASE**

Pastor Woolweber is still recuperating at home after his heart surgery. We will have worship services held by our Elders and guest ministers for the next month. If you are in need of pastoral care, please contact Rev. Ron Breight at 412-926-7811 or Debbie Woolweber at 818-681-5494 or Fred Heintz at 412-213-3883.

## **ASCENSION DAY SERVICE**



Pastor Hahn from St. John's Lutheran Church will be officiating an Ascension Day Communion Service at Bethel on THURSDAY, APRIL 9 beginning on 6:30 p.m. St. John, Zion and Bethel are participating in this event.

## **SEWING SAINTS**

Come and join us on SATURDAY, MAY 11 at Bethel at 9:00 a.m. as we continue to cut and sew walker bags for Concordia residents. See Donna Heintz for any questions.



## **CONTRUCTION EVERYWHRE!**

The gas company is replacing gas lines throughout the neighborhood. Bethel's driveway is patchy due to this undertaking of moving the gas meter closer to the building and replacing old line into the building.

## GAME NIGHT AT BETHEL

This month we will be playing Bible Pictionary for all ages. There will be candy prizes for the winning team. The more people that play the more chances to win. You don't have to actually do the drawings since another team member can...but you can guess the answer. A free will offering will be taken to go to LWML mission projects. Bring a snack to share.



## MAY BIRTHDAYS

01-Andrea Hornish

05 - Ross Betts

08 - Dorothy Carlisle

13 - Lynn Betts

18 - Seth Swanson

25 - Katelyn Swanson

happy  
birtHDay  
may your wish  
come true

# Give blood. Help save lives.

## **BLOOD DRIVE**

Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church

Social Hall 301 Scott Avenue

Friday, May 10 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Maximize your blood donation. Help more patients.

If you are an eligible type O, B - or A - donor, consider making a Power Red donation.  
Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter: Bethel Evangelical to schedule an appointment.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass](http://RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass) to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.



## **BETHEL HOSTING DINNER**

Volunteers are needed to help servedinner for the Blind Ministry at First Trinity Lutheran Church in Oakland. The date is May18 at 4:00 p.m. Please see Gary Swanson or Fred Heintz if you can lend a hand.



## LWML REACHES OUT

Last month L.W.M.L. (Lutheran Women Mission League) held their Spring Rally for some of the area LCMS churches in Pennsylvania, New York and Maryland. Thirty three women attended, which was the highest attendance for this rally in a long time. There was a short worship service, business meeting and lunch. Thanks to Debbie Woolweber for organizing and making most of the items at lunch and for the Swansons for making yummy quiches. After lunch the ladies made “book floss” book markers for the upcoming June Convention in June. We also asked the women attending to bring in female toiletries, perfume, etc which we filled 29 purses. Thanks sooo much to Kristen Hoffman for donating most of the Vera Bradley purses. Shirley Freyer and Donna Heintz delivered these to The Hearth which is a home for abused women and children that is located on the corner of Mt.Royal and Elfinwild.



Dorothy Dietrich from Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. I believe she is in her 90's and she was very fast at threading a small beads.