



The Evangel

Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)

301 Scott Avenue Glenshaw, Pennsylvania 15116

Phone: (412) 486-5777 www.bethelglenshaw.org Fax: (412) 487-8328

Volume XLVI, Number 7

October 2020

Mission Statement

In our commitment to mission, Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church will proclaim and witness to God's salvation in our community and the world by preaching God's Word and administering the Sacraments in all their truth and purity."

Adopted by the congregation on April 23, 1989

Staff

Preacher.....Rev. Daniel Hahn
 Vicar.....Donn Woolweber
 Office Manager Donna Heintz
 Secretary Ruthie Latkovic
 Organists. Sarah Dougal
 Dave Forsyth
 Greg Wehner

Board of Directors

Executive Director Al Todd III
 Doctrine & Worship Fred Heintz
 Mission Ross Betts
 Education John Rehder
 Christian Service Gary Swanson
 Property Donna Heintz
 Finance Paul Hoffman

Other Officers & Contact People

Financial Secretary Fred Heintz
 Recording Secretary Donna Heintz
 Treasurer Dorothy Carlisle
 Altar Guild Marie Litke
 Sunday School.....Marie Litke
 Sewing Group.....Donna Heintz
 Sign Manager.....Gary Swanson
 Children Sermons.....Gary Swanson

Pastor's Message

WHY TRI ?

As I write, committees of the Tri-Parish (Bethel - Glenshaw, St. John's - Millvale; Zion - Lawrenceville) are meeting to discuss the nature and work of a potential union of our three parishes. These are only discussions at this point, sanctioned by the voters of each parish. Any agreement to enact a merger will require further discussion and approval by the voters of each parish. My goal in this article is to set forth some of the principles behind the Tri-Parish discussions.

THE SITUATION. We have three LCMS congregations which share a common confession and mission as well as common values concerning the conduct of the Divine Service. (We are united already in faith and practice.) The members of our churches live in overlapping, geographical patterns. All three parishes have seen decline in the last several decades. Each remains viable, but there has been fatigue among leaders, and uncertainty about the future.

More than two years ago, the three parishes began to share midweek services together, and to host common Bible studies, social events, and mission work (including the publication of "Bible Stories in Pictures" in the Lisu language of Burma.) At the same time discussions began as to whether we might be more effective in kingdom work if we show a more substantial unity.

THE PLAN. On March 1 of this year an informational meeting for the three parishes was held at Cherry City Fire Hall. The 3-2-1 proposal was set before the members of the congregations, which is the idea of maintaining 3 locations, with 2 pastors, but having only 1 congregation with a united budget,

(Pastor's Message is continued on next page)

Pastor's Message (cont. from previous page)

board, and mission. Each congregation subsequently gave approval for formal discussions to begin, the results of which are to be returned to the voters. Some of the principles and causes that seemed to recommend consideration of a 3-2-1 merger were:

- 1) **Better Use of People Power.** Each of the parishes struggles to fill a slate of officers and tends to have the same people shuffling responsibilities year after year. This can lead to burn-out in leadership, but more critically expends a lot of people power. In a scenario where one president, one treasurer, one secretary, etc. are needed instead of three of each those other leaders will be freed to use their time and talents in other avenues of service that will benefit the church and its mission.
- 2) **Better Use of Material Resources.** Similarly, sharing office staff, copy machines, service contracts, supply contracts, and insurance policies should yield substantial savings that could be better used for kingdom work.
- 3) **Preservation and Extension of Ministry.** The principle of maintaining 3 locations expresses a desire to maintain a witness for Christ in the neighborhoods where God has placed us. For too many years our LCMS congregations in Pittsburgh have ceded territories by closing congregations. Could some of those closures have been prevented if congregations hadn't been so worried about preserving their individual legacies? We can't say. We can hope, however, that by mutual support we can both preserve and extend God's work in Lawrenceville, Millvale, and Glenshaw.
- 4) **Preparing for Future Challenges.** Long before Covid-19 changed the worship practices of many, all of our churches were asking questions about what the future would look like. The 3-2-1 Plan aims to position our congregations to meet an uncertain future with hope. We also have in mind the looming clergy shortage in our synod which is expected to bring the retirement of a full third of all active pastors within a decade, far exceeding the numbers of new pastors our seminaries are producing. We can be sure that whatever the future brings, it will look different from the past.
- 5) **Set A Pattern for Others.** Congregations all over the country are struggling, and we have an opportunity to create a model that others could follow. By God's grace we don't want the future to happen to us – we want to shape the future. If we are successful, it seems likely that other congregations will be asking us how to set out on a similar journey with those sister parishes that are near to them.

Your prayers concerning this endeavor are greatly appreciated.

In Christ,

Pr. Hahn

Happy October Birthday!!!

October 4—Dan Betts

October 10—Melanie Carlisle

October 13—John Zacharias

October 14—Fred Heintz Jr.

October 15—Darren Deltondo

October 16—Dan Rehder



October 18 —Donna Heintz

October 20—John Rehder, Cindy Hetz

October 31—Kevin Hoffman

Happy October Anniversary!!!



October 14—Heidi and Al Todd

October 25—Carol and Tony Fabina

In His Service

Deacon Al Todd, III

Communion Assistant John Reihder

Offering Usher Eddie Stabile

Counting Committee:

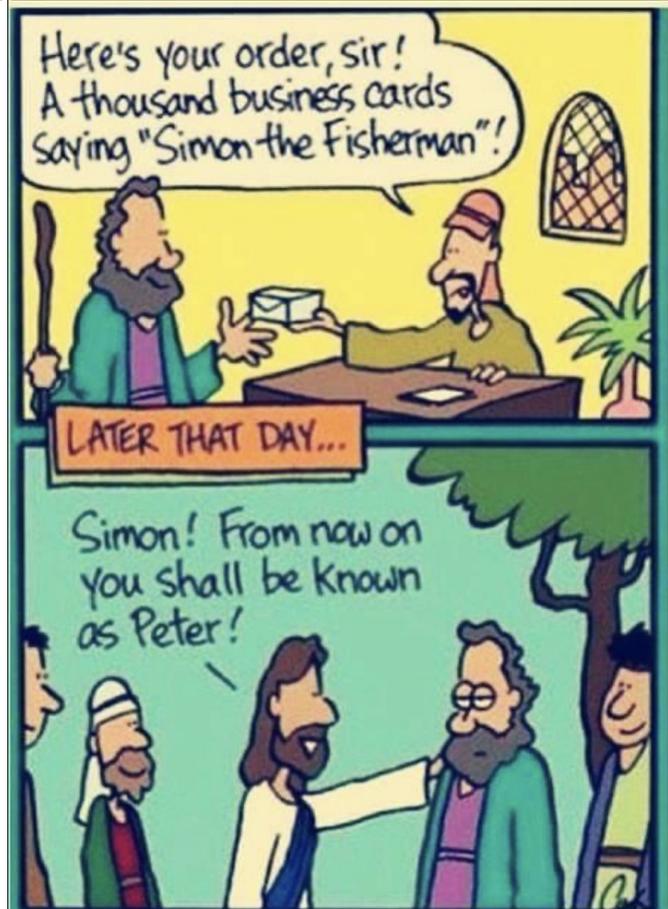
October 4 Fred Heintz

October 11 Paul Hoffman
Jonathan Meier

October 18 Marilyn Heintz

October 25 Cindy & Kurt Hetz

Just for Laughs



Tri-Parish Drive-Through Oktoberfest



Bethel will be hosting a drive thru Oktoberfest on Saturday, October 24th, from 3pm—7pm with the assistance of our Tri-Parish partners, St John's in Millvale and Zion in Lawrenceville. We will prepare a variety of your favorite German foods, including bratwurst, knackwurst, sauerkraut, potato pancakes, spaetzle and apple dumplings. Apple dumplings will be prepared at St. John's on Saturday, October 17th at

10am. Food can be ordered on site or ahead of time at bethelqlenshaw.org. We will accept free will offerings by either cash or charge. Stop by from 3-7 pm to pick up your orders! You won't need to leave the comfort of your car, as they will follow all guidelines regarding COVID-19. All proceeds will go to support the Redeemer Lutheran School.

Tri-Parish Committee and Constitution Committee

The Tri-Parish Constitution Committee is working hard on putting together a constitution to present to the larger Tri-Parish group, and finally the voters. This has been the focus of our efforts for the last couple months. The Tri-Parish Constitution Committee will be meeting at Bethel on October 14th at 7pm. The next large group Tri-Parish Meeting will be held at Bethel on October 21st at 7pm.

Tri-Parish Bible Study

Tri-Parish Bible Study will be held at Bethel on October 7th at 10 am. There will be a one-week recess and then the study will meet again on October 21st at 10am at Bethel. Previous plans to move the Tri-Parish Bible Study to Zion have changed and the study will continue to meet at Bethel.

Tri-Parish Handbell Choir

Tri-Parish Handbell Choir Rehearsal will be held on Monday, September 28th at 6:30pm at Bethel. If you have any questions or are interested in joining, please contact Vicar Woolweber at 747-232-1911 or email him at vicar@stjohnsmillvale.org.

Pastor Keurulainen Retirement

Pastor Barry J. Keurulainen, from St. Luke Lutheran Church & School in Cabot, PA, will be retiring on November 15, 2020. The congregation would like to surprise him with an overabundance of handwritten letters at his last service in honoring his ministry of over 40 years. If you would like to participate, please share a memory or your well wishes in a letter and mail it to St. Luke Lutheran Church and School, 330 Hannahstown Road, Cabot, PA 16023. RE: PB Farewell. The deadline for letters is November 9th.

Blessing of the Quilts

The Sewing Group completed the quilts for the homeless to be donated to First Trinity. The quilts were blessed at the services on Sunday, September 27th. The next meeting of the Sewing Group will be Saturday, October 10th at 1:30pm.

Below is a picture of Melita from St. John's working on a quilt.





Redeemer Lutheran School

Preschool – 12th Grade

News and Upcoming Events and ways to support us

Mark your calendar!

Enrollment for 2020/2021 is open. Visit our website to apply, or contact our admissions counselor, Mrs. Jackson: Rlspittsburgh.org 412-793-LUTH

Our classes are in person 5 days a week! Please keep our students and staff in your prayers as we continue to navigate these difficult times.

Thank you to all of you who supported our 25th Annual Golf Outing. We had a great day despite a few rain drops to start the day. The rain stopped and we even saw the sunshine peek through! This was one of our biggest golf outing events. We are thankful for all of your support!

Reserve your seats for our upcoming “Evening at the LeMont” dinner to benefit Redeemer Lutheran School. The event will be Friday, October 23rd, 7:00 PM. Tickets may be purchased online: mkt.com/rlspittsburgh. CDC guidelines will be followed.

Please contact us for more information and **follow us on Facebook:**
Redeemer Lutheran School

Please keep Redeemer Lutheran School in your daily prayers.