

# The Evangel

Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church  
(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)  
301 Scott Avenue Glenshaw, Pennsylvania 15116

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### 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

Pastor . . . . . *Arthur E. Litke*  
Secretary . . . . . *Donna Heintz*  
Director of Music . . . . . *(vacant)*

### Board of Directors

Executive Director . . . . . *Al Todd III*  
Doctrine & Worship . . . . . *Ross Betts*  
Mission . . . . . *John Rehder*  
Education . . . . . *Darren Deltondo*  
Christian Service . . . . . *Gary Swanson*  
Property . . . . . *Dave Augustine*  
Finance . . . . . *Fred Heintz*

### Other Officers & Contact People

Financial Secretary . . . . . *Paul Hoffman*  
Recording Secretary . . . . . *Donna Heintz*  
Treasurer . . . . . *Dorothy Carlisle*  
Sunday School . . . . . *Marie Litke*  
Altar Guild . . . . . *Marie Litke*  
Men's Club/LLL . . . . . *(vacant)*  
Bethelites/LWML . . . . . *(vacant)*  
Youth Group . . . . . *Gary Swanson*



AND IN THEE  
THY SAINTS SHALL RISE



## FROM THE PASTOR

*God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.*

*2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV)*

## The Righteous Ones

The first day of this month was All Saints' Day, and the first Sunday of this month is when we, as a congregation, remember with thanksgiving those saints of God known to us who have departed this life in the past year. We might call it the "memorial day" of the church year. Even as we grieve over the loss of these dear people, we rejoice in the everlasting glory that is now theirs and we anticipate, in the hope of Jesus' resurrection, a joyful reunion with them and with all who have lived and died trusting in Christ for forgiveness and salvation.

All Saints' Day is a day not only for those who died in the faith but also for we who still live in it. The liturgy and hymnody of the Church speaks of "the Church Militant" and "the Church Triumphant." The Church Militant is us—we who still live in this world and struggle each day with the temptations of "the devil, the world, and our sinful nature" (*Small Catechism, Sixth Petition of the Lord's Prayer*). The Church Triumphant is "all the company of heaven" (*Lutheran Service Book Altar Book, page 145*) with which we join our worship of God in the Communion liturgy—those who, having completed their journey of faith on earth, now enjoy the victory that Christ won for them by His life, death, and resurrection.

They and we are righteous before God—not because we have lived righteous lives, but because Christ has taken away our sin and replaced it with His perfect righteousness, given to us through faith. He who took our place under God's Law and judgment has guaranteed that we, together with the saints before us, will be greeted by the Lord with the words: "Well done, good and faithful servant. . . . Enter into the joy of your Master." (*Matthew 25:21*). And that's something to celebrate!

In His love and service,

*Pastor Litke*

## PRAYER THOUGHT

"The gift of holiness--which . . . is in reality the gift of our full humanity--is received when we are able to see the world in a new way, when in faith we are able to discern and respond to God's vision of the world through the eyes of Christ. This kind of seeing is the fruit of a contemplative vision--a vision that can only be nourished in solitude and in prayer. Prayer for the Christian therefore is not something added to our lives, something extra we do, but rather it is as fundamental to our lives as the act of breathing. It is through prayer that we are caught up in the rhythm and the energy of the kingdom that is amongst us and learn to see in a new way."

--James C. Fenhagen in *Invitation to Holiness*



## ADVENT COIN FOLDERS

This year the Advent folders that you fill with quarters, bills or checks, will go to the LCMS Disaster Fund. Look for your folder on the information table in the church narthex.

## FLEECE MONEY

If you are unable to join us once a month on the first Friday of the month at 6:00 p.m. to sew quilts for the homeless, you can still help by contributing to the cost of the fleece fabric we use for the back of the quilt. Give your donation to Marie Litke,



## LUTHERAN HOUR RADIO

**WJAS-AM 1320**

**SUNDAYS 7:00 A.M.**

November 5

### "Blessed Are the Pure in Heart"

Guest Speaker: Dr. Dale A. Meyer

This weekend many churches observe All Saints Sunday, remembering those who have died in the Christian faith. That prompts us to ask, what does it take to get to heaven? Jesus tells us in Matthew 5:8, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." What that means is this week's

Lutheran Hour message.

(Matthew 5:8)

November 12

### "More Than a Wish"

Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour:

Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus

Not so long ago over 370 million tickets were sold for a Powerball drawing. Each person who made a purchase had hope that they might become rich. Most were disappointed. In 1 Thessalonians 4, St. Paul explains how the resurrection hope of Christians is better than the hopelessness of the world and far more solid than groundless wishful thinking.

(1 Thessalonians 4:13-14)

November 19

### "The Reckoning"

Guest Speaker: Dr. Dale A. Meyer

You hear little talk about the 'Fear of God' anymore, but if you don't in some way fear your Creator who judges you down to your inmost being, why would you love your only Savior whom He sends you? A message about fearing and loving God.

(Matthew 25:14-30)

November 26

### "Show Me"

Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus

In Lerner and Loewe's musical, My Fair Lady, Eliza is being wooed with words by weak and wimpy suitor. She comments: "Don't talk of stars, burning above If you're in love, show me Tell me not dreams, filled with desire If you're on fire, show me." In Jesus' description of Judgment Day, the Savior goes on record: true love needs to show itself in action.

(Matthew 25:31-46)

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### BIRTHDAYS

06—Gary Swanson  
10—Adam Todd  
14—Kristen Hoffman  
17—Curt Hetz  
21—Matt Rehder



## IN HIS SERVICE

Head Usher.....Ross Betts  
Communion Asst.....Jonathan Meier  
Offering Usher.....Eddie Stabile

Altar Guild.....Lynn Betts  
Marie Litke

## IMPORTANT MEETING

### Congregational Meeting



Plan to attend the Annual Congregational Budget Meeting on SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 after the morning worship service.

## ADVENT DEVOTIONS

Lutheran Hour Ministries 2017 Advent Devotion booklet entitled "Love Came Down" can be found in the church narthex. It begins on December 3. It's a great media to place in your car for your morning commute or next to your bed for your evening devotion.

## OKTOBERFEST RESULTS

A good time was had by all who attended this years' Oktoberfest at Bethel. Over \$500 was raised and will be given to the LCMS Disaster Relief Fund. A big **THANK YOU** to Dr. Gary Swanson, his family, Al Todd and Marie Litke for volunteering their time and cooking talent which made this a great event.



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## AMAZONSMILE

Please make sure that when you make purchases (especially for Christmas) online, go to Amazonsmile and designate Bethel as your charitable organization that will receive a percentage of all your sales.





	<u>Budgeted Income</u>	<u>Actual Income</u>	<u>Surplus/(Deficit)</u>
AUGUST	\$10,161.44	\$ 9,076.84	(\$1,084.60)
YEAR-TO-DATE	\$76,075.39	\$81,585.94	\$5,510.55

	<u>Budgeted Expenses</u>	<u>Actual Expenses</u>	<u>Surplus/(Deficit)</u>
AUGUST	\$ 8,765.37	\$ 8,612.43	(\$ 152.94)
YEAR-TO-DATE	\$82,819.77	\$81,906.31	(\$ 913.46)

Y-T-D Income			
Less Expenses	(\$ 6,744.38)	( \$320.37)	\$6,424.01



	<u>Budgeted Income</u>	<u>Actual Income</u>	<u>Surplus/(Deficit)</u>
SEPTEMBER	\$10,337.34	\$ 6,625.32	(\$3,712.02)
YEAR-TO-DATE	\$86,412.73	\$88,211.26	\$1,798.53

	<u>Budgeted Expenses</u>	<u>Actual Expenses</u>	<u>Surplus/(Deficit)</u>
SEPTEMBER	\$10,176.29	\$ 8,930.59	(\$1,245.70)
YEAR-TO-DATE	\$92,996.06	\$90,836.90	(\$2,159.16)

Y-T-D Income			
Less Expenses	(\$ 6,583.33)	( \$2,625.64)	\$3,957.69

## SPIRITUAL MUSIC CDS

You can find some great spiritual music, anthems and hymns on CDs that was donated to Bethel's library from Roberta Heintz. The library is located in the basement Sunday School room. Feel free to borrow and enjoy the beautiful music that Robbie loved and cherished.



## A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

This year Bethel will be performing this annual event at two places on the same day. We will be at Rebecca Residence at 2:30 then next door to High Pointe at 3:30 on SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17. We need participants!!!! Spread the celebration of our Lord's birth by singing or reading scripture. Rehearsal will be that day after the morning worship service. Please sign up soon in the church narthex.

## 2018 ALTAR FLOWERS

Look for the forms in the church narthex to order your 2018 Altar Flowers. Please fill out a new form due to date changes.



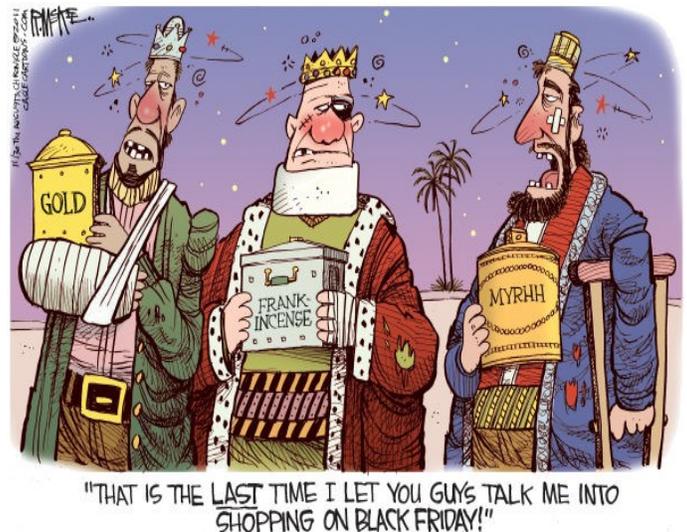
## THANK YOU !

A "Thank You" was received from Redeemer Lutheran School for the gift of \$50 that Bethel donated to their ministry. Another "Thank You" was received from First Trinity Lutheran Church for the \$50 that Bethel donated to their Campus Ministries.



## THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

Bethel will be holding a Thanksgiving Worship Service on WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22 at 7:00 p.m. Plan to come and worship the Lord who gives us all things.



# CONFIRMAND'S ESSAYS

For the next couple newsletters, an essay from one of our recent confirmands will be highlighted.

## GOSPEL by Kevin Hoffman

He is risen, indeed! Alleluia! This is a sentence that Christians say at Easter to rejoice in God's promise of heaven. This promise is found in the Gospel. What is the Gospel, where can it be found, and what does it do for Christians like me? The Gospel means good news. It is the message of Christ's death and resurrection for the forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and salvation. In other words, Jesus paid the price for our sins when he died on the cross.

The Gospel can be found in the Bible, heard during the readings and sermon, and found in sacraments. The Gospel reading comes from the New Testament. The four Gospel writers, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John wrote the books to say that Jesus is our savior. Other books in the New Testament, such as Paul's letters were written to preach about God's promise about Heaven. The Gospel can also be found in the Old Testament. One example is from the prophet Isaiah where he wrote about our Savior long before He was born. Finally, the Gospel can be found in the sacraments. I received the Gospel when I was baptized. By the word and promises of God I got forgiveness of sins, was rescued from death and the devil, and received eternal salvation. Today, I will receive the Gospel in the Sacrament of the Altar. Jesus's body and blood will be present in with and under the bread and wine as a fulfillment of God's promise through the words of Jesus "given and shed for you" · We just heard about the law. It tells us that we are sinners and we must pay the penalty. I know that that good works are a necessary part of the Christian life, but they will not get you to heaven. Good works are a part of faith that we do toward our neighbors. I know that the only way to get to heaven is to believe that Jesus paid the penalty for my sins when he died on the cross. In John 3:16 it says, "For God loved the world so much that He gave His Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not die but may have eternal life." I can be sure that this is true through God's gift of saving grace. I confess my faith in the Gospel when I say what I believe in the Nicene and Apostles creeds, especially in the Second article where I confess that Jesus came down from heaven, suffered, and died for my sins. His death and resurrection gives me forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and salvation.

In conclusion, the Gospel teaches me the good news about Christ's death and resurrection for the forgiveness of my sins. My faith that Christ is my Savior can be strengthened by reading the Gospel in church and receiving the Gospel in the sacraments.