

# The Evangel

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

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Volume XLI, Number 8

October 2017

### 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

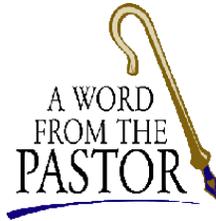
Pastor . . . . . *Arthur E. Litke*  
Secretary . . . . . *Donna Heintz*  
Director of Music . . . . . *(vacant)*

### Board of Directors

Executive Director . . . . . *Al Todd III*  
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Recording Secretary . . . . . *Donna Heintz*  
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Altar Guild . . . . . *Marie Litke*  
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Bethelites/LWML . . . . . *(vacant)*  
Youth Group . . . . . *Gary Swanson*



*We hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.*

*Romans 3:28 (ESV)*

## Justified

This month marks Reformation Day. This year it is a particularly special observance because it marks the 500th anniversary of the act that started it: Martin Luther's posting of his ninety-five theses, in which he challenged the church's practice of selling indulgences (certificates assuring the purchaser of forgiveness not only for himself, but for his deceased loved ones as well). This was done as fundraiser for the building of Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome, a magnificent structure that still stands today.

The issue at stake here ran deep for Luther. It was about a lot more than extorting money from poor peasants; it was the fact that, according to the Word of God, the forgiveness of sins cannot be bought, earned, or merited by the sinners who need that forgiveness. The forgiveness of sins has been bought, earned, and merited by the perfect life and the innocent suffering and death of Jesus Christ and is given to sinners freely through faith in Christ, which is in itself a gift of God the Holy Spirit.

These teachings of God's Word still need to be proclaimed and contended for today. There are many voices out there, even among Christians, who try to convince you that, in one way or another, you have to do something to be worthy of God's forgiveness. Don't believe them. It's all been done for you in the life and death of Christ and is confirmed in His resurrection. It is that Good News—that Gospel—that the Holy Spirit uses to create faith in your heart so that you may receive the benefits of what your Savior has done for you.

The Reformation is not about Martin Luther or the Lutheran Church. Five Hundred years later, it's still all about Jesus!

In His love and service,

*Pastor Litke*

## PRAYER THOUGHT

"God does not wish to regard our sins and punish us as we daily deserve but to deal graciously with us, to forgive us as He has promised, and thus to grant us a joyful and cheerful conscience so that we may stand before Him in prayer. For where the heart is not right with God and cannot generate such confidence, it will never dare to pray. But such a confident and joyful heart can never come except when one knows that his or her sins are forgiven."

--Martin Luther in *The Large Catechism*



## WINTER OUTERWEAR NEEDED

Winter coats, gloves, scarves, hats are being collected for the area homeless. Please place your donations on the designated table in the church social hall.



## NEW ADDRESS

Please update your Bethel's Address book :

Betty Germer  
1871 Highpointe Lane #1329  
Allison Park, PA 15101  
Cell: 412-419-5502  
bgerm@comcast.net

## LUTHERAN HOUR RADIO WJAS-AM 1320 SUNDAYS 7:00 A.M.

October 1

### "Power to Overcome Worry and Anxiety"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz  
Thanksgiving and anxiety are two opposing forces.  
Have you ever thanked God for your problems,  
pains, and suffering?  
(Philippians 4:4-13)

October 8

### "No Selfies Needed"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz  
God isn't afraid of messy people. He loves the  
broken, embraces the outcast, and seeks the lost.  
(Philippians 4:4-14)

October 15

### "Luther the Man: Called by God to Boast in Him "

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz  
Although Martin Luther is widely regarded as one  
of the most influential people of the last 500 years,  
he knew he was no big deal, compared to Christ.  
(1 Corinthians 1:26-31)

October 22

### "The Enduring Reformation Moment and Message of Grace"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz  
The Reformation was quite a moment for Martin  
Luther, but also for people who suddenly heard of  
a merciful God Who really cared for them.  
(2 Corinthians 4:13-18)

October 29

### "A Reformation Invitation - the Just Live by Faith"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz  
500 years ago, Martin Luther rediscovered a truth  
that turned the world upside down: the just shall  
live by faith. Can this message transform you  
today?  
(Romans 1:16-17)

# DATES TO REMEMBER

## BIRTHDAYS

- 04—Dan Betts
- 10—Melanie Carlisle
- 14—Fred Heintz Jr.
- 15—Darren Deltondo
- 16—Dan Rehder
- 18—Donna Heintz
- 20—John Rehder  
- Cindy Hetz
- 31—Kevin Hoffman

## ANNIVERSARYS

- 14—Heidi and Al Todd



# IN HIS SERVICE

Head Usher.....Paul Hoffman  
 Communion Asst.....Fred Heintz  
 Offering Usher.....Eddie Stabile

Altar Guild.....Melanie Rehder  
 Eddie Stabile



# SEEKING DELEGATE

Bethel is looking for a delegate to represent Bethel at Concordia Lutheran Ministries Annual Delegate Meeting on SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12 at Highpointe at Rebecca at 3:00p.m. Tours beginning at 2:00 p.m. As a delegate you will be Bethel's voice in voting in the annual elections. You will also keep Bethel informed in any events and issues by Evangel articles or verbal announcement after church. If you are interested in getting involved in this wonderful ministry please see any Board member.



# THE REFORMATION

A new book on the Reformation is available to you for \$22.49 , deadline October 15. A sample of the book can be found in the narthex. Please see Donna Heintz if you are interested in purchasing this book.

## **BLAST FROM THE PAST**

### **SHALER NORTH HILLS LIBRARY'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY!**

**SATURDAY-OCTOBER 7  
1:00-5:00 P.M.**

1:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

Enjoy refreshments and explore local history memorabilia and photos from SNHL, Glenshaw Library, community organizations, area history speakers and residents.

2:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m.

“Why Pittsburgh; A Story of Innovations”  
Anne Madarasz chief historian will discuss how Pittsburgh innovations such as the Ferris Wheel, heart valves, zombies and air brakes impacted the world.

3:00 p.m. — 4:00 p.m.

A panel of local residents will discuss their knowledge of our local area.

4:00 p.m. — 5:00 p.m.

Ask your questions-Share what you know.  
Celebrate our rich history.

If you have historical photos and memorabilia to share please contact Sharon McRae at 412-486-0211 or [mcraes@einetwork.net](mailto:mcraes@einetwork.net)

## **40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

All Saints Lutheran Church and Student Center in Slippery Rock invites you to their Anniversary celebration on SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22 at 4:00 P.M. for a Special Worship Celebration with dinner to follow.

## **THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS**

On September 6, 2017 Bethel received an email informing us that \$200 was deposited in Bethel's account thanks to Fred Heintz and Carol Phillips for directing their dollars to Bethel.

By directing Choice Dollars through Thrivent Choice, eligible members recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes some of its charitable outreach grant dollars among thousands of participating nonprofit organizations and congregations. For help in directing money to Bethel, see Al Todd III.



## **LUTHERAN WITNESS**

If you are interested in receiving The Lutheran Witness magazine in 2018 please sign up in the narthex. The cost is \$12.50 per year for 11 issues. Deadline to order is October 29.



## Reformation Celebration

The Pittsburgh area annual celebration of the Reformation (the year marking the 500th anniversary) will be held on Sunday, October 29 at First Trinity Lutheran Church (535 North Neville Street in Pittsburgh). The service begins at 3:00 p.m. with a reception, hosted by Concordia Lutheran Ministries, to follow. Parking is available nearby at Oakland Catholic High School (144 North Craig Street).

The preacher for this year's service is the Rev. Dr. Harold Senkbeil, Executive Director of Doxology: The Lutheran Center for Spiritual Care and Counsel

## Another Reformation Celebration

Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana is having a special worship service in Kramer Chapel on the campus on the actual date that marks the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's posting of his Ninety-Five Theses: Tuesday, October 31, at 7:00 p.m. The preacher for the service will be the Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, President of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

Knowing that many cannot attend, the service is being livestreamed at [www.ctsfw.edu/Daily-Chapel](http://www.ctsfw.edu/Daily-Chapel) and on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/CTSFW](http://www.facebook.com/CTSFW)



## CONFIRMAND'S ESSAYS

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

### THE WORD By Tad Swanson

What is the Word? I have been asked to present my understanding of what the Word is. Pastor has spent two years explaining the importance of the Word and the Sacraments to us. Adam is going to explain what the Sacraments are, and I am going to try and explain what the Word is. I think Adam has the easier job. ;-)

The Word is mentioned a number of times in the Bible. In the most simple meaning, the Word means the Bible, or part of the Bible. We can all understand this, as we are used to the idea that words can be written down. In this meaning, The Word means the words that have come from God, the words and story that He wants us to hear, so that we can know and understand who He is, and what He has done.

However, the Word of God can also mean Jesus Christ. When it refers to Jesus, it is translated as *logos* from the Greek, which means the expression of a thought. So *logos* means the real, live, material expression of Scripture. This is better explained in the Gospel of John at the very opening of Chapter 1: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was **with** God, and the Word **was** God." This means that both divine self-expression and Jesus Christ existed before creation, and they are **with** God and **are** God. Most importantly, the Word is Jesus- the one true God, who came to us here on Earth as a man to save us through his perfection. This is also described in the first chapter of John, "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

The Word of God is a revelation to us. Revelation means something that is revealed. This means that we can't really see God on our own, which is a very Lutheran belief. We need God to do the work-and he does this through His Word. He reveals Himself to us as seen in the third chapter of 1 Samuel, "The LORD continued to appear at Shiloh, and there he revealed himself to Samuel through His Word." The words of the prophets are also described to be a revelation, as seen in 2 Peter 1:21, "Prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit".

Additionally, the Word of God as revealed in Scripture is also God-breathed, as seen in 2 Timothy 3:16, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness". We can be confident that the Bible is God's Word, not that of men, because it comes from God, through revelation and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We should be sure to read the Bible regularly, and to discuss it with others-both our fellow believers, and those who don't believe--so that we can all come to know God better!

I hope I have been helpful in explaining the Word to you. Now, it's time for Adam to explain the Sacraments!

