

The Evangel

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

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September 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*
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*



*O Lord, I love the habitation of Your house
and the place where Your glory dwells*

Psalm 26:8 (ESV)

The House of the Lord

The words of Psalm 26 quoted above should sound familiar to us, since we use them in the Matins liturgy that we typically use twice a month. The title of this article ought to strike a cord with us as well, since "House of the Lord" in Hebrew is "Bethel"—the name that our predecessors chose for this congregation.

David, the human author of Psalm 26, says that he loves being in the Lord's house because that is where His glory dwells. What is this glory of God that the psalmist loves so much? It can't be the physical appearance of the place of worship because in David's time it was a mere tent that was moved from place to place as the Israelites journeyed throughout the promised land to conquer it.

No, the true glory of God is what He gives to His people: the forgiveness of their sins, New Life in Christ, and salvation from sin and death. These gifts of grace come to us in the Gospel of Christ. That's why we gather together in the name of Jesus around His means of grace, so that through these means the Holy Spirit may give us these gifts of grace and thus reveal the glory of God.

Our love and appreciation for the gifts of salvation is evident in our desire to be in the Word—not only at worship but also in Bible study. As our regular study of God's Word resumes this month, now is an opportune time for all of us to receive these gifts and, with them, to see the true glory of God: all that He does for us and gives us in the Gospel of His incarnate Son.

In His love and service,

Pastor Litke



PRAYER THOUGHT

“Lord, You know what is most profitable to me; do this or that according to Your will. Give me what You will, as much as You will, and when You will. Do with me as You know what is best to be done, as it shall please You, and as it shall be most to Your honor. Put me where You will. I am Your creature, and in Your hand; lead me and turn me where You will. Lo, I am Your servant, ready to do all things that You command, for I do not desire to live to myself, but to You. Would to God that I might live worthily and profitably, and to Your honor.”

--Thomas a Kempis in *The Imitation of Christ*

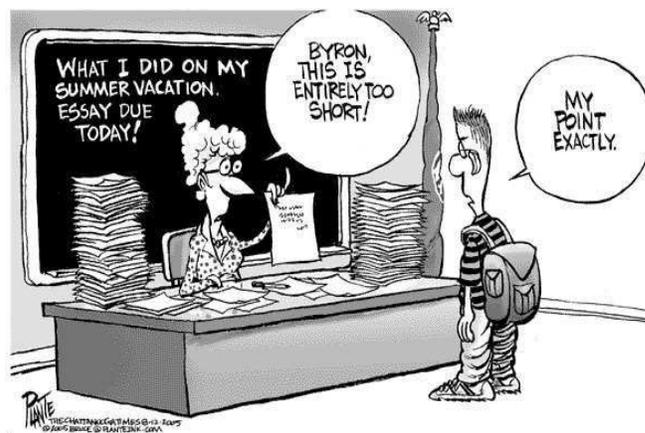


AT HOME IN HEAVEN

During these summer months a couple parishioners and a former church worker left this world to join their Savior.

Roberta Heintz
Robert Schomer
Marcia Lindbloom

We will truly miss them but are comforted in knowing that we will see them again at Jesus' feet.



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

September 3

"Finding Life in Jesus' Steps"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz
Take joy in the gift of being a follower of Christ who is willing to take His lead and be ordered by His steps.
(Matthew 16:24-25)

September 10

"Who's the Greatest?"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz
Jesus redefined greatness. He came, not to be served, but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.
(Matthew 18:1-20)

September 17

"Unleash the Power of Forgiveness in Your Life"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz
Life with God is not about keeping score; it's about living for others in the grace Jesus earned for us.
(Matthew 18:21-35)

September 24

"The Latest Polls"

Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour:
Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus
Believing the latest public opinion poll is not the same thing as believing the truth.
(Matthew 21:8-11 and Luke 23:23-25)

DATES TO REMEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

02—Leona Deltondo

16—Tim Hornish



IN HIS SERVICE

Head Usher.....A. Todd III

Communion Asst.....R. Betts

Offering Usher.....E. Stabile

Altar Guild.....Charlotte Hornish
Dorothy Carlisle

COME AND SEW

Soon the cold weather will be upon us. There are homeless people in Pittsburgh who come to First Trinity Lutheran Church for help. Bethel is trying to join in their mission work by sewing fabric squares together, attach it to a soft warm, fleece for a colorful, warm blanket.

Come and join us the first Friday of every month starting at 6:00 p.m. and lasting to about 9:00 p.m. Knowledge of sewing is not needed. We will teach you. We have the supplies but we need people to sew. Please consider giving three hours a month to help the homeless.

ANNUAL PICNIC

**CHURCH PICNIC
SUNDAY
SEPTMEBER 10
1:30 –6:30 P.M.**



Todd's House
2179 Linwood Dr.
Allison Park, PA 15101

STUDY THE WORD

Sunday School for all ages will begin on SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 at 9:00 a.m.

Monthly Prayer Meeting will begin on WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 at 10:00 a.m. This will meet the first Wednesday of the every month.

Wednesday morning Bible Study will begin on WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 at 10:00 a.m. and will continue to meet every Wednesday of the month except the first Wednesday.

THANK YOU FROM DUKES

Dear Pastor Litke and members of Bethel Lutheran Church,

The LCMS just notified us of your donation of \$24.10 on July 7 to support our mission work in Lima, Peru. Thank you. Bethel has a special place in our hearts from our time living in Pittsburgh, so we are very encouraged to know that you are thinking of us and praying for us and supporting us. Your prior support helped us to get into "the field" on a timely basis, and your latest donation will help keep us here as we have started a new fiscal year and a new funding goal.

We hope that you are enjoying reading our newsletters about our activities. As we continue to improve our Spanish language skills and take on more missionary duties, we will have plenty to write about. We are especially looking forward to being a part of some youth and adult confirmations before long and perhaps some baptisms as well. The Kingdom continues to grow here through mercy work and the spread of the Gospel. We are privileged to be God's instruments at work in Lima.

God's blessings to you on your ministry and mission at Bethel.

Cullen and Jackie
The Dukes Serving the Lord in Peru

Rev. Cullen Duke
[LAC Missionary to Lima, Peru](#)



THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

On August 8, 2017 Bethel received an email informing us that \$281 was deposited in Bethel's account thanks to Donald Gerber 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.



CONCORDIA OPEN HOUSE

All are welcome to the grand opening of Highpointe at Rebecca on SEPTEMBER 23, 2:00-5:00 p.m. Highpointe features one, two and large two bedroom units, private wi-fi in every apartment, quartz countertops and stainless steel appliances. Sixteen common areas including a library, bistro, café, bar, chapel and exercise room. Courtyard with a waterfall, fire pit, pond and walking paths, three early-bird discounts.

Come and take a tour to see for yourself the location, the amenities and the grandeur of Concordia's newest community: 1871 Highpointe Lane, Allison Park PA 15101



FINANCIAL NEWS THROUGH JULY 31, 2017

budgeted income	actual income	budgeted expenses	actual expenses	income less expense-budgeted	income less expenses-actual
JULY					
\$7,343.69	\$11,357.83	\$8,680.64	\$6,274.35	(\$1,336.95)	\$6,274.35
Y-T-D					
\$65,913.95	\$872,509.10	\$74,054.40	\$70,148.84	(\$8,140.45)	\$2,360.26

To summarize, while we expected to have a deficit of \$8,140.45, we actually have a surplus, through July 31 of \$2,360.26.

HELP FROM HARVEY TEXAS DISTRICT, LCMS

We are very grateful for the concern and willingness of people from around the nation to help out the congregations of the Texas District, LCMS who have been flooded and blown apart by Hurricane Harvey. There are immediate needs:

1) Pray. We need the fervent prayers of God's people. Pray for patience, wisdom, safety and courage. Pray that Jesus be seen in the response of God's people.

2) Financial resources. As assessments are being made, and greatest needs are being determined, financial assistance will allow the district to resource people whose property has been damaged as well as provide supplies for future volunteers who will come to clean-up or even re-build homes, schools and churches.

Go to LCMS.org to donate to this cause.



CONFIRMAND'S ESSAYS

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

Felicity Agostino Law

In Romans 3:19-20 "Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin."

God's Law is a law for Christians to lead a more faithful life. It serves as a mirror. When we hear its commands, it clearly shows us that we sinned and are guilty. In the Law, God commands good works of thought, word, and deeds and condemns and punishes sin.

Romans 3: 10-18 10 "as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; 11 no one understands; no one seeks for God. 12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good not even one." 13 "Their throat is an open grave they use their tongues to deceive." "The venom of asps is under their lips." 14 "Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness." 15 "Their feet are swift to shed blood; 16 in their paths are ruin and misery, 17 and the way of peace they have not known." 18 "There is no fear of God before their eyes." In this passage, it says that once you no longer follow God's Law, you have no fear of the consequences that will come.

Romans 13:2 Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. God gave the Law so that people would have a guide to live by and a standard by which they might recognize God's purity and their sinfulness. The Law is a reflection of the character of God because the Law comes forth from the very heart of God. When God gave the Law, He was speaking out of the abundance of His heart. He was speaking from what was in Him. Therefore, the Law is good, pure, right, and holy. It is wrong to lie because it is against God's nature to lie. It is wrong to steal because it is against God's nature to steal.

This Law, then, by its very nature of coming out of the heart of God and being spoken to men, is a standard for human conduct--a perfect standard. Because it was perfect and we are not, it is impossible for sinful people to keep. It was for this reason that the Law became a stumbling block. It became an obstacle to Man because it is an unattainable perfect standard. The Law, then, brings about the opposite of what it requires. The Law says to be perfect but shows you where you are not. It says to be holy but condemns you when you are not. Since it is not possible for us to keep the Law and therefore earn our position with God, we then need the holiness of God given to us--because there simply isn't any way for us to attain to the standard of God.

God gives us his law so that we may lead a godly life by following it, but because of human nature we sin and that's where we need God's gospel to come into play.

The law discovers the disease and the gospel gives the remedy. -Martin Luther King