



The Evangel

Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church
 (The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)

301 Scott Avenue Glenshaw, Pennsylvania 15116

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Volume XLVI, Number 13
March 2021

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
- 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
- Sunday School.....
- Sewing Group.....Donna Heintz
- Sign Manager.....Gary Swanson
- Children Sermons.....Gary Swanson

Pastor's Message

Love Your Enemies

We hear a lot lately about tribalism. Our country seems to be dividing into camps. "This is my group – that does no wrong, that's your group – which is the source of all evil in the world." I don't think, at least I hope it isn't the case, that the vast majority of people are fully entrenched in an "us/them" mentality. Most people, at least when they're not online, still seem able to recognize the humanity in others and respond to that humanity in kindness. But it's worrying that so many of the powerful influences in our culture (dare I say on all sides) are pushing "us/them" thinking. "You're with us or you're with them! And if you're with them I want nothing to do with you." Maybe you disagree with me that this is happening. (If so, I never want to speak to you again ☹.)

You have enemies. Even if God has given you superhuman power to love all people like He loves them, you would still have enemies. (Jesus had enemies aplenty.) Enemies are those who hate you without cause and who speak or act in a way that hurts or undermines you or your reputation. Enemies are a part of life, and a common prompt for prayer in the Psalms that God would deliver us from them. But if we have enemies, what we do not have is the luxury of hating them.

The world is very clear. "These are your enemies: (insert names). You have permission to hate them. It is good to despise them and speak evil of them and if you speak well of them then something is wrong with you." The world's lesson may not come in words that clear but that is indeed what the world teaches. Jesus, however, teaches something very different. "I say to you, 'Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.'"

Jesus teaches His followers to refrain from hurting others back when they hurt us. He teaches us to, "Turn the other cheek" and "Go

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the extra mile" (Matt. 5:39 & 41). And too many times Christians get sick and tired of doing those things. They set an arbitrary limit on "how much I can take" after which they feel completely justified (before God?) to lash back and hurt back in vengeance and spite. Lord spare us from this!

It's very hard to bear adversity without wanting vengeance. And the teachings of Christ that tell us to not hurt back, can sometimes be a painful cross to bear. Even so, holding back from doing harm in retribution is only the beginning of what Jesus teaches us about enemies. He goes beyond withholding vengeance to teach an active, serving love toward enemies. Love them. Pray for them. Do good to them.

I've read countless obituaries that extol the departed because they loved their family and friends. That's nice, but so what? Who doesn't love their family and friends? Jesus says, "If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for He is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful." (Luke 6:32-36)

It's those final sentences of the Scripture above the point to our only strength and help to love in such a radical way. We can't do this, of ourselves. It has to begin with Christ. It has to begin with Jesus who loved you and me when He should not have loved us. It has to begin with Christ who prayed for us, even in the agony of His dying, "Father forgive them" (Luke 23:34). It has to begin with the Savior who lovingly gave Himself into death for us "while we were enemies" (Rom. 5:10).

The death of Jesus turned us from enemies of God into friends. And it's only His redeeming love for us that can chisel away at our hearts of stone, and begin to give us hearts of flesh that may love in likeness to how He loves. And if we are to pray for our enemies and persecutors, what greater prayer could we have for them then to ask that God would turn their hearts also, that also might share in friendship with God and with us.
The peace of Christ be with you all.

Pastor Hahn

Happy March Birthday!!!

01—Charlotte Hornish

05—Carole Archer

15—Paul Hoffman

Happy March Anniversary!!!

24—Ross and Lynn Betts

Elder's Report

In January, Zion Lutheran Church approved the calling of Vicar Woolweber to serve as minister at Zion and Bethel as a dual ministry. Bethel had been under the impression that we only needed to advise the Seminary that we intended to retain Vicar Woolweber after the end of his vicarage. That motion passed at the annual Bethel congregation meeting in January. As it turned out, a decision to call was necessary. We held a second congregation meeting on February 21 to determine which of the following three options should be chosen: issue a dual call with Zion, call the Vicar to Bethel or let Zion call him to their serve their church. The result of that meeting was that a motion passed to issue a call to a dual ministry with Zion (option one). Call documents will be prepared and if all goes according to plan, after the Vicar has completed his vicarage on June 30, he will soon afterwards begin serving as Pastor at both Zion and Bethel. Ultimately, should the Tri-Parish proposal be approved, a new call to two ministers will be necessary. We would expect to call Pastor Hahn and Pastor Woolweber to the new congregation.

Our worship services continue to be both in-person and live-streamed on Facebook and YouTube. You may watch by going to our congregation website for access. We would ask if you have changed your telephone number call the church (412-486-5777) and let us know.

We are having a Sunday morning Bible study (9:00 a.m.) led by the Vicar when he is leading our services (second and fourth Sunday) and by lay leaders on other Sunday's. You are welcome and encouraged to join us for study and for Sunday worship. Social distancing and masking is maintained.

- Fred Heintz, Director of Doctrine and Worship

In His Service

Deacon	Fred Heintz
Communion Assistant	Gary Swanson
Offering Usher	Eddie Stabile
Altar Guild	Melanie Rehder Lynn Betts

Counting Committee:

Mar. 7	Fred Heintz
Mar. 14	Paul Hoffman Jonathan Meier
Mar. 21	Marilyn Heintz
Mar. 28	Cindy & Curt Hetz

Bethel Sewing Group



Bethel Sewing Group will resume meeting again on Friday, March 19th at 1pm at Bethel. Social distancing will be observed. All are welcome to come and sew, cut or organize fabric. If you have any questions, please talk to Donna Heintz.

Lent and Holy Week Services (includes Tri-Parish Services)

All midweek Lenten services will be joint services of the Tri-Parish. **TRI-PARISH SERVICES WILL BE INDICATED IN BOLD WITH A “TP” FOLLOWING THE CHURCH LOCATION.**

	March 3	7pm	Midweek Lent Service	BETHEL	TP
	March 10	7pm	Midweek Lent Service	ST JOHNS	TP
	March 17	7pm	Midweek Lent Service	ZION	TP
	March 24	7pm	Midweek Lent Service	BETHEL	TP
Palm Sunday	March 28	10:15am	Divine Service		
Holy Thursday	April 1	12noon	Tri-Parish Service w/ Communion	BETHEL	TP
		7pm	Tri-Parish Service w/ Communion	ST JOHNS	TP
Good Friday	April 2	12noon	Good Friday Service	ST JOHNS	
		12noon	Good Friday Service	BETHEL	
		5:30pm	Good Friday Service	ZION	
		7pm	Good Friday Service	ST JOHNS	
Easter Sunday	April 4	7:30am	Sunrise Service w/ Communion	BETHEL	
		9am	Divine Service w/ Communion	ST JOHNS	
		11:30am	Divine Service w/ Communion	ZION	

Tri-Parish Meeting

The next large group Tri-Parish Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 7pm at St. John's.

Tri-Parish Handbell Choir



The Tri-Parish Handbell Choir is working very hard on Easter music. The “Joyful Noise” Handbell Choir will be playing for the service on April 11th at 3pm at Bethel. The service will be broadcast live and then placed on Facebook. Also, the broadcast recording will be made available to Rebecca, Highpointe and other Concordia facilities for the blessing of their residents.

LWML

Thanks to everyone who helped with the soup sale!! The LWML Military Mailing at St. John's will be held on Sunday, March 7th after the service. Items needed include: sunblock, lipbalm, deodorant, packaged and sealed snacks, candy, jerkey and gum. If you would prefer, you can donate and the funds will be used to purchase additional items or cover the costs of shipping. Any questions, please email Alyssa Falarski at alysa.falarski@gmail.com or call 412-496-7887.

Tri-Parish News

Historical Recap

One year ago, on March 1, 2020, a presentation was made to the members of St. John's, Bethel and Zion at the Cherry City Fire Hall about the idea of uniting the three congregations of the Tri-Parish. The plan presented was called "3-2-1" indicating that the desired result was to have 3 locations, 2 full-time pastors, and 1 congregation. This unity of congregation would provide efficiencies in the use of our human and monetary resources that would serve the greater good of the kingdom. It would also move us in to closer fellowship with one another in the joint efforts that had already been underway for some time: worshiping together, joint mission work and service, including service our local Concordias.

Following that presentation, the voters of each congregation, in separate meetings, gave their blessing for work to begin on a draft constitution that could be the basis for such a union. A Constitution Committee was formed with representation from all three congregations and work began. Those efforts proved more time and labor and intensive than first imagined, and were hampered by the pandemic, but work progressed. Careful examination was given to the existing constitutions and bylaws of each congregation and to the model constitution prepared by the synod. Careful thought was given to each part of the proposed structure including the potential benefits and drawbacks of every element.

Current Status

The Constitution Committee of the Tri-Parish has essentially completed its initial work and is preparing to share the draft constitution with the full Tri-Parish Committee for review and revision. After final revisions are made, those materials should be ready for presentation to the three Voters' Assemblies for their consideration.

Unrelated to the constitution, but very much connected to the Tri-Parish, the voters of Bethel and Zion have indicated their intention to call Vicar Donn Woolweber as their pastor at the conclusion of his vicarage. The paperwork for that will soon be submitted to the Eastern District and through the district to the seminary.

Questions

You may have questions or concerns related to the Tri-Parish. Some of those questions will be addressed when the draft constitution is finally ready for submission. But there are opportunities to address questions even now. I'm personally glad to answer whatever questions I can; please feel free to talk with me. I believe the other leaders who have been active participants in this process would also be willing to answer your questions.

For those who feel uncomfortable addressing their questions or concerns in person, a box will be placed in the back of the church for questions to be submitted in writing. Responses to those questions would then be shared in subsequent newsletters.

Pr Hahn

Financial Report

Financial Report--January 2021						
<u>INCOME</u>				<u>EXPENSE</u>		
<i>January & Year-to-Date</i>				<i>January & Year-to-Date</i>		
Budget		Actual		Budget		Actual
\$5,975.64		\$9,942.29		\$8,391.07		\$8,745.07
surplus/(deficit)		\$3,966.65		surplus/(deficit)		\$ 354.00

Bethel Board Meeting

The next Board of meeting will be held on Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 7pm.

Clothes Drive



St. John's LWML is collecting used and new clothing/supplies for the Trinity Lutheran Church's Homeless Mission. You can drop off your spring and summer clothing to church and they will be taken to Trinity. Alyssa will be accepting donations until March 28th. Other NEW items needed are: underwear, socks, baby supplies, toiletries and personal hygiene products. If you are dropping off clothing, please put them in bags/boxes and label them (Male/Female/Girl/Boy/Baby) and a general size (Small, Medium, Large, XLarge). It would also be helpful to label them for the season—warm weather and cold weather. You can put them on the table downstairs.