



The Evangel

Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Pastor's Message

TOLL ROAD

In a news release that surprised exactly no one, the Pennsylvania Turnpike announced an increase in tolls that took effect earlier this year. Driving the turnpike from one end to the other will now cost you almost \$113. (It's a good thing that gas is so cheap.)

That toll may seem like a lot but I've been reminded in this past year that highways are not the only thing that exact tolls. Life takes a toll. As we deal with small daily troubles and the seemingly endless tide of bigger ones, it wears us down. And while this is always true, it was especially true in the turmoil of the past year, especially in regards to the pandemic. Covid-19 effected almost every area of our lives including work, church, and our interpersonal relationships. At present, we're only beginning to calculate the cost – not only in economic terms but especially in human terms. To put it simply, the tolls for 2020 (at least for most us) were much higher than we've been accustomed to paying. We may be soldiering on with our life's activities but there is emotional, spiritual, and physical weariness dragging on us. And what do we do?

What we should not do is start looking for the exits! If you're on the PA Turnpike you may be looking at a different route to save a few dollars, and there's no problem with that. But in life looking for an exit may look like someone backing away from family and friends, or disengaging from church, or giving themselves over to despair. We need to keep a careful watch on ourselves and those around us to keep us all on the road.

What we do need is refreshment from Jesus. When life's tolls are high it's especially important that we spend time in God's house and in His Word. We need the Savior to minister to us, strengthen us, help us, encourage us, and be near us. We can't go another mile without Him.

He has put up a billboard on the toll road that says: "Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." It's His invitation to pull off that road for a bit and stop racking up those tolls – to refuel at the rest stop where He provides for us. And I would suggest that you make it a protracted stop. Give yourself some extra time that Jesus work on you, renew you by His gifts, and share His rest with you.

That rest is yours in God's house as Jesus speaks to you in His Word and feeds You with His Supper. By His Means of Grace God strengthens and renews us for the long haul and keeps us going toward the wonderful destination that He has prepared for us.

You might also consider enjoying that rest in an extended way. Our District President, Pastor Chris Wicher, regularly encourages pastors and others to take a DAWG Day – a "Day Alone With God". The idea is to take some time off, take your Bible and hymnal, and find a quiet place to read, and pray, and rest, and study. Turn the phone off, leave the computer at home. Let the traffic on that toll road keep roaring by without you. Rest. And as Luther says in his hymn about the Sabbath Day "put aside the work you do, so that God may work in you."

As I was writing this article, I thought back to that time many years ago when I would take my family back to New York to visit family. Often during those visits my grandpa would take me aside and press a fifty-dollar bill into my hand to pay for gas and tolls. That's a picture of heaven when the Lord will restore to us all that was lost in our journey and will make us whole. And He, our Lord, who paid the highest toll in love for us on the cross will welcome us home to stay.

Peace to you in Christ,
Pastor Hahn

Tri-Parish News

The Tri-Parish Naming Committee sent out an email to members of all three congregations with information on how members can submit names for the Tri-Parish. Tri-Parish Suggested Name forms and information were also made available at each church. The deadline for name submission is May 3. Those names will be discussed at the next Tri-Parish Naming Committee Meeting.

The Tri-Parish Constitution Committee has completed the constitution and by-laws. That information has been emailed to members of each congregation and copies have also been made available at each church. Zion has already voted on and approved the constitution unanimously. Bethel has met to discuss the constitution. St. John's will be meeting in May to discuss the constitution.

Congratulations to Vicar Woolweber as he has been called to serve as pastor to Bethel and Zion. The plans for the ordination, installation and celebration for Vicar Woolweber's dual pastorship with Zion and Bethel are being made and will be announced when finalized.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tri-Parish Ascension Day Service is scheduled for Thursday, May 13 at 7pm at Bethel in Glenshaw.

The Tri-Parish "Joyful Noise" Handbell Choir will be performing for the Memorial Day Service at Zion in Lawrenceville on Sunday, May 30 at 11:30am

Happy May Birthday!!!

- 05—Ross Betts
- 08—Dorothy Carlisle
- 13—Lynn Betts
- 18—Seth Swanson

Happy May Anniversary!!!

- 13—John and Marcy Zacharias

Bethel Board Meeting



Bethel Board of Directors' Meeting

is scheduled for

Thursday, May 6 at 7pm.

Dan Brick Memorial Service

Join our church family as we celebrate the life and faith of

Daniel P. Brick

Saturday, June 12, 2021 at 10am

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

501 North Avenue

Millvale, PA 15209

A luncheon will follow the service. Please RSVP to Linda Hubert if you plan on attending and how many people you will be bringing with you. Linda can be reached at 412-651-2838 or email hubertjl@msn.com.

NOTE: Please assess your comfort level for attending this event. This congregation is moving to personal choices regarding masks and social distancing.

To God be the Glory!

In His Service

Deacon	Paul Hoffman
Communion Assistant	Fred Heintz
Offering Usher	Eddie Stabile
Altar Guild	Charlotte Hornish Dorothy Carlisle

Counting Committee:

May 2	Fred Heintz
May. 9	Paul Hoffman Jonathan Meier
May 16	Marilyn Heintz
May 23	Cindy & Curt Hetz
May 30	Paul Hoffman Jonathan Meier

Bethel Sewing Group



Bethel Sewing Group will be meeting on Friday, May 14th at 1:30pm 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.

LWML

The LWML at St. John's would like to thank everyone who helped in any way to make our first Easter mission outreach a success. We were able to spread the message that "Christ is Risen" to the 27 families that we "egged", many of whom told us how much their children enjoyed it. So thank you to those who donated money to purchase treasures for inside the eggs, to those who helped stuff and package up 324 eggs, and to those who hid 12 eggs, in 27 different yards, the evening of Easter.

Mark your calendars for our summer events! Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, July 25th. It will take place downstairs after St. John's worship service is over. We will be serving brunch! ALL are welcome. Our Summer Military Mailing will be on August 8th. Supplies and monetary donations are always welcome. We are still collecting clothing and items for the Homeless. Please label your bags with a size and season. We will collect items throughout the year and donate them to people and organizations in need.

Concordia Events

Open House at Concordia Haven Apartments: Saturday, May 1 - 2 or 3pm.

Open House at Concordia of the South Hills: Sunday, May 2 - 1 or 2pm; & Monday, May 3 - 1 or 2pm.

Kids Fishing Derby: Saturday, May 22, 2021 from 8am to 2pm at Saxony Farm Lake, Addy Boy Lane, Saxonburg. No entry fee. Open to all kids 14 and under. Free refreshments. Bait provided by Concordia. Participants must have an adult chaperone. Call Concordia Public Relations for more information at 724-352-1571, ext. 8268. Social distancing will be encouraged, enhanced cleaning procedures will be in place and disposable masks will be available for those who would like one. Registration is strongly encouraged by visiting the Events & News section of the Concordia website: www.concordialm.org/events-news/fishingderby2021.

17th Annual CLM Golf Classic: Monday, July 12, 2021 at Treesdale Golf & Country Club. 10am start. Reception at 3pm and banquet and program at 4pm. For more information or to register, please contact Larissa Yates at 724-352-1571 ext. 8363 or lyates@concordialm.org or Barb Tillmann at 724-352-1571 ext. 8355 or btillmann@concordialm.org.

Redeemer Lutheran School

Redeemer Lutheran School has teaching positions open for Preschool and Kindergarten. Interested applicants should send a resume and cover letter to Gail Holzer at gholzer@redeemer-oakmont.org.

Don't forget to purchase your virtual ticket to the Musical "Annie" broadcasting Friday, April 30th - Sunday May 1st. The licensing company they work through has made it possible for people to view the production via On Demand streaming. Each link is \$15. Viewing is available for a total of 48 hours. The viewing time is Friday, April 30th at noon through Sunday, May 1st at noon. The link will be sent to one email, it can not be shared to other emails. Links can be purchased through Showtix4U by searching in events for Redeemer Lutheran School.

Financial Report					
Financial Report--through March 31, 2021					
	March			year-to-date	
	budget	actual		budget	actual
income	\$ 6,238.26	\$ 5,709.78		\$ 18,391.86	\$ 23,883.98
expense	\$ 6,421.92	\$ 6,958.75		\$ 20,429.86	\$ 21,218.53
Income less expenses	\$ (183.66)	\$ (1,248.97)		\$ (2,038.00)	\$ 2,665.45

(1) Through March we expected to have a deficit of \$2,038.00 but actually have a surplus of \$2,665.54. However, that surplus is primarily the result of an unanticipated contribution of \$3,000.00 in January. Nevertheless, even removing the \$3,000.00 contribution from the equation, our deficit would only be \$334.54 versus the budgeted deficit of \$2,038.00.

(2) The blame for any "deficit" would lie in the insurance line item. The Board did not anticipate a significant increase in our property insurance bill for 2021. We budgeted \$2,000.00 while the actual bill came to \$2,623.50.

(3) On the whole, though, we are doing very well financially through the first quarter of 2021.

Mission Statement	
<i>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</i>	
Staff	
Preacher Rev. Daniel Hahn	Organists Sarah Dougal
Vicar Donn Woolweber	Dave Forsyth
Secretary Ruthie Latkovic	Greg Wehner
Board of Directors	
Executive Director Al Todd III	Christian Service Gary Swanson
Doctrine & Worship Fred Heintz	Property Donna Heintz
Mission Ross Betts	Finance Paul Hoffman
Education John Rehder	
Other Officers & Contact People	
Financial Secretary Fred Heintz	Sewing Group Donna Heintz
Recording Secretary Donna Heintz	Sign Manager Gary Swanson
Treasurer Dorothy Carlisle	Children Sermons. Gary Swanson
Altar Guild	Sunday School