

The Visitor

December 2017

The Newsletter for Bethany Lutheran Church
5303 Madison Avenue
Bethel Park, PA 15102
(412) 835-9221

To e-mail messages to the office: admin@blcbp.org



WORSHIP SERVICE EACH SUNDAY WITH HOLY COMMUNION WILL BE AT 11:15 A.M.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER AT BETHANY
(Look inside The Visitor for more information on each event)

ALTAR GUILD – POINSETTIA PLANTS
Deadline for ordering is Sunday, December 3rd

MUSIC AND WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, December 6th at 6:00 P.M.

CARE AND SHARE MEETING
Wednesday, December 6th at 11:00 a.m.
Regular meetings will resume beginning in January.

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, December 7th at 7:00 P.M.

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN'S GROUP CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON
Tuesday, December 12th at 12 Noon
A Pittsburgh Penguins Quilt to be raffled off at BLCW's Christmas Luncheon!

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, December 14th at 7:00 P.M.

COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, December 28th at 7:00 P.M.

CHOIR PRACTICE!
Every Wednesday at 7:00 P.M.



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP
Sunday, December 24th at 7:30 P.M.

NEW YEAR'S EVE
Sunday, December 31st Worship Service – Lessons & Carols at 11:15 A.M



OFFICE CLOSURE

*Terry Simony will be out of the office December 26th thru December 28th.
We will resume regular office hours Tuesday, January 2nd.*



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A BLESSED NEW YEAR FROM TERRY SIMONY & FAMILY!



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Dear Members and Friends of Pittsburgh Lutheran United Ministries,

Psalm 92:1. "It is a good thing to give thanks to the LORD, and to sing praises to your Name, O Most High."

November is the month of giving thanks for our many blessings. As I have been asked to write this Pastor's page, I pause and give thanks to all of you. For allowing me to serve as an "Auxiliary" Pastor, stepping into your pulpit and presiding at the table for Holy Communion each week. Although I may only see you every six weeks based on the rotation schedule, there are many attributes of individual congregations I lift up in Thanksgiving.

I am Thankful for.....

BBLC-Bethel Park Bethany Lutheran. First and for most, ample parking. Plus, your progressive ways of communicating with one another through social media, texting and saving trees. Your Sunday "fun" School is very attractive and exemplifies the Body of Christ. I thank you.

CLC- Christ Lutheran: For your ministry towards young women offering prom dresses to attend an event they may not otherwise be able to attend. In addition, for allowing me to choose a pink dress for a Hospice patient who wanted to wear the dress as her bridal and burial gown. And of course the 40 plus baptismal gowns and jumpers for babies who may never leave the Neo-Intensive Care Unit. I thank you.

DBLC- Dormont- Bethany Evangelical Lutheran. For the last standing choir who gets up every Sunday to sing praise and glory to God. And of course your awesome fish fry's and free Turkey dinners as an outreach to the community. I thank you.

ELLC-East Liberty Lutheran. For your steadfastness and patience while you seek a new church building ever mindful of wanting to stay in the community. For your willingness to tackle difficult social issues be it immigration, refugee resettlement or mental illness in the community. I thank you.

LCOS-Lutheran Church of Our Savior. For the presence of your wind chimes dancing in the air as a reminder of the Holy Spirit gathering with us. For your members who need assistance getting to church be it with a wheelchair or a walker, who serve as witnesses to the importance of weekly attendance and the great lengths they will go to get a place at the table. I thank you.

MLC-Messiah Lutheran- For your personal and professionalism. There is no doubt this is truly a Lutheran church with your ushers at the front door, the love and support exemplified by your members and of course the non-judgmental person who entered my car to turn off my lights. I thank you.

MTLC-Mt. Oliver-Trinity Evangelical Lutheran. For the cherubs in the balcony singing Glory to God in the highest! For hosting a much needed diaper bank, and for offering backpacks to students as they begin a new school year. I thank you.

RLC- Resurrection Lutheran. For sponsoring the Nursery School in your building and the children's beautiful art work adorning the foyer. One can't help but feel young again seeing their creativity and energy. For opening your doors at Election time so neighbors could fulfill their civic duty. I thank you.

SAL-St. Andrew Lutheran. For your weekly procession of the crucifix reminding us all who leads us and who we are to follow. For your unconditional welcome and acceptance for all who walk to church every Sunday. I thank you.

SPLC- St. Paul's Lutheran. For your flexibility and willingness to be open to new ideas. For weddings, and Baptisms. I thank you.

STLC -Sheraden-Trinity Evangelical Lutheran. For actively putting young people in roles of leadership Sunday morning and your support and mentorship of a Seminarian. I thank you.

ZLC-Zion Ev. Lutheran. For your crochet blankets and bonnies for the infants at CHP. And not sure how this happens but for always being an ever present support after a long three day weekend of being on call and helping me discern Law from Gospel. I thank you.

To our amazing Secretaries/ Administrative Assistants who never miss a beat producing the weekly bulletin, monthly newsletter, answering calls with a smile and serving as the backbone for daily operations. I thank you.

And for our extraordinary Pastors who have answered the Call to full time ministry who give selflessly of their time, their wisdom and experience bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ to all who have ears to hear. I too, give thanks for prayers lifted up each and every day. For God sightings, acknowledging the many ways God still actively encounters us. And most of all, for the opportunity to gather with the faithful, preach the Gospel and share in The Eucharistic Service on a weekly basis. I thank you.

May you and your family have a warm and blessed Thanks-filled holiday season with the tastes, smells and colors of Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas, with family, friends and God.

Pastor Elizabeth Mayforth

"If the only prayer you say in your whole life is, 'Thank you,' it would suffice."
—Meister Eckhart, 13th-century German monk

THOSE WHO SERVE THIS MONTH

Greeters:

11:15 A.M.	Nena & Nick Kratsas
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WORSHIP SERVICE SUNDAYS – SCHEDULE

Date	Communion Asst. 11:15 AM	Reader 11:15 AM	Acolyte 11:15 AM
12/3	Michael Unger	Michael Unger	Nick Usouski & Arlo Yarroll
12/10	Cathy Irwin	Deborah Wanamaker	Hunter Wigand & Giovanna Wigand
12/17	Don McIntyre	Nena Kratsas	Jason Turske & Megan Turske
12/24	11:15 a.m. Service Jane Scheeser	11:15 a.m. Service Jane Scheeser	11:15 a.m. Service Nick Usouski
12/24	7:30 p.m. Candlelight Service Sydney Litzenburger	7:30 p.m. Candlelight Service Sydney Litzenburger	7:30 p.m. Candlelight Service Hunter Wigand & Giovanna Wigand
12/31	Don McIntyre	Deborah Wanamaker	Arlo Yarroll

FLOWERS AND ETERNAL CANDLE

12/3	OPEN
12/10	OPEN
12/17	OPEN
12/24	Beverly Jordan – In Loving Memory of Mother, Mary Zedel, and Friend Grace Crissman
12/31	OPEN
Eternal Candle	The Irwin Family – In Loving Memory of Mom & Dad (Arlene & Brian MacDonald)

You may either take the flowers with you after the service, or if you prefer, you may leave them on the altar. Cost of **flowers** is **\$60 (\$30/arrangement)** per Sunday. Cost of the **eternal candle** is **\$20** per month.



FLOWERS AND ETERNAL CANDLE

There are several dates still available for flowers and the Eternal Candle.
Please check the Flower Chart in the Narthex.



FLOWERS

The 2018 Flower Chart will be in the Narthex beginning December 10th.
The cost per arrangement is \$30.00.

USHERS' SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

Leigh Brooks, Nick Kratsas, Joan Anthony

OFFERING COUNTERS' SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

The Offering Counters for the month of December are Sandy Burns and Jane Scheeser.

PARISH EDUCATION



BETHANY ADULTS: WE'VE BEEN MISSING YOU!

Sunday School isn't just for kids anymore. In fact, it never was!

This little reminder is to encourage the men and women of Bethany, regardless if age, to join the adult class which meets **every Sunday at 9:45 a.m.** in the old church sanctuary. Just follow the aroma of perking coffee. (Sometimes there's even a little something to go with it). LaMonte Yarroll leads this class, but members have always had a say in what we study.

This class has no tests, and everyone is encouraged to express opinions about our lessons.

If you're the quiet type, that's fine, too. We'd still love to have you with us.

Our Bibles are always close by during class, but this is much more than a just a Bible study group.

We're currently going through "by heart," a video and book on Luther's "Small Catechism."

Please...come join us and see what we're talking about!



NURSERY NEWS

The Children's Nursery is Available During the 11:15 A.M. Worship. The nursery will open at 11:00 A.M. each Sunday. Bethany's Nursery is not staffed but available for children ages 6 and under.

We ask that you please accompany and supervise your little ones in the nursery.

Parents can feel free to take their children to the nursery immediately following the children's sermon.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION



ALTAR GUILD POINSETTIA PLANTS

Poinsettia plants will once again be available for Christmas.

The 3-stem plants are available in red or white. **The cost is \$14.00.**

If you would like to order a plant, please sign your name on the signup sheet in the narthex.

Deadline for ordering is Sunday, December 3rd.



LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!

Choir practice will meet each Wednesday at 7:00 P.M.

Please join us!!!

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



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WOMEN OF THE BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Tuesday, December 12th at 12:00 Noon

Anne's Chop House at 2783 South Park Road, Bethel Park

Phone: 412-854-2667

Reservations: Please submit yours, along with prepayment by cash or check to Sandy Lutz or Grenith Fisher. Deadline to purchase is December 3rd Cost is \$16.00 (which includes tip).

*****The Menu*****

Entre: Chicken Marcela and Beef Roulades

Sides: Potato Au Gratin; Green Bean Almondine; Tossed Salad; Rolls

Dessert: Cookies provided by BLCW

If you are interested in participating in the optional gift exchange, please bring a \$5.00 wrapped gift.

If you are bringing a small child, please bring a small gift for him or her to open.

The women of Bethany work hard all year. This special occasion is our chance to relax and enjoy a good meal, and a good time together. We welcome you, and friends or family members as well, to join us as we take this time to enjoy each other's company.



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ANNUAL BLCW QUILT RAFFLE
The subject of this year's quilt?
The amazing Pittsburgh Penguins!

Raffle tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00.

Ticket sales supply much of the money which the Bethany Lutheran Church Women's Group uses to support various charities which solicit our help during the year. Many, like SHIM, the food pantry and Washington City Mission are well known to all.

Other recipients are chosen according to need.

We also share some funds with Bethany itself, as the need arises.

We are a small group, but with your help, we can do great things!

The winning raffle ticket will be drawn at the Women's Christmas lunch in December.

Thank you for your support!



**CELEBRATE THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION
WITH MARTIN LUTHER**

Take Martin Luther on your travels and see how far we can spread the word of God's love!
Take a paper Martin Luther cutout with you as you travel our city, our state, our country, and our world.

Bring back news of your trip so we can mark on the map just how far Martin has gone.

Photo evidence is encouraged but not necessary.



PRAYER CHAIN

Anyone wishing to be on the Bethany Prayer Chain, please contact Cathy Irwin by email at cirwin77@hotmail.com, or Terry Simony in the Bethany Church Office by phone: 412-835-9221.

CELEBRATIONS WITHIN OUR CONGREGATION IN DECEMBER



Happy Birthday to the following individuals:

1-December Michael Vargo	10-December Diane Handshue	22-December Rachael Schreiber
4-December Cathy Irwin	10-December Bill Ripper	24-December Carolyn Petrovich
4-December Lisa Unger	18-December Deborah Wanamaker	28-December RJ Handshue
6-December Matthew Monte	19-December Kris Volpatti	31-December Scott Hirschman
8-December Ruth Lipinski	21-December Nena Kratsas	



Happy Anniversary to the following couples:

1-December Stephanie & Patrick Corbett	28-December Sharon & Leigh Brooks
1-December Kris & Dan Volpatti	29-December Pat & Bill Van Kirk



NEWSLETTER

If you have information that you would like to appear in the newsletter, **please** either e-mail the information to Terry Simony at admin@blcbp.org, or drop it off at the church

NO LATER THAN TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12TH BY 10:00 A.M., for the **JANUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER.**