

The Visitor

October 2017

The Newsletter for Bethany Lutheran Church
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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)



Pastor Appreciation Month



EVANGELISM COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, October 5th at 7:00 P.M.

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN'S GROUP
Tuesday, October 10th at 11:00 A.M.

PARISH EDUCATION MEETING
To Be Determined

WORSHIP/MUSIC COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, October 11th at 7:00 P.M.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, October 19th at 7:00 P.M.



FLU SHOT CLINIC
Sunday, October 22nd at 12:30 P.M.

CARE AND SHARE MEETING
Tuesday, October 24th at 11:00 A.M.

COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, October 26th at 7:00 P.M.



REFORMATION SUNDAY
Sunday, October 29th at 3:00 P.M.



**FALL FESTIVAL – CELEBRATION OF THE 500TH YEAR OF REFORMATION
AND ALL SAINTS PAST & PRESENT**
Sunday, November 5th at 4:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.

Dear Partners in Ministry,

Hurricanes make my stomach hurt...and my heart ache.... and my head explode! Harvey, Irma and now Maria! As I sit down to write this article a category 5 hurricane is battering the U.S. Virgin Islands and is bearing down on Puerto Rico. Those poor people in the Caribbean, in Texas and Louisiana, in Florida! As the pictures of the destruction roll across my T.V. screen I can actually smell the horrible stench of the muck that is left behind when flood waters recede.

For those of you who don't know, I was involved in two years worth of clean up and recovery after Hurricane Ivan brought terrible flooding to the Chartiers Valley area including Carnegie. That flooding occurred after **6 inches of rain** fell. I can't even begin to imagine what **40+ inches of rain** would be like or **160 mile per hour winds** and **10 feet of storm surge!** It will take years for these communities to recover. Do you realize that communities in Louisiana and Mississippi are still recovering from Hurricane Katrina and that was 12 years ago?

So what can we do? Well, I can pass on what I learned first hand after Ivan.

If you want to get aid to these communities the best thing to do it is to send money. Anything else takes time to organize, transport and store. Cash provides flexibility. What is needed most can be purchased and provided quickly. The very last thing that is helpful is the collection of clothing and furniture. These items take way to many volunteer hours to sort, transport and store. Send cash!

Also, if you want the most bang for your buck, send your money to church relief efforts. I say this for two reasons. First, the churches already have the administrative structures in place, paid for and operational so your donation goes directly to aiding the victims of the disaster and not to administrative costs. Second, all of the various relief organizations have their roles and they perform them well. The Red Cross provides immediate relief, water, emergency shelter, cleaning supplies. But they leave town in two weeks. FEMA arrives to provide some financial assistance but is gone within a month or two. The organizations that are there for the long haul, that stick by the people whose lives have been devastated and left to pick up the pieces are the churches! Not only do the churches stay behind to assist with the clean up and recovery but their efforts are coordinated so that they work together to meet all areas of need.

So, if you are looking for a way to help and you're willing to take the advice of someone who has stood in the muck with flood victims, has seen the heart wrenching devastation and experienced first hand how relief and recovery work gets carried out, give your dollars to the church. For us Lutherans it's the ELCA's Disaster Response. You can put your donation in an envelope, mark it Hurricane Disaster Response and put it in the offering plate on Sunday. We'll see it gets delivered. Or you can mail it in yourself. You can even pick which hurricane relief work you want it to go to: Harvey, Irma, or Maria! The address is included here. Just remember, when the excitement is over, the media leaves town, and the big relief organizations have moved on to the next disaster, it's the churches that remain until the recovery is complete.

Pastor Beth

Make checks payable to Lutheran Disaster Response

Send to:

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,
ELCA Gift Processing Center P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

Write "Hurricane Response, United States (or Harvey, or Irma or Maria)" or
"Lutheran Disaster Response where needed"



Hello my name is Brenda Henry. I am a recent graduate of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (June 2017) where I earned my Masters of Divinity degree. Prior to seminary, I worked as a social worker. I received both my undergraduate (90) and Masters of Social Work (92) degrees from Michigan State University. My concentrations of study were child welfare and medical social work. My career focus has been advocacy for those that have struggled with poverty, are from lower-socioeconomic backgrounds and members of under-representative, “hard-to-serve” and marginalized communities. I have primarily worked with women and families in a variety of settings (i.e. hospitals, nursing home, not-for-profit, academia and governmental) with the aim/goal of assisting them to obtain the services needed to improve overall health, well-being and quality of life. This has included direct care, education, program management and advocacy to ameliorate the effects of systemic issues of poverty, oppression and racism.

I am originally from the Caribbean. I was born and raised in St. Croix, US Virgin Islands. I am a first generation American. My dad was from the island of Antigua. My mother was born on the island of Montserrat and raised on St. Kitts. I am the proud mother of two. My daughter is a junior at LaSalle University in Philadelphia as a scholarship recipient majoring in International Business/Marketing. My son is a college sophomore. He spent his first year at Waynesburg University where he was a member of the football team and a Bonner Scholar. We discovered that this was not the best fit for him. So as we explore other options, he is continuing to pursue his Business Administration degree at CCAC. My younger sister is also a very important part of my nuclear family as she was ‘my first’ child who lived with me from the age of thirteen. We relocated to Pittsburgh in 2004 and have made it our home.

I have had an ecumenical faith journey. I was baptized and confirmed as a Moravian in St. Croix, USVI. I spent my young adult years as a member of a UCC congregation in Lansing, Michigan. While living in Pittsburgh I have been a Baptist until April of 2017 when I joined Hope Lutheran Church of Forest Hills. During my spiritual journey, I have come to appreciate that God is ever present and uses many hands and variety of settings to serve his creation.

In the past two years I had the wonderful opportunity to be mentored by Pastor Susan Schwartz at the Children’s Institute and at Hope Lutheran. At the Children’s Institute, I grew to understand the role of Chaplaincy in the healing process. A big part of that experience was appreciating how ministry intersects both in the secular space and congregations. It allowed me to see how both of my vocations are an unfolding part of God’s plan for me. At Hope Lutheran I was privileged to see and be a part of what God is doing through the various ministries. I have grown to treasure the Hope’s community dedication to being a witness to others of God’s unmeasurable grace. It is through this support of Hope and my wonderful mentors Pastor Schwartz, Pastor Karen Battle and Pastor Beth Siefert that I am now in my discernment process of ordained ministry in ELCA. I am delighted to continue my training with PLUM. I look forward to learning from and working with this community and seeing how God is at work.

Peace and Blessings,
Brenda N. Henry
PLUM Student Minister

THOSE WHO SERVE THIS MONTH

Greeters:

11:15 A.M.	Chris & Chuck Conn
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WORSHIP SERVICE SUNDAYS – SCHEDULE

Date	Communion Asst. 11:15 AM	Reader 11:15 AM	Acolyte 11:15 AM
10/1	Sydney Litzenburger	Deborah Wanamaker	Julie Brooks
10/8	Cathy Irwin	Nena Kratsas	Nick Usouski
10/15	Michael Unger	Michael Unger	Jason Turske & Jeremy Blocklin
10/22	Jane Scheeser	Jane Scheeser	Hunter Wigand & Giovanna Wigand
10/29	Don McIntyre	Don McIntyre	Julie Brooks

FLOWERS AND ETERNAL CANDLE

10/1	OPEN
10/8	Chris and Chuck Conn – In Celebration of their 50 th Wedding Anniversary
10/15	OPEN
10/22	OPEN
10/29	
Eternal Candle	Karen Housam – To the Glory of God

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.

USHERS' SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER

Chuck Conn, Nick Kratsas, Leigh Brooks

OFFERING COUNTERS' SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER

The Offering Counters for the month of October are Michael Unger and Leigh Brooks.



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.



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 Monday, October 23rd by 10:00 A.M.**, for the **November Newsletter**.

PARISH EDUCATION



Thank you to everyone who attended Rally Day and the picnic last Sunday. It was a fun start to the Sunday School year! Special thanks go out to the Fellowship Committee for providing the delicious food and assistance during meal time. We appreciate your support with this event.

Parish Ed Committee



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



FLU SHOT CLINIC

Stay healthy this flu season – Rite Aid will be at Bethany Lutheran Church on **Sunday, October 22nd at 12:30 P.M.** to administer flu shots. They take all insurances including Medicaid.

Please be sure to bring your insurance card.

Invite a friend!

Come on.....Let’s get healthy together!

WE  **VOLUNTEERS**



WE  **VOLUNTEERS**

GRASS CUTTING FOR OCTOBER 2017

Please take a moment to sign-up and donate a few hours to cut the lawn this season.

Your help is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

If you have any questions, **please call Keith Hartbauer at 724-469-3729.**



LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!

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

Please join us!!!

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



REFORMATION SUNDAY

FREED & RENEWED IN CHRIST

500 YEARS OF GOD’S GRACE IN ACTION

Pittsburgh Lutheran United Ministries (PLUM) invites you to join us for worship on Reformation Sunday,

October 29th at 3:00 P.M. at Bethany Lutheran Church.

Refreshments will follow.



BLESSING OF PETS

Come one.....Come All!!!

.....and bring your pets for a blessing on **October 8th at 3:00 P.M.** on the front lawn of the Church. Treats for the animals with four legs, wings, fins, (*and yes*), treats for all the people owned by their pets.



GOD’S WORK, OUR HANDS CONTEST

Can Bethany Lutheran Church bring in a total of 500 (*for Reformation*) items?

- Baby Wipes
- Diaper Rash Crème
- Diapers



Each package counts as one. If we make it, Pastor Melba will treat everyone to Rita’s on Sunday, October 29th. The donations will go to Lutheran Church of Our Savior located in Irwin.



Sunday, October 15th from 6:00 P.M. to 7:30 P.M.

Young and old alike are invited to come have a hauntingly good time at this fun fall event!

KIDS - Wear your costumes and bring your plastic pumpkins, trick-or-treat bags or pillow cases to gather candy and treats from our hosts as you parade through and around our church!

HOSTS – Please arrive at the church between **5:30 P.M. and 5:45 P.M.** to setup and be ready for the **trunk-or-treaters who will visit beginning at 6:00 P.M.** Someone will be there to direct you where to park and help you choose a spot.

Decorated areas and costumes are not required, but add to the fun!

We recommend planning for least 100 kids.

If you are interested in hosting a trunk, it’s not too late to sign up. Also – if you cannot make it but would like to help out, we could use donations of treats to pass out to the children.

Contact Buzz Handshue (buzz.handshue@gmail.com) or sign up in the Narthex on the bulletin board.

This event is open to the community! Invite your family and friends!

Community groups that want to participate/host a spot are welcome as well.



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.



**FALL FESTIVAL
CELEBRATION OF THE 500TH YEAR OF REFORMATION
AND ALL SAINTS PAST AND PRESENT**

This event will be an advance ticket only event that includes a “German food” catered dinner and entertainment on **Sunday, November 5th from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM. (Daylight Savings Begins)**

German beer and wine will be available to enjoy with your dinner for an additional cost (for those 21 and older).

We are planning to have a “LutherUber” available to those that may need a ride to the event and back home.

Details of the cost and menu will be available in early October.



BREAKERS WANTED!

Definition: Breakers are people who serve as **sponsors for (a special friend to)** the homebound / shut-in. They are “Breakers” because they serve the Lord by *breaking* into the lives of the homebound so that they don’t feel so isolated and alone.

What does a Breaker Do?

1. A Breaker signs up to be the sponsor (a special friend) of one or more of Bethany’s homebound members.
2. A Breaker tries to pay a visit at least once a month.
3. A Breaker is respectful of the homebound member(s) and treats them accordingly.
4. A Breaker remembers the shut-in on birthdays and other holidays with a card, special visit or whatever seems appropriate, including informing the congregation of the upcoming event.
5. A Breaker finds out about the shut-in’s circumstances and may, depending on the situation, offer to do some small thing for the shut-in (especially if he or she doesn’t have family for support). (This service might include shopping, transportation to a doctor’s appointment, reading, writing, etc.)
6. A Breaker keeps in touch with the pastors if there is a problem or crisis that arises in the life of the homebound, for example, changing health issues or upcoming medical procedures. A Breaker supplements the visits of the pastors.
7. A Breaker may or may not serve as a Eucharistic Minister (distributing Communion) for his/her shut-in.

We’re asking the members of Bethany to prayerfully consider participating in this ministry to the homebound of our faith family. We are aware that some of our members are already providing ministry to our homebound. We would like to build on that ministry. If you are already serving or interested/willing in serving in this ministry, please sign up on the sheet provided. Please select the homebound member(s) you would like to serve. Also, if you are interested in adding Eucharistic Minister to your role as a Breaker just write “yes” in that column of the sign-up sheet. There will be a training session to equip those willing to serve in that capacity. If you have any questions or would like to speak to the pastors to find out more about this ministry, please do so.

IN OUR COMMUNITY



EVENT IN OUR COMMUNITY

The South Park Women’s Club is holding their **Annual Craft Show** on **Saturday, October 7th** from **10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.** It will be held in the **Home Economics Building in South Park.**
 We hope to see many of you there for lunch and shopping.
 We thank you for helping us

CELEBRATIONS WITHIN OUR CONGREGATION IN OCTOBER



Happy Birthday to the following individuals:

6-Oct. Karen Housam	16-Oct. Lorraine Stokes	26-Oct. Eve Yarroll
6-Oct. Julie Currie	19-Oct. Matthew Mihalko	26-Oct. William Harrison
7-Oct. Alfred Hanna	23-Oct. Ron Scheeser	28-Oct. Patricia Van Kirk



Happy Anniversary to the following individuals:

1-Oct Jill & Joe Bianco	6-Oct. Jennifer & Bryan Hucko
4-Oct. Ruth & Ron Lipinski	7-Oct. Chris & Chuck Conn