

The Visitor

August 2018

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)

WORSHIP AND MUSIC MEETING

Wednesday, August 8th at 6:00 P.M.

PARISH EDUCATION MEETING

Thursday, August 9th at 7:00 P.M.

BLCW'S ANNUAL PICNIC

Tuesday, August 14th at 12:00 Noon

MOVIE ON THE LAWN

Wednesday, August 15th at 7:30 P.M.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, August 16th at 7:00 P.M.

COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, August 23rd at 7:00 P.M.

ANNUAL DIBBLE POOL PARTY

Saturday, August 25th, 2:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.

CARE AND SHARE MEETING

Tuesday, August 28th at 11:00 A.M.

LEMONADE ON THE LAWN

Sunday, September 2nd immediately following the Worship Service

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE MEETING

Next Meeting will be held Thursday, September 6th at 7:00 P.M.

August 2018 Newsletter Article

“TAKING A BREAK!”

Here we are in the ‘dog days’ of summer. The heat and the humidity sends us indoors to find relief through air conditioning. And if we don’t have air conditioning available to us, we find a cool iced drink and a shady spot to sit and think. We may not be motivated to do any specific tasks and our church may be way down on our list of things to think about or activities in which to participate.

Certainly we all deserve a break from our usual routines and there are opportunities to enjoy summer activities that are not always available to us at other times of the year. These activities might include visiting with relatives, traveling to places we haven’t been before or going back to someplace that we once enjoyed in previous summers. These breaks in routine might include going up to a lake house or a camp site and relaxing. Or there are often a variety of picnics, pool parties, and sports games in which to participate.

Amidst all these ‘summer breaks,’ let us be reminded that God never takes a break from guiding, supporting, and sustaining our life and spirit. In fact God may have to increase God’s efforts to lift us up as we ‘take a break’ from our normal routine or ‘take a break’ from church attendance and activity. Do you remember the story of Jesus observing the first disciples applying their skill at fishing? After their initial encounter, Jesus calls Peter, James and the others to ‘take a break’ from the familiar, usual routine of fishing and explore with him what it would be like to ‘fish for people.’ They were so taken by surprise that they dropped their nets, abandoned their father’s business and followed Jesus. It meant a complete change in their life.

What might happen to you if Jesus were to walk by as you are fishing, swimming at the lake, on vacation, or just sitting in the shade enjoying a cool drink during the heat of an August afternoon? While ‘taking a break’ may be important for your spiritual, mental and physical wellbeing, be forewarned that Jesus is still walking around seeking disciples who can spread the liberating message of the Gospel.

I wonder if there is a way to ‘take a break’ but at the same time continue to be a part of the on-going life of the church. In some of our congregations, members participate in automatic withdrawal to keep their offering regular through their absence. Other members make it a habit to pray for the congregation, its ministry, and anyone who has requested special prayers for healing or consolation. Scripture reading is another way to keep in close contact with God and God’s on-going mission among us.

As August brings us its gifts of sunny days and time off, let us give thanks as we remember Jesus’ promise: “Lo, I am with you always to the end of the age.”

+Pastor Paul on behalf of the pastoral team



From the desk of the Pastor

Occasionally “From the Desk of the Pastor”, we will feature a member of our congregation. Here is a fine example of “love thy neighbor” written by Sydney Litzenburger.

On the evening of June 20 at 8:10PM, after the conclusion of our VBS, I headed to my home in Bethel Park. A heavy rain had started to fall which was hard enough for people to drive slowly with their hazard lights on. I arrived safely and ran into my home in the midst of a torrential downpour. Little did I know that on this night my world would be forever immeasurably changed.

Within minutes of arriving home, I realized my next door neighbor’s basement was becoming flooded by the rain. I called him asking what I could do, and I frantically called the Bethel Park Police Department to ask them to send the fire department over to pump out Keith’s house. Once I heard the dispatcher’s voice, I knew Bethel Park was in the midst of a very serious situation. I swept flood water out of my basement, assisted my neighbor, prayed for my community, turned on the news, and finally, I logged onto my Facebook account. I immediately saw a post from a young mother who owns Hunter Spring Farm on Stoltz Road in Bethel Park. Lizzie was pleading for help as her barn, her horses, and her livelihood were being directly impacted by the flood waters. Becky Luzier, President of the Black Hawk Family Relief Fund, was the first to respond to this young woman, her child, and her needs. She offered a \$500 donation from the BHFRF to begin rebuilding the barn and reached out to the Citizens of Bethel Park to assist in the relief efforts. On Thursday, June 21, volunteers began arriving as the sun rose and flood waters receded in Bethel Park. People came because there was a neighbor in need; people came because God commands us to love our neighbor as ourselves; people came because they are good and kind and faith filled, and these qualities are paramount on this earth.

From that initial post on the Citizens of Bethel Park Facebook page, more and more followed. Becky Luzier, Lauren Bradley, Courtney Smith, and myself banded together with residents and representatives from the Municipality of Bethel Park to reach out to families and businesses affected by the flood. Relief efforts were coordinated with Tim Moury, Bethel Park Council President, as well as key municipal employees/representatives and scores of citizen volunteers. Homemade meals were prepared and delivered to people in need; clothes were gathered, laundered, and returned to those whose washers/dryers were ruined in the flood; cleaning supplies were donated by citizens and distributed by the Bethel Park Volunteer Fire Company and volunteers at the Bethel Park Arts and History Center (Schoolhouse Arts Center); physical goods were donated to replace those damaged in the flood; gift cards were donated and distributed as volunteers reached out to assist with removing household items damaged by the flooding and rebuild homes. The Salvation Army, American Red Cross, and Southern Baptist Convention Disaster Relief Team members arrived to assist in our efforts. A week of appreciation was organized to thank the first responders and refuse workers who served Bethel Park during the flood and the weeks to follow. In the midst of uncertainty, Bethel Park became a community where neighbors helped neighbors, strangers became friends, and we became stronger than we ever imagined possible.

For more than a month, a wave of empathy and kindness has washed across Bethel Park which will define our future. People have recognized each other’s needs and responded accordingly. Jesus asked us to love our neighbors as ourselves, and we heard His whispers. I cannot think of a more fitting time to fall upon my knees and thank Him for that mission. I am His servant, and I am forever changed by the flood of June 20, 2018.

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”
Mark 12:30-31

“Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all.” *Proverbs 31:29*

“When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, “Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.” *Fred Rogers*

If you would like to make a donation to the ongoing relief efforts, please do so at: Black Hawk Family Relief Fund; 2765 South Park Road; PO Box 105; Bethel Park, PA 15102.

Join us on August 12 from 4-7PM for a BP Flood Relief Family Fun Festival at Independence Middle School; 2807 Bethel Church Road; Bethel Park, PA 15102. There will be food trucks, local vendors, music, raffle baskets, and a kid’s zone full of activities.

THOSE WHO SERVE THIS MONTH

Greeters:

11:15 A.M.	Karen Housam
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WORSHIP SERVICE SUNDAYS – SCHEDULE

Date	Communion Asst. 11:15 AM	Reader 11:15 AM	Acolyte 11:15 AM
8/5	Michael Unger	Michael Unger	Jeremy Blocklin
8/12	Jane Scheeser	Dawn Hanna	Megan Turske
8/19	Don McIntyre	Mark Kuehl	Alison Hanna
8/26	Michele Dowell	Nena Kratsas	Jason Turske

FLOWERS AND ETERNAL CANDLE

8/5	OPEN
8/12	OPEN
8/19	OPEN
8/26	Jane Scheeser & Ruth Lipinski – In Loving Memory of Our Beloved Grandmother, Ruth S. Langkamp
Eternal Candle	OPEN

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.
The cost per arrangement is \$30.00.**

USHERS' SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST

Dan Volpatti, Don McIntyre and Mark Kuehl

OFFERING COUNTERS' SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST

The Offering Counters for the month of August are Nick Kratsas and Chuck Conn.



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.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION



CHURCH LIBRARY

Over the years, excess reading materials have collected on BLC Library shelves and surrounding space. Council has approved reducing and re-organizing these items onto the existing library shelves.

If there are any materials you would like to add to your personal home library, please feel free to do so at this time.

Sydney Litzenburger and Sandy Lutz will be working throughout the summer to consolidate and re-organize the Library for your reading/borrowing pleasure.



GRASS CUTTING FOR 2018

The grass is growing and Bethany's sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the narthex just waiting for your name!! There are many weeks open on the volunteer's list. Please take a moment to sign-up and donate a few hours to cut the lawn this season. Your help is greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions please call Auggie Burns at 412-303-8820.

PARISH EDUCATION



MOVIE ON THE LAWN

Wednesday, August 15th at 7:30 P.M., the Education Committee is sponsoring a Movie on the Lawn. All are welcome to attend. Popcorn and drinks will be provided.



BLCW ANNUAL SCHOOL KIT FUND DRIVE

For the past two years, the women of Bethany have worked to supply Lutheran World Relief with as many "school kits" as possible. With our group cutting and sewing the book bags and your help with supplies needed to fill them, we have been able to send 64 kits out to the neediest children in the world. These little ones were able to walk to school with their heads held high because we gave them the means to learn.

We're doing that again this year, but making it easier for members of the congregation to help.

We are NOT asking you to buy anything. We'll do all that. All we need is a little money from you to make this good thing happen. Please place donations in an envelope marked "BLCW School Kits" and hand it to either Grenith Fisher or Sandy Lutz.

You may also leave envelopes at the church office, in our BLCW mail slot.

Together, we can change the world for the better, one literate child at a time. Thank you for helping!"



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.

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



BLCW'S ANNUAL PICNIC Tuesday, August 14th in the Fellowship Hall The fun begins at Noon!

Inviting all women of Bethany, friends, children, and grandchildren to BLCW's Annual Picnic!
A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex.
This is not a potluck – the treats are on us!



ANNUAL DIBBLE POOL PARTY 1443 Stoltz Road, Bethel Park, PA 15102 Saturday, August 25, 2018 2:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Items to bring: Bathing Suit, Towel, Floats, Lotion, Cover-up, a Side Dish to share
RSVP: 412-212-8794



SOUTH HILLS INTERFAITH MOVEMENT (SHIM)

South Hills Interfaith Movement (SHIM) is a human services organization dedicated to improving the lives of people in need across the South Hills area. SHIM's mission is to empower individuals and families to achieve stability and self-sufficiency by offering short-term help with basic needs, including food, clothing and utilities. Long-term assistance to help people build and sustain promising futures includes employment, financial planning, youth programs, and family support.

Through the years, Bethany Lutheran Church and SHIM have had a long standing relationship. We have collected food, Angel Tree items, clothing, and monetary donations. Now more than ever SHIM needs our support.

Each Sunday we will be collecting a certain item to be donated to SHIM.

We have found that when people are given something specific to shop for, the mission is much more successful.

The following items will be collected in the Bethany Lutheran narthex:

The following items will be collect in the Bethany Lutheran narthex:

AUGUST 5: Rice



AUGUST 19: Soup



AUGUST 12: Dried Beans



AUGUST 26: Spices



Together we can make a difference in the lives of many of our South Hills neighbors in need. Together we bless the lives of our brothers and sisters in Christ, and God smiles.

Peace,
Bethany Lutheran Church Liaisons to South Hills Interfaith Movement



LEMONADE ON THE LAWN

The Fellowship and Evangelism Committee invites you to join together for our next **“Lemonade on the Lawn”** on **Sunday, September 2nd** immediately following our Worship Service.

Take time to experience the joys of fellowship with our members and visitors.

We will serve cold drinks and home baked cookies.

The event will be hosted by Linda Plesniak and Grenith Fisher.



Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church in Dormont is considering starting a joint Handbell Choir with the fellow churches of **P.L.U.M.** Bethany-Dormont would like to see if there is an interest from our members to join them. If you would like to be a part of a joint choir such as this, please contact Karen in the Church Office-Dormont (412-531-9363 or bethany-dormont@verizon.net). Please see the detailed information posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

CELEBRATIONS WITHIN OUR CONGREGATION IN AUGUST



Happy Birthday to the following individuals:

7-Aug. Nick Usouski	17-Aug. Megan Turske	25-Aug. Joan Anthony
10-Aug. Brian Irwin	17-Aug. Marian Volpatti	25-Aug. Charles Conn
12-Aug. Robert Yanyo	20-Aug. Dalton Harrison	27-Aug. Lisa Turske
14-Aug. Joyce Bruni	24-Aug. Kelli McNamara	27-Aug. Ryan & Michael Volpatti
14-Aug. Richard Dowell	24-Aug. Brittany Wanamaker	



Happy Anniversary to the following individuals:

10-Aug. Beth & Joe Hancsak	18-Aug. Jeannine & Ron Stowers	30-Aug. Carol & Rich Petrovich
13-Aug. Dawn & Alfred Hanna	26-Aug. Eve & LaMonte Yarroll	



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, AUGUST 20th BY 10:00 A.M., for the **SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER**.





Bethany Lutheran Church

August 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 11:15am: Worship 	6	7	8 6:00pm: Worship & Music Meeting 	9 7:00pm: Parish Ed Meeting 	10	11
12 11:15am: Worship 	13	14 12N: BLCW Annual Picnic 	15 7:30pm: Movie on The Lawn 	16 7:00pm: Stewardship Meeting 	17	18
19 11:15am: Worship 	20 Newsletter Items Due By 10:00 a.m. 	21	22	23 7:00pm: Council Meeting 	24	25 2:00pm: Annual Dibble Pool Party 
26 11:15am: Worship 	27	28 11:00am: Care & Share 	29	30	31	

