

The Visitor

July 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)



Happy Fourth of July

LEMONADE ON THE LAWN

Sunday, July 8th immediately following the Worship Service

BLC WOMEN'S GROUP

Tuesday, July 10th at 11:00 A.M.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, July 19th at 7:00 P.M.



PLUM PICNIC

Sunday, July 22, 2018

Picnic Lunch at 1:00 P.M.

Please see Flyer posted in the Narthex on the bulletin board for further details

CARE AND SHARE MEETING

Tuesday, July 24th at 11:00 A.M.

COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, July 26th at 7:00 P.M.

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE MEETING

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

July 2018 Newsletter Article

Introducing Pastor Jocelyn Johnston

Grace and peace to you!

I am the newest member of the pastoral staff of PLUM, coming on board as a Transitional Interim. I thought it would be helpful to tell you a little about myself. I was born and raised in western Pennsylvania, and have been a life-long Lutheran. Attending Camp Lutherlyn as a youth and working there as a counselor was an important part of both my faith formation and my understanding of my vocation. I received a Bachelor of Music in Music Education from Grove City College and worked as a substitute teacher in music for school districts in Ohio and Pennsylvania. I also held the position of Director of Children's and Youth Ministry at St. John's Lutheran Church in Kittanning, PA. It was while I was working at St. John's that I recognized a call to ordained ministry. I served my internship year at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Beachwood, NJ and received my Master of Divinity from The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (now part of United Lutheran Seminary). I have served as pastor of Zion Lutheran Church in Barnegat Light, NJ and Trinity Lutheran Church in Freeport, PA. I served the NJ Synod as the Program Coordinator for Confirmation Camp, and as a member of the Hunger Team. I have served our SWPA Synod as the chair of the Hunger Task Force and the Church in Society Committee, and as a representative on the Policy Council of LAMPa (Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in PA) and the Lutherlyn Board of Directors (currently in the position of Vice President). My interests include reading, listening to music and podcasts, dog-sitting, knitting, sewing, cheering on the Steelers, Penguins, and Pirates, ice cream, coffee and craft beer, and traveling. Running is a big part of my life, and I volunteer with a few running organizations in the city. So far, I have completed nine half-marathons (13.1 miles) and eight full marathons (26.2 miles), and have qualified to run the Boston Marathon next year.

Thank you for welcoming me into the PLUM community! I look forward to working with and getting to know all of you!

Sincerely,

Pastor Jocelyn



From the desk of the Pastor

This past week at Bethany Lutheran Church in Bethel Park, June 18-22, was one for the history books! There were twenty-two children and sixteen to twenty volunteers who made our week of vacation Bible school an exploding ☺ success. From bringing in food, gathering snack supplies, cleaning up the kitchen and feeding the kids; the kitchen ladies were the most popular ladies all week.

The ladies and teen volunteers made crafts interesting and fun. The kids looked forward to craft time every day. The experiments were educational and very exciting to perform.

Kid Vid was interesting to see as it involved real live kids and the situations they encountered that related to our Bible reading for the day. The volunteers in this area helped the kids unpack their emotions and helped them learn to trust God.

The underwater room was the place where the volunteers made the Bible story come to life through acting and adventure. Never a dull moment in this room!

The teens ran the games outside for all the kids every day. They were full of energy and patient with all ages. The games were exciting and fun.

After feeding the kids dinner, we began the VBS program with an opening. This was filled with song, skits, and down-right fun. The kids liked the music so much, before the last day, they could sing and do the motions for two songs. One was their favorite and they plan to sing this during Rally Day. When it was time to leave for the day, the kids gathered again for music and review the evening.

There was something for everyone at this VBS. A huge **Thank you** to everyone who donated, worked and prayed for us. Those who built the set were a large part of the success of this program. From making the raft to building the three rooms – the talent was awesome.

And to top off the week - we had a flood in the church. Eight hours of vacuuming water out of rugs, cleaning bathrooms, mopping floors, picking up things out of the water, scrubbing bathrooms, and so on. What a wonderful group we had to work together to get the church back up and dry.

This past week was an example of what we can do together in living in the kingdom of Christ. A guess of how many volunteers it took to get VBS ready and accomplished would be around 30 adults. **YOU DID IT!** My prayers are filled with Thanksgiving for all of you. There is nothing more precious than to see the eyes of children wide with wonder and to watch them grow in their knowledge of God.

Thank you for allowing me to be a part of this event. It was a blessing.

The Reverend Melba Dibble

THOSE WHO SERVE THIS MONTH

Greeters:

11:15 A.M.	Suse Marsh
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WORSHIP SERVICE SUNDAYS – SCHEDULE

Date	Communion Asst. 11:15 AM	Reader 11:15 AM	Acolyte 11:15 AM
7/1	Jane Scheeser	Nena Kratsas	Alison Hanna & Megan Turske
7/8	Don McIntyre	Michele Dowell	Giovanna Wigand
7/15	Michael Unger	Dawn Hanna	Arlo Yarroll
7/22	Jane Scheeser	Mark Kuehl	Alison Hanna & Giovanna Wigand
7/29	Michele Dowell	Nena Kratsas	Jason Turske

FLOWERS AND ETERNAL CANDLE

7/1	OPEN
7/8	OPEN
7/15	Donna Middleton – In Loving Memory of Mother, Mae Hayward & Father, Howard Shomo
7/22	OPEN
7/29	OPEN
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 JULY
Leigh Brooks, Nick Kratsas, Chuck Conn

OFFERING COUNTERS' SCHEDULE FOR JULY
The Offering Counters for the month of July are Sandy Burns and Jane Scheeser.



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



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



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



LEMONADE ON THE LAWN

The Fellowship and Evangelism Committee invites you to join together for "**Lemonade on the Lawn**" on Sunday, July 8th 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 Ruth Lipinski and Sheree Kuehl.

Our next "Lemonade on the Lawn" will be September 2nd



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.

Please see the detailed information posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex.



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:

JULY 1 : Flour



JULY 22: Boxed Cake Mixes/Icing



JULY 8: Sugar



JUNE 29: Baking Mix (Bisquick)



JULY 15: Baking Soda/Baking Powder



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



PLUM PICNIC

Sunday, July 22, 2018

At West Mifflin Park, 525 Bettis Road, West Mifflin

(Large Pavilion at the front of the Park)

Picnic Lunch at 1:00 P.M.

See Flyer posted in the Narthex on the bulletin board

CELEBRATIONS WITHIN OUR CONGREGATION IN JULY



Happy Birthday to the following individuals:

2-July	Donna Johnson	14-July	Alisha Wolford	26-July	Abby Joyce
2-July	Dawn Hanna	21-July	Daniel Wolford	26-July	Loretta Posch
11-July	Benjamin White	22-July	Kari Hartbauer	27-July	Ed Irwin
12-July	Beverly Jordan	24-July	Grenith Fisher	29-July	Lucy Horvat



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, JULY 16th BY 10:00 A.M.**, for the **AUGUST NEWSLETTER**.



**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED WEDNESDAY, JULY 4TH
IN OBSERVANCE OF THE HOLIDAY**
*In addition, Terry Simony will also be out of the office Tuesday, July 3rd
Thank you and have a safe holiday!*



Bethany Lutheran Church

July 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 11:15am: Worship 	2	3	4 	5	6	7
8 11:15am: Worship Lemonade on the Lawn 	9	10 11:00am: BLCW 	11	12	13	14
15 11:15am: Worship 	16	17	18	19 7:00pm: Stewardship Meeting 	20	21
22 11:15am: Worship 1:00pm: P.L.U.M. Picnic	23 Newsletter Items Due By 10:00 a.m.	24 11:00am: Care & Share 	25	26 7:00pm: Council Meeting 	27	28 1:30pm: P.L.U.M. Board Meeting
29 11:15am: Worship 	30	31				