

The Visitor

October 2018

The Newsletter for Bethany Lutheran Church

5303 Madison Avenue

Bethel Park, PA 15102

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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 4th at 7:00 P.M.

BLCW GROUP MEETING

Tuesday, October 9th at 11:00 A.M.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC MEETING

Wednesday, October 10th at 6:00 P.M.

PARISH EDUCATION MEETING

Thursday, October 11th at 7:00 P.M.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, October 18th at 7:00 P.M.

TRUNK OR TREAT

Sunday, October 21st at 6:00 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.

WASHINGTON AREA HUMANE SOCIETY

Students in the post-confirmation Sunday School collecting items on October 21st

CARE AND SHARE MEETING

Tuesday, October 23rd at 11:00 A.M.

COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, October 25th at 7:00 P.M.

JOINT REFORMATION SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday, October 28th at 3:00 P.M. – Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!

Children's Choir (6:00 P.M.) and Adult Choir (7:00 P.M.)

Practice every Wednesday. Please join us!!!

October 2018 Newsletter Article

Greetings PLUM Congregations in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus,

Fall has officially begun and I am officially a PLUM intern! It seems like just yesterday when I answered God's call to become a part of the Lutheran family and to live out my call as an ordained word and sacrament minister. PLUM has been a big part of that growth.

Since I began my time with PLUM last September, I have been accepted as an ELCA candidate for Word and Sacrament with the SWPA SYNOD. This summer I completed my Clinical Pastoral Education training, a requirement for ordination, at the VA in Aspinwall. I also moved this summer and I am now residing in the St. Andrew's parsonage that Pastor Beth so lovely cared for over the last 38 years. I hope I can continue to imbue the space with the same love and care that she gave it (big shoes to fill). Thank you to all the PLUM members who came out to help me. It was also an opportunity for my HOPE Lutheran of Forest Hills family to interact with my PLUM family. It felt like the loving arms of one family handing me over to another. I am truly grateful to both communities for the continued support and care.

On the family front, my daughter Jamila turned 21 in August and is in her final year of college at LaSalle University. My son Jaseem turned 20 in September and started at Thiel College where he is playing football. So if you haven't heard my football stories yet, they are coming. My sister Karol continues to live in Regent Square with her dog Maggie.

And at PLUM we are traveling through the Narrative Lectionary. Whew....I am tired just reflecting on all that change. But at the same time I am excited about what God is doing through our various ministries. I have been blessed to be a part of conversations on how to faithfully transition ministries through the closing of buildings while remaining responsive to God's call in our communities. I have had the joy of engaging in a Tuesday Bible study at St. Andrew in which the Holy Spirit has been revealing the drama, intrigue and shenanigans of the characters in Genesis. (Who needs soap operas when we have the Old Testament?) In the midst of the stories we see God's unmerited grace and favor in caring for God's creation despite our tendency to do things our way, not God's.

In our larger communities much is happening. The hurricane season is upon us as we witness Hurricane Florence's impact on North and South Carolina while our sister congregations in Puerto Rico continue to deal with the effects of Hurricane Maria from the last hurricane season. The reports of wide spread sexual abuse of children by religious leaders is eroding the trust of our communities at a time when many are questioning the role of religion. We are also witnesses to what God is up to in and around us. At the Assistant Bishops luncheon pastors heard a presentation by Madame Jeanne Christian from our sister synod in Madagascar. She shared about the Malagasy Lutheran Church ministries of evangelism and leadership development. I was particularly touched by their motto "Go and bring one new person for Christ every year." A number of examples of ecumenical leadership have taken place within our SYNOD, with Presbyterian Pastors serving in Lutheran churches and a Lutheran pastor serving in an Episcopal church and vice versa. At the national level, the ELCA has elected and installed its first two African-American female Bishops.

As I reflect back on this last year I am reminded how much has changed and what remains constant. God's call on my life remains constant. The command to love God and care for my neighbors remains constant. Moving forward I am called to listen and be attentive to the Holy Spirit unfolding of how to care for my neighbors – you – in loving and creative ways. To do so I must be open to listening and learning from you. I believe that Bishop Kusserow's description in the ECHO of how to communicate with each other captures this process well. According to Bishop Kusserow, what we should be communicating to each other are:

- That God loves you.
- That there is hope for the future.
- That you can trust these things because Jesus lives that message in his life, death and resurrection.
- That the church's primary goal is to bear witness to Christ.
- That we bear witness to Christ most clearly in sacramental worship and care for the neighbor.
- We do this better together than apart.
- You are an important part of our life and ministry.
- Our variety and differences do not weaken us but are a strength.
- You may ask questions without being afraid.

I look forward to what God has in store for us in this next year.

Peace and Blessings,
Vicar Brenda



From the desk of the Pastor

Fall has arrived and with it a very full schedule at Bethany Lutheran Church. I'd like to thank everyone for all that you do. Volunteers are what hold the church together (besides the Holy Spirit) and I am so thankful for all of you. I'd like to share some words of wisdom from others who are able to express the generosity of heart and soul that comes from people who volunteer.

Here's to all volunteers, those dedicated people who believe in all work and no pay. ~Robert Orben

Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation's compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain loving one another. ~Erma Bombeck

Volunteers are paid in six figures... S-M-I-L-E-S. ~Gayla LeMaire

Wherever a man turns he can find someone who needs him. ~Albert Schweitzer

Unselfish and noble actions are the most radiant pages in the biography of souls. ~David Thomas

Volunteers wear working boots but leave a trail of angel footsteps. ~Terri Guillemets

There are two ways of spreading light - to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it. ~Edith Wharton, *Vesalius in Zante*

Those who can, do. Those who can do more, volunteer. ~Author Unknown

The world is hugged by the faithful arms of volunteers. ~Terri Guillemets

We often take for granted the very things that most deserve our gratitude. ~Cynthia Ozick

Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless. ~Sherry Anderson (*Thanks, Kathy*)

It's easy to make a buck. It's a lot tougher to make a difference. ~Tom Brokaw

Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart. ~Elizabeth Andrew

No one is more cherished in this world than someone who lightens the burden of another. Thank you. ~Author Unknown

I've seen and met angels wearing the disguise of ordinary people living ordinary lives. ~Tracy Chapman

God's Blessings on each and every one of you who work to make this world better little steps at a time ~
+Melba

THOSE WHO SERVE THIS MONTH

Greeters:

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

Date	Communion Asst. 11:15 AM	Reader 11:15 AM	Acolyte 11:15 AM
10/7	Jane Scheeser	(children reading)	Giovanna Weigand
10/14	Michael Unger	Nena Kratsas	Diamond Dibble & Alysha Dibble
10/21	Don McIntyre	Mark Kuehl	Megan Turske
10/28	Jane Scheeser	Deborah Wanamaker	Arlo Yarroll

FLOWERS AND ETERNAL CANDLE

10/7	OPEN
10/14	Eric & Kelly Keiser – In Celebration of Sean’s Birthday
10/21	The Currie & Stewart Families – In Loving Memory of Mother & Grandmother
10/28	OPEN
Eternal Candle	The Keiser Family – 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.
The cost per arrangement is \$30.00.**

USHERS’ SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER

Chuck Conn, Nick Kratsas and Leigh Brooks

OFFERING COUNTERS’ SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER

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



JOINT REFORMATION SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday, October 28th at 3:00 P.M.

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church at 601 Brownsville Road, Mt. Oliver, PA 15210
Liturgy will include a time for Healing. Brenda Henry will be installed as P.L.U.M.’s Vicar.
Pastor Martin Rafanan will preach. The P.L.U.M. Handbell Choir will debut.
Refreshments will follow.



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

WE 
VOLUNTEERS



WE 
VOLUNTEERS

GRASS CUTTING FOR 2018

Please take a moment to sign-up and donate a few hours to cut the lawn.
Your help is greatly appreciated.
If you have any questions please call Auggie Burns at 412-303-8820.

PARISH EDUCATION



ITEMS FOR WASHINGTON AREA HUMANE SOCIETY

Students in the post-confirmation Sunday School class will be collecting needed items for the Washington Area Humane Society. Donations will be accepted through October 21st and include:

Purina One cat food
Purina One dog food
cat toys/scratchers
litter boxes
clay litter
dog treats
dog toys
6 ft. leashes
Martingale collars
Gift cards to Walmart, Petco, Pet Smart

Thank you for your consideration!



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



Sunday, October 21st 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 Rich Dowell (richdowell@icloud.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.



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:

OCTOBER 7: Coffee



OCTOBER 14: Peanut Butter



OCTOBER 21: Jelly



OCTOBER 28: Hot Cocoa



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



Bethany/Dormont's Director, Jim Williams, is welcoming any member of P.L.U.M. who would like to join a combined Bell choir that will perform at the Joint Reformation Service on October 28th at Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church in Mt Oliver.

We will be having rehearsals on the first three Saturdays of October (10/6, 10/13, and 10/20) at 2:00pm at Bethany/ Dormont (3104 W Liberty Avenue, 15216).

Music knowledge is not necessary, we will train you.

Please join us in this fun addition to the worship service!

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



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 22ND BY 10:00 A.M.**, for the **NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER**.



Bethany Lutheran Church

October 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 6:00pm: Children's Choir 7:00pm: Choir Practice 7:00pm: Evangelism Meeting	4 6:00pm: Scout Mtg.	5	6
7 9:45am: Parish Ed. 11:15am: Worship 	8	9 12N: BLCW Meeting  6:00pm: Scout Mtg.	10 6:00pm: Worship & Music Meeting 6:00pm: Children's Choir 7:00pm: Choir Practice 6:30pm: Scout Leader Mtg.	11 6:150pm: Scout Mtg. 7:00pm: Parish Ed Meeting	12	13
14 9:45am: Parish Ed. 11:15am: Worship 	15	16	17 6:00pm: Children's Choir 7:00pm: Choir Practice 7:00pm: Mutual Ministry Mtg.	18 6:00pm: Scout Mtg. 7:00pm: Stewardship Meeting 	19	20
21 9:45am: Parish Ed. 11:15am: Worship  5:00pm: Scout Mtg. 6:00pm: Trunk or Treat	22 Newsletter Items Due By 10:00 a.m. 	23 11:00am: Care & Share 	24 6:00pm: Children's Choir 7:00pm: Choir Practice 	25 6:15pm: Scout Mtg. 7:00pm: Council Meeting 	26	27
28 9:45am: Parish Ed. 11:15am: Worship  3:00pm: Joint Reformation Service	29	30 	31 HALLOWEEN 			



Pastor Appreciation Month

