



# BETHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## PITTSBURGH LUTHERAN UNITED MINISTRIES

### Pastors

Rev. John Gropp, Rev. Brenda Henry, Rev. Susan Devine,  
Rev. Paul Koch and Vicar Malinda Gilberti

## MARCH NEWSLETTER 2020

*“First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed throughout the world. For God, whom I serve with my spirit by announcing the gospel of his Son, is my witness that without ceasing I remember you always in my prayers.” Romans 1:8-9*

Dear Partners in Ministry,

Just a year ago, I was a new intern, preparing to lead the congregation at Hope through our Lenten journey. I was happy to be retired from my banking career and excited to start practicing the things that I had learned in Seminary. During my internship, I learned that I truly love being in ministry. There were many times that I dreamed about what my Ordination would be like. There would be music – lots of it, I would be surrounded by family and friends, and I would feel God’s presence in a way that I had not yet experienced.

I was not disappointed. My Ordination was so much more than I had imagined it would be. The music was beautiful. The church looked wonderful. The service was so meaningful. None of that could have happened without all of you. Every one of the PLUM church congregations contributed to that day, in some way.

Thank you. Thank you to our Pastoral team, who told me what to expect, who worked tirelessly to gather the things that we would need for the day, and who have supported and encouraged me. Thank you, to all of the musicians; you are a gift to our congregations. Thank you for sharing your gifts. Thank you to all who took part in the service. Thank you to those who prepared and printed the beautiful bulletin. Thank you, Katie, for making my beautiful stole and chasuble. Thank you, all who baked, cooked, set up, cleaned up and served the meal. Our church cooks are the best. I thank God for all of you.

Here I am, at the beginning of another Lenten season - this time as your Pastor. I encourage you to take advantage of the Lenten studies and special services. Spend some time in self-examination. How can you grow in your relationship with God and with your neighbor? I witnessed your love of God and your neighbor in the ways that you participated in my Ordination. How can you extend that love into our world?

May God Bless You in Your Lenten Journey,

Pastor Sue



# BETHANY NEWS

## BROTHERHOOD DINNER

The Brotherhood Dinner will be at 6:30 pm on Friday, March 6, 2020, here at Bethany. Join us for good food and fellowship

## KANE GROUP

The Kane Group will meet on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am. They will be wrapping silverware for the fish fries. Come join the fun!

## BETHANY COUNCIL MEETING

Bethany's next Church Council Meeting will be on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. All Council members are encouraged to attend.

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3/4: JOSH BAKER  
3/6: JOHANN BRUCKHOFF  
3/7: ROBERTA AVERELL  
3/7: MARK GULDEN  
3/27: LINDA ARTH



CONGRATULATION EVERYONE!!!

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR MARCH

### MARCH 1:

Pastor: Pastor M. Rafanan  
Deacons: Kim Chirico & Sam Greig  
Elder: Bob Averell

### MARCH 8:

Pastor: Pastor P. Koch  
Deacons: Colleen Butcher & TBD  
Elder: Anna Williams

### MARCH 15:

Pastor: Pastor S. Devine  
Deacons: Sandy & Paul Baker  
Elder: Bob Averell

### MARCH 22:

Pastor: Pastor B. Henry  
Deacons: Kim Chirico & Sam Greig  
Elder: Anna Williams

### MARCH 29:

Pastor: Pastor J. Gropp  
Deacons: Colleen Butcher & TBD  
Elder: Bob Averell

## 2020 BETHANY FISH FRYs

This is the 28<sup>th</sup> year for the Bethany Fish Fries. This year, the dinners will take place on three consecutive Fridays: **March 13<sup>th</sup>**, **March 20<sup>th</sup>** and **March 27<sup>th</sup>**. Volunteers will be needed for kitchen help, serving and clean up. Donations of baked goods are also appreciated. As you know, there is no charge for the dinner, but free will donations are accepted. All proceeds are given to people or organizations in the community who are in need or who assist the needy. Please join us for these delicious dinners and assist us in this worthy ministry.



**LET US REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:**

**OUR MILITARY:** Matt, Josh, Jimmy, Mike, Pat, Chad, Liz, Shawn, Bethany, Girard, Kelly, Robert, Ben, Scott, Tony, Megan, Michael, Brent and Joseph.

**THOSE THAT PROTECT & SERVE:** Craig and Jako, Tom and John

**OUR SHUT INS:** Dolly, Roberta and Mary

**THOSE WHO ARE ILL:** Roberta, Lou, Tom, Carol, Ann, Colleen, Joie, Alan, Rose, Ryan, Mary, Bud, Joanne, Patty, David, Fred, Liz, Herb, Vince, Linda, Jim, Ed, Bill, Eric, Naziario, Ardith, Debbie, Gerri, Jessica, Harvey, Ashley, Chris, Paul, Beth, Charlie & Kelsey.

**THE CHURCHES OF PLUM**

**ABIDING MINISTRIES**

**THRIVENT MEMBERS OF ST. ANDREW**

The Thrivent Choice program lets members choose where some of Thrivent Financials' charitable outreach funds go. If you are a Thrivent member who is eligible to participate in this program, you can choose Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church as one of the recipients for your annual Choice Dollars. Thank you to those who have already designated their Choice Dollars to Bethany! Your ability to designate your 2019 Choice Dollars expires March 31, 2020. For any questions concerning the Thrivent Choice Program, please contact your Thrivent representative.

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME**



Daylight Savings Time officially starts on Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 2am. So set your clocks **AHEAD ONE HOUR** before you go to bed on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>. This is also a good time to change the batteries in all of your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

**CAMP AGAPE ANNUAL MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL**

Join our Friends at AGAPE (72 Agape Rd, Hickory, PA 15340) on Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup> from 10AM to 4PM for a fun day of food, activities, and make your own syrup, For more information contact the camp office at 724-356-2308, email: [campinfo@campagape.org](mailto:campinfo@campagape.org), or go to our website: [campagape.org](http://campagape.org).



# PLUM NEWS

**PLUM Lenten Study:** The **PLUM Lenten Study** will take place in the PLUM churches with established weekly bible study times:

St. Paul Canonsburg – Tuesdays 10:30 am	Trinity Mt. Oliver – Tuesdays 11:00 am
St. Andrew East Carnegie – Tuesdays 1:00 pm	Messiah Munhall – Tuesdays 6:30 pm
Hope Forest Hills – Wednesdays 12:30 and 6:30 pm	East Liberty – Wednesdays 6:30 pm
Christ Duquesne – Thursdays 7:00 pm	
Lutheran Church of Our Saviour, North Huntingdon – Wednesdays 6:30 pm	

You are invited to any of these scheduled times and others may be added as requested.

The weekly study will focus on parts of the Vigil:

- Week of 3/1/20: The Opening of the Vigil and the Easter Proclamation
- Week of 3/8/20: The first half of the Readings (Creation – Flood – Red Sea)
- Week of 3/15/20: The second half of the Readings (Valley of Dry Bones, Jonah, The Fiery Furnace.)
- Week of 3/22/20: The Baptismal Renewal and the Litany of the Saints
- Week of 3/29/20: The Easter Eucharist (Holy Communion) – John 20.1-18

The **Sunday Worship Service** will focus on a theme from Scripture and the Vigil. A **study insert** will be included in the bulletin for that Sunday, and **the sermon** will highlight the theme of the week. There will also be a **book**, which will be available to all and from which the theme of the week will be highlighted.



**Saturday, March 28: Run for the Roses Tea:** Messiah Lutheran Church (Munhall) (4300 Main St., Munhall, PA 15120) will host their **Run for the Roses Tea** on **Saturday, March 28** at **1:30 p.m.** Reservations are due by Sunday, March 15.

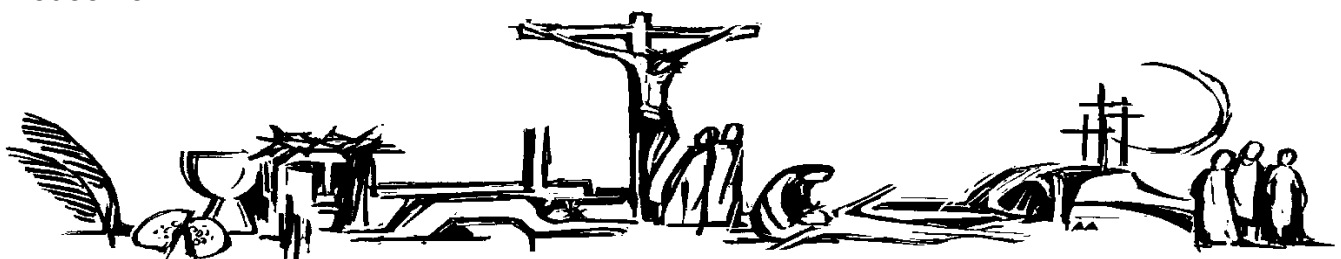


**Saturday, March 14: True Colours (coloring for adults):** Trinity Lutheran Church (Mt. Oliver) (601 Brownsville Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15210) will host their popular True Colors - Coloring for Adults - on **Saturday, March 14** from **12:00 - 2:00 p.m.** This is a FREE event. Bring your own supplies - or use ours! Please use the **Margaret St. entrance.**



**Saturday, April 11: Holy Saturday Easter Vigil:** Join us at Trinity Lutheran Church (Mt. Oliver) (601 Brownsville Rd., Pittsburgh 15210) at **7:00 p.m.** on **Saturday, April 11.** The Easter Vigil is the service held in traditional Christian churches as the first official celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus. It is held in the hours of darkness between sunset on Holy Saturday and sunrise on Easter Day — most commonly in the evening of Holy Saturday — and is the first celebration of Easter.

On this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus Christ passed over from death to life, we gather in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which through word and sacrament we share in his victory over death. As we await the risen Christ, we hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, recalling how he saved his people in ages past and in the fullness of time sent his Son to be our Redeemer.



# Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church

## March 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p>  <p>WORSHIP 9:15 SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> 	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>NA 7PM</p>	<p>6</p> <p>BROTHERHOOD 6:30PM</p>	<p>7</p> 
<p>8</p>  <p>WORSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30</p> <p>Daylight Savings Begins</p>	<p>9</p>  <p>Purim</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>NA 7PM</p>	<p>13</p>  <p>FISH FRY 4PM - 7PM</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p>  <p>WORSHIP 9:15 SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30</p>	<p>16</p> <p>KANE GROUP 10:30AM SAL COUNCIL 6PM</p> <p>church council <b>MEETING</b></p>	<p>17</p>  <p>St. Patrick's Day</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>  <p>NA 7PM Spring Begins</p>	<p>20</p>  <p>FISH FRY 4PM - 7PM</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p>  <p>WORSHIP 9:15 SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>  <p>NA 7PM</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>  <p>FISH FRY 4PM - 7PM</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p>  <p>WORSHIP 9:15 SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30</p>	<p>30</p> 	<p>31</p>	<p><b>MARCH</b></p> 			