



BETHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

3104 W LIBERTY AVENUE

PITTSBURGH, PA 15216-2404

412-531-9363

bethany-dormont@verizon.net

www.bethany-dormont.com

Pastors

Rev. John Gropp, Rev. Brenda Henry, Rev. Susan Devine

Rev. Paul Koch and Vicar Malinda Gilberti

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER 2020

Dear Partners in Ministry,

Are you feeling a little overwhelmed? Are you getting excited about the upcoming holiday season with all the decorations, bells, and whistles of Thanksgiving, Kwanza, Hanukkah, Christmas or the numerous family gatherings that are typical during this time of year, or does it just add to the headache of the uncertain future we are all facing? Are we immobilized from the weariness of it all?

As we walk through the ever-changing seasons on our way through mid-fall, we find ourselves approaching the church celebration we call All Saints Sunday. It is a Sunday during which we intentionally remember our friends, family, and loved ones who most often changed our lives forever and have joined the church triumphant. As we are compiling the list of those we have served and cared for in their final season in this life, I am ever mindful of their celebration of life. When I ask the family if there is a preferred scripture they would like included in this celebration, the 23rd Psalm is the leading choice.

Psalm 23 (slightly modified for the current times)

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want; he makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, (coronavirus pandemic, physical distancing, face masks, white supremacy, Black Lives Matter, school closures, political upheaval, unemployment, judicial upheaval, health insurance, environmental concerns, pro-choice vs. pro-life, etc.) I fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies; thou anointest my head with oil, my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Most people find in these words that were first recorded some 3,000 years ago by a “called” shepherd, turned king named David, who in human terms is the forefather of our Lord Jesus, to be words of comfort and strength.

I believe this is just what we need today as we face our current time in our present-day valley. In times like these, we tend to forget that we have a God who is in charge. First allow me to rule out the obvious, for the most part we are all living in a bit of a fog. Check out the following tease and the One Minute version, but for a remarkably interesting description, read the full article at the website link noted below.

Covid and culture shock feel the same to your brain — and here's why

by EDITOR on AUGUST 25, 2020

by Peter Olson

We suspect you've been feeling it too. A frustrating sense of 'molasses' clogging your thoughts. A fatigue you just can't seem to shake. Feeling 'tired' or 'worn-out' as you search to journey through normal days that simply don't feel as normal as they should.

As we have both watched and experienced the events of 2020, something has seemed oddly familiar. Every part of life seems to have changed, nearly overnight. Stores are different. Work is different. Interactions with friends and with strangers – it's all different. Yet in a way this scene seems to be a re-run. Because, in a way, it is. This scene is familiar because it mirrors culture shock.

The One-Minute Version:

When someone moves to a completely new culture, many of the 'autopilots' your brain uses for thousands of small decisions every day become ineffective. In a similar way, your current environment has likely changed sufficiently enough that many of your own 'autopilots' are no longer working. When this happens, the next remaining option for your brain is to use a second decision-making process that requires far more effort and energy (glucose) to operate. Your body can only supply glucose to your brain at a certain rate – a rate far below what would be required to use this kind of thinking continually. Thus, additional thinking about routine matters has likely left you with a chronically depleted level of glucose in your brain. All to say: You are experiencing "culture shock".

For the full article please check out this website:
<https://www.alifeoverseas.com/covid-and-culture-shock-feel-the-same-to-your-brain-and-heres-why/>

This article might begin to explain the fog, but to help us with the decision-making process during this cloudy and chaotic time, (yes, decisions still need to be made daily, hourly, and at a moment's notice), Christians are assured that God is clearly in charge even if we are not privy to the end result. And as Christians, we are not called to sit idly by without putting our words into action. Remember, it is God's work; "our" hands. Our example is Christ who was motivated by compassion and justice, always taking the side of the oppressed and those who were disenfranchised. Let us be willing to move in that direction as well, despite the fog that immerses us in our current valley, as there is a difference between being a true follower of Christ and just being religious. To be a true follower of Christ requires risk and assurance that God is with us.

In Christ's service,
Pastor John Gropp



BETHANY NEWS

BETHANY COUNCIL MEETING

Bethany's next Church Council Meeting will be on **Monday, November 23rd**
at 7:00pm via ZOOM. All Council members are encouraged to attend.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 11/12: CHARLIE BROWN | 11/22: KATHERINE OHLIGER |
| 11/12: CAMELYA BAKER | 11/26: JARED GULDEN |
| 11/12: BRIAN OXENREITER | 11/30: RUTH KENNEDY |
| 11/20: VAL OXENREITER | |



CONGRATULATION EVERYONE!!!





DON'T FORGET!!!! DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS

Daylight Saving Time ends at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday morning November 1st. So, before you go to bed on Saturday night, remember to turn your clocks back ONE HOUR. It's a good thing...you'll get an extra hour of sleep that night! Also, this is always a good time to replace the batteries in your smoke detectors and your carbon monoxide detectors.



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 Jaco, Sean, Tom and John

OUR SHUT INS: Dolly, Roberta, Mary, Nancy, Arlene, Carol, Ruth, Lorraine, Erna, Jan, Patricia, Frank and Nancy.

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, Paul, Naziario, Ardith, Debbie, Gerri, Jessica, Harvey, Ashley, Beth, Charlie & Kelsey.

THE CHURCHES OF PLUM

ABIDING MINISTRIES



CHURCH OFFICE CLOSURES

The Church office will be closed on **Thursday and Friday, November 26th and 27th** for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Regular hours will resume on Monday, November 30th. Thank you!



ALL SAINTS' DAY



All Saints' Day is Sunday, November 1st. It is our tradition to remember with a special observance those who have entered the Church Triumphant during the past year. On All Saints' Sunday we will remember: ***Bruce Dunn, Brian Pfeuffer, Chris Baker, Audrey Moreels, Carol Dettlinger, Ronald Washington and Jeff Holt.***



PLUM NEWS

CREATE YOUR OWN ADVENT WREATH

Let's begin a new tradition in our homes! The PLUM pastoral team welcomes you to a special ZOOM event on **November 21, 2020 at 10 am**. Vicar Mandy will lead a do-it-yourself class on creating your own Advent wreath. There will be a demonstration of a wreath using fresh greens as well as an artificial wreath. You can be as creative as you wish!



ADVENT FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Please join friends from PLUM for **Advent Family Bible Study** on Zoom. This study starts **Tuesday, December 1, 2020, at 1pm** and the same study will be offered on **Thursday evenings at 7pm**. We will explore the meaning behind the four candles of the Advent Wreath. **HOPE FAITH JOY LOVE.** You are always welcome!



RISE AGAINST HUNGER

For the third year in a row, PLUM will be working with the faith-based organization "Rise Against Hunger" to host a meal packaging event on **Saturday, November 7 at Christ Lutheran Church**. There will be **2 Sessions: 10am – Noon and 1 – 3pm with 25 people per session**. **Social Distancing, Masks and Gloves are required.** Together we will package more than 10,152 meals!



AT HOME TAIZÉ PRAYER SERVICE: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2020, 7:00 PM:
During this time of the Coronavirus and Social Distancing, Prayer is a source of Comfort. Please join us in Taizé Prayer from the safety of your homes. To participate in the Taizé Prayer service, go to PLUM's [Zoom page](#). Call Pastor Sue (412-496-4889) or Pastor Brenda (412-390-8005) if you have questions.



2020 SOUTHWESTERN PA SYNOD ASSEMBLY

The 2020 Synod Assembly of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will be held on **Saturday, November 14, 2020 via ZOOM Meetings**. This is a new format for the Assembly. Each congregation was able to elect three voting members. A viewing party for the Assembly will be held at St. Andrew, from 8am to 5pm.

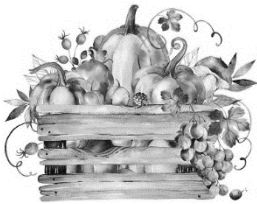


Thanksgiving

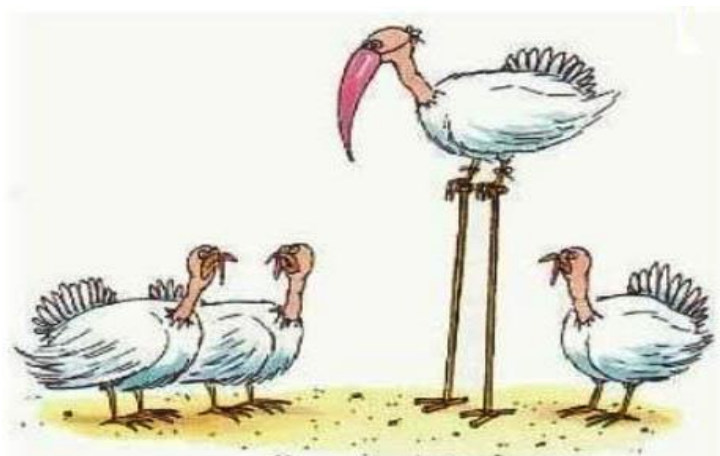
Eve Service

Please join the congregations of Pittsburgh Lutheran United Ministries (PLUM) for a special on Wednesday, November 25, 2020 at 7 PM via Zoom

A bulletin for the worship service will be available on the PLUM website, www.plumofpa.com



*The Lord has done great things for us,
and we are filled with joy! Psalm 126:3
Happy Thanksgiving!*



"He's got a point. Nobody eats a flamingo on Thanksgiving."

Bethany Ev. Lutheran Church November 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 3PM ZOOM WORSHIP DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS	2 	3  Election Day BIBLE STUDY 1PM ZOOM ELECTION DAY	4 	5 DISCUSSION SERIES 7PM ZOOM	6 TAIZE PRAYER SERVICE 7PM ZOOM	7  RISE AGAINST HUNGER
8 ✝ WORSHIP 9:15 3PM ZOOM WORSHIP	9	10 Bible Study  BIBLE STUDY 1PM ZOOM	11  VETERANS DAY	12 DISCUSSION SERIES 7PM ZOOM	13	14  SYNOD ASSEMBLY
15 ✝ 3PM ZOOM WORSHIP	16 	17 Bible Study  BIBLE STUDY 1PM ZOOM	18 	19 DISCUSSION SERIES 7PM ZOOM	20 	21 CREATE AN ADVENT WREATH 10AM ZOOM
22 ✝ WORSHIP 9:15 3PM ZOOM WORSHIP	23  BELC COUNCIL 7PM ZOOM	24 Bible Study  BIBLE STUDY 1PM ZOOM	25	26  Happy Thanksgiving OFFICE CLOSED	27 OFFICE CLOSED	28
29 ✝ 3PM ZOOM WORSHIP	30					

