



BETHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

3104 W LIBERTY AVENUE

PITTSBURGH, PA 15216-2404

412-531-9363

bethany-dormont@verizon.net

www.bethany-dormont.com

PITTSBURGH LUTHERAN UNITED MINISTRIES

Pastors

Rev. John Gropp, Rev. Brenda Henry, Rev. Susan Devine,
and Rev. Alexander Sumo

MAY NEWSLETTER 2022



Greetings Friends,

I am writing this message on earth day. Earth day started 52 years ago as an encouragement for us to take care of the planet. The *Daily Bread* devotion for today reminded me that the act of caring for the earth is much older. The Genesis story of creation tells us how God lovingly formed the earth in six days. And in Genesis 1:15 "The Lord God took man [humanity] and put him [them] in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it." What a marvelous reminder that God always intended for us to be stewards of the earth and all that is in it!

It is also springtime. Though the weather is constantly changing we can see the beauty all around us in this season of rebirth and renewal. The flowers are blooming. The birds are chirping. The outdoors are once again inviting us to sit on our porches, go for walks, and frolic on the playgrounds. How fitting given that we are in the season of Easter! We experienced the greatest renewal – humanity's redemption! We have been made new. And we are invited to continue this renewal through love and care of each other.

PLUM is entering its season of renewal as we welcome Pastor Alexander Sumo and his family to our community. We are looking forward to the ways that the Holy Spirit through Pastor Alex is inviting us to grow. One beautiful moment that we can anticipate is getting together for his installation on Saturday, July 30th. So put that on your calendar now and look for more details in the weeks to come.

May is also a time to celebrate mothers or as I have come to think of it – the gift of mothering. Mothering is to kindly and protectively care for another (person, animal, nature). Sometimes we are saddened when we think of the mothers that are no longer here or we grieve the absence of children. I encourage you to take a moment to reflect and thank the mothers in your life. And pause to notice the many opportunities to receive and extend the gift of mothering. It is one of the ways we honor God's gift of renewal.

In this season of renewal, I have much to be thankful for. My granddaughter Zahra is discovering her world with looks of puzzlement and cooing sounds of joy with expressions of discontent thrown in 😊. Both of my children, Jamila and Jaseem, will receive their Master's in Business degrees this month. I will begin my doctoral studies at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in June. And I continue to be enriched with your love and care as we journey together in this ministry God has placed us in.

Whatever the ways God is inviting you into renewal this month, my prayer is that the gift of renewal, hope, and new life granted to us through Jesus' death and resurrection continues to bring you joy.

He is risen! Alleluia! Christ is risen indeed!

Pastor Brenda



PLUM Welcomes Rev. Alexander Sumo

Alexander Yarmie Sumo is a lifelong Lutheran. Born and raised in Liberia, West Africa, he completed his secondary education at the William V.S. Tubman High School in Monrovia and obtained his undergraduate degree (Bachelor of Arts - BA) in sociology and public administration from the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) University in Liberia. He completed seminary and ministry training in August 2000 with a Bachelor of Theology (B.Th.) degree from the United Methodist University - Gbarnga School of Theology. Alexander was ordained in 2003 as Pastor of Word and Sacrament in the Lutheran Church in Liberia (LCL). Between 2000 and 2008 Pastor Sumo served as pastor for several parishes in the Lutheran Church in Liberia (St. Paul – LTI, St. Andrew - Gorlu Parish, St. Matthew Parish – Paynesville, David A. Day – Harrisburg Parish, and Lutheran Memorial – Millsburg Parish).

Alexander and family relocated to the United States in 2008 and he was admitted to the pastoral roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) in 2011. Immediately following his admission to the ELCA roster, Pastor Sumo was called by the Southern Ohio Synod (SOS) to serve as Pastor/Developer for its mission congregation (The African International Lutheran Mission - AILM) in Columbus, Ohio. He served the AILM as a Lead Pastor for 14 years and the St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church in Newark, Ohio for a little over 2 years.



Alexander completed graduate work at Capital University – Trinity Seminary in Columbus, Ohio where he earned the Master of Arts (MA) in gender, youth and family studies (MAYFM) and the post graduate Master of Sacred Theology (STM) degree in leadership and pastoral practice. Pastor Alexander Sumo completed his doctoral studies in 2019 and earned the Doctor of Leadership for Transformational Change from Capital University and the Methodist Theological School in Ohio (MTSO). Dr. Alexander Yarmie Sumo and Ms. Deddeh Matee Kpukuyou, an accountant and a nursing professional are blessed with three (3) beautiful children: Alexander Yarmie Jnr., Alaric Leela, and charming Ms. Alexandria Jackie. The family has lived in Columbus, Ohio for over 14 years. A move to Pittsburgh, PA to serve Pittsburgh Lutheran United Ministries (PLUM) is an exciting new journey and we cannot wait to start it. To God be the glory.

Happy Mother's Day to all Moms and to all the women who have been a motherly influence in our lives!

5/8/2021



BETHANY NEWS

MAY BIRTHDAYS

5/2: DENISE KLOTZ
5/5: MATTHEW WILLIAMS
5/12: CHARLENE MILLER
5/14: PASTOR JOHN GROPP

5/18: TARA WILLIAMS
5/20: PASTOR BETH SIEFERT
5/27: CHASE PINDEL
5/28: PASTOR PAUL KOCH
5/30: KARL OHLIGER



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

5/2: CHARLENE & MIKE MILLER
5/27: ERIC & JESSICA ARTH

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!!!



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: Roberta, Mary, Carol, Jan, Jean and Frank.

THOSE WHO ARE ILL: Roberta, Lou, Tom, Carol, Ann, Colleen, 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



MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY

The Church Office will be closed on **Monday, May 30TH** in observance of Memorial Day. Have a safe Holiday!



BETHANY COUNCIL MEETING

Bethany's next Church Council Meeting will be on **Thursday, May 26th at 7:00pm**. We will be using the ZOOM format. All Council members are asked to attend. Thank you.



BROTHERHOOD

The **Brotherhood Dinner** will be held on **Friday, May 6th, at 6:30pm** here at Bethany. Join us for good food and fellowship



KANE GROUP

The Kane Group will meet on **Monday, May 16, 2022 at around 10am**. All are welcome to join us as we make items to share with the residents at Kane Hospital and enjoy our lunch and each other.



PLEASE REMEMBER TO GIVE

Thank you to all who continue to support Bethany through their Church donations! This allows Bethany to continue to operate in a positive fashion. If you are unable to attend Church, please prayerfully consider continuing to submit your donation envelopes into the Church. Thank you



BETHANY'S COMMUNITY CUPBOARD

Bethany's Community Cupboard is regularly being visited by our community. Some of our neighbors have assisted us, by leaving items to share with their neighbors as well. The cupboard is replenished at least three times a week. If you would like to donate items, you can drop them off on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday from 8am to 12pm. Or call the office to schedule a specific time. Items to consider include non-perishables, canned food items, paper products, health and beauty aids, soap and detergent and gently used clothing or shoes and toys in good condition. Please no expired food items. Thank you in advance for supporting this community ministry.

PLUM NEWS

PLUM WORSHIP AND MEETINGS VIA ZOOM

We continue to provide a means to gather as a combined congregation through PLUM's ZOOM site. Sunday Worship, meetings, bible studies and fellowship are all available on the ZOOM format. Just use the information below and you can be a part of all we are currently doing.

Zoom online: <https://zoom.us/j/401596541>

Zoom by phone: (646) 876-9923

Meeting ID: 401 596 541

PLUM WORSHIP COMMITTEE: The PLUM worship Committee will meet on **Wednesday, June 8, 2022 at 7pm** via ZOOM. Join us as we discuss and plan our ZOOM worship services.

AT HOME TAIZÉ PRAYER SERVICE: 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 on **Friday, May 6, 2022, 7:00 pm** via ZOOM.

2022 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

The Southwestern PA Synod Assembly will be held on **Thursday, June 16th thru Saturday, June 18th, 2022**. The Assembly will take place via ZOOM. Bethany needs one more Delegate. Online registration is now available. Sign up soon so you can attend the ZOOM Caucus on May 24th at 7pm.





PLUM BOARD MEETING

The next PLUM Board meeting will be held on **Monday, May 23, 2022 at 7pm**. All Board members are asked to join us via ZOOM.



Bethany Ev. Lutheran Church

May 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1  May Day WORSHIP 9:15 ZOOM 3PM	2 	3 	4	5  CINCO DE MAYO	6 BROTHERHOOD 6:30PM TAIZE SERVICE 7PM ZOOM	7 
8  MOTHER'S DAY WORSHIP 9:15 ZOOM 3PM	9	10	11 	12	13 	14
15  WORSHIP 9:15 ZOOM 3PM	16  KANE GROUP 10AM	17  ELECTION DAY	18 	19	20	21  Armed Forces Day
22  WORSHIP 9:15 ZOOM 3PM	23 PLUM BOARD MEETING 7PM ZOOM	24	25 	26  CHURCH COUNCIL BELC COUNCIL 7PM ZOOM	27 	28 
29  WORSHIP 9:15 ZOOM 3PM	30  MEMORIAL DAY	31				