

BRIGHTON HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH  
3830 CALIFORNIA AVE.  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212  
(412) 761-8545

*April* 

2017

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## Brighton Heights Lutheran Church

Pastor: Rev. Brian F. Shirey

Music Director: Ms. Janet Fullerton

Custodian: Steven Cvetkovic

Secretary: Mrs. Jo Ann Pomietto

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday  
9 am – 2 pm

### **An Empty Tomb?**

Easter is the most important holiday we have. It should be our happiest celebration. Remember, Easter commemorates the most important event that ever took place in all of human history. Even Jesus' birth is eclipsed His Resurrection. It is a one of a kind event. Even accounts of resurrection or returning the dead to life—like the raising of Lazarus and of the son of the widow of Nain—return the person to this side of death. Jesus is raised up to the other side of death. Our death is in front of us. Jesus' death is behind him. Paul teaches us this quite clearly. For example, Paul says this in Romans 6:9-10: "We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him."<sup>10</sup> For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God."



Jesus promises to raise up on the other side of death along with Him. As John 11:25 tells us, "<sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her [Martha], "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, <sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die."

We believe that Jesus now lives on the other side of death. We believe that after the resurrection of the dead we too will live with Him on the other side of death. That is the very heart of our Christian faith.

But it has to be faith. God can do anything. God could have arranged things so that there would be direct and

irrefutable earthly proof that Jesus died and rose from the grave. Instead, God chose to give us this knowledge from the words of others who have gone before us. That is because God chose faith, not our senses, to be the means by which we might know. Again we learn from the apostle Paul about the vital importance of our Christian faith:

<sup>8</sup> Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—  
<sup>10</sup> that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.  
(Philippians 3:8-11)

## **A Full Basket**

Everyone likes Easter candy! I know I do. I love jelly beans and white chocolate rabbits. I really like the big chocolate covered egg. My favorite is fruit and nut or maple, or peanut butter meltaway, or coconut. After the Lenten fast there is a temptation to think that I have earned the Easter candy. I have a right to enjoy it. But joy is not a right. Joy is something you make happen, Joy is a response to somebody or something. It is up to you to decide whether you want to feel joy or not. And it is up to you to find that joy in response to what is really important instead of what is trivial or fleeting.

So as you celebrate this easter, enjoy the candy that is in your easter basket. The sweetness of the candy is a pale reminder of the sweetness of God's gospel promise of everlasting with Jesus, the risen king of all creation. But all that candy is a reminder, not a substitute for the reason we celebrate Easter. Keep in mind the real meaning of Easter. Learn to find your joy in the wonderful news that was first

announced by those who followers of Jesus who saw the Risen Lord first hand. Let us add our voices to the voices of the church throught the ages as we proclaim: JESUS IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!

Have a happy and blessed Easter,

*Brian F Shirey*



### **PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS**

SHUT-IN: Rohma Kropf, Bonnie Furman, Gloria Davis, Arta Mae Camino, Betty Lou Moore



### FOR HEALING AND WELL-BEING:

Zoey, Susan Spriggs, Will Lugaila, Ruth Perluck, Betty Kirby, Kimberly Mason, Donna Erdner, Don Hoffer, Diane Stiegler, Chad Lowe, Judy McGregor, Bonnie Guest, Evan Ray, Patricia Aberson, Bernie Kirk, Bonnie Klem, Raymond, Mary & Mahala

Linnabary, Kathy Smith, Sandra Flourney, Emily Cummings, Chuck Skalos, Betty Stephens, Nanette McHue, Monica Weisensee, Alicia Jacobs, Patti Noll, Judy Ingram, Victoria Kromp, Valerie Chiesa, Diane Jakobowski, Christian Reilly, Haylee Flory, Linda Collins, Betty Heover, Cathy Gornich, George Lucas, George Meyer, Donna Krass, Debbie Hankins, Susan Dziubinski, Don Aurin, Steve Aurin, Pauline Aurin, Stacey Dorsey, Gloria Davis, Cindy Fraser, Trevor Gibson, Garrett Francis, Roberta Axton, Carol Stewart, Denise Labella, Alfred Hunt, Chantel Burns, Baby Claire, Ken Axton, Paul Lichauer, Paul Reilly, Sherry Kinslow, Barry R., Pat Stella, Mike, Eddie

Nagel, Scott Tegler, Anthony Zoller, Kathy Gornick, Michelle Pop, Carol Baland, Earl Weaver, Heather Ann, Alan Campbell, Melissa Stipinsky, Pat Zokies, Jim Wilson, John Pfispter, Gage, Tylor, Kim Turkovich, Leona Weaver, Carol Martinez, Ruth Ann Stevens, Tammy Cinkan, Tina Cinkan, Loraine Andrzejwski, Ron Koerbel, Roland Reynolds

FOR COMFORT IN MY TIME OF LOSS: Family of Bob Pockaj, Family of Jocelyn Schavez, Family of Hannah Stevens Family

SERVING THE MILITARY: Erik Kunkle, Stephen November, James Thompson, Matthew McPaul, Jason Fullmer, Robert Fink, Jason Cole (Kuwait), Jessie Strickland, Jacinta Dorsey

***Please call the office or tell the Pastor if anybody should be taken off the prayer list. Also if you or a loved one are in the hospital, please contact the office if you wish a visit.***



### APRIL 2

2 Ushers: Al Prem, Rich Stewart

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Acolyte: Dereon Spriggs

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Lector: Ashley Scott

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2 Comm. Presenter: Carol & Jim Stewart

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Comm. Helper: Kathy Skeva

### APRIL 9 PALM SUNDAY

2 Ushers: Al Calhoun, Rich Dummer

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Acolyte: Shane Lundy

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Lector: Celeste Spriggs

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2 Comm. Presenter: Rich & Mary Ann Stewart

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Comm. Helper: Bob Fink

## APRIL 16 EASTER SUNDAY

2 Ushers: Bob Fink, Dave Fink

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Acolyte: Destiny Stewart

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Lector: Johanna Yoho

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2 Comm. Presenter: Kim & Celeste Spriggs

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Comm. Helper: Kathy Dearth

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## APRIL 23

2 Ushers: Al Prem, Rich Stewart

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Acolyte: Kaylee Stewart

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Lector: Kathy Dearth

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2 Comm. Presenter: June Baginski, Linda Lugalía

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Comm. Helper: Dave Fink

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## APRIL 30

2 Ushers: Al Calhoun, Rich Dummer

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Acolyte: Jacob Lundy

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Lector: Jan Krepp

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2 Comm. Presenter: Mary Ann Stewart, Kathryn Skeva

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Comm. Helper: Johanna Yoho

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## **CHURCH ACTIVITIES**

During lent there will be no bible study and no flowers on the altar

During Lent, Brighton Heights Lutheran Church has been having their INFORMAL SOUP AND BREAD SUPPER. They are held at 6:00 pm prior to Wednesdays Lenten Service.



LENTEN SOUP AND BREAD SUPPER dates:  
April 5, this is the last of the Wednesday service.

SUNDAY, APRIL 9 IS PALM SUNDAY. Palm Sunday is the Sunday before Easter. It is celebrating Jesus' triumphant entry into the city of Jerusalem at the beginning of Holy Week. Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem and the people there laid down their cloaks and small branches of trees in front of him and sang part of Psalm



118:26-26 – *Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord.*

The symbolism of the donkey may refer to the Eastern tradition that it is an animal of peace, versus the horse, which is the animal of war. A king would have ridden a horse when he was bent on war and ridden a donkey to symbolize his arrival in peace. Jesus' entry to Jerusalem would have thus symbolized his entry as the Prince of Peace.



THURSDAY, APRIL 13 IS MAUNDY THURSDAY (HOLY THURSDAY). It commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus with the Apostles. BHLC will have service at 7pm.

FRIDAY, APRIL 14 IS GOOD FRIDAY. This is the day Jesus died on the cross for us. There will be service at BHLC at 7pm.



There will also be a GOOD FRIDAY WALKING STATION starting at Brighton Heights Lutheran Church at 12 noon and ending at Risen Lord Church.



SUNDAY APRIL 16<sup>TH</sup> IS EASTER SUNDAY. We celebrate the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. This occurred on the third day of his burial after his crucifixion by the Romans at Calvary. Come and celebrate the Jesus' resurrection on Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 5pm service or Sunday, April 16 at our 10:30am service.

There will also be a SUNRISE SERVICE ON EASTER MORNING at 6:30 am in Riverview Park by the Observatory.

# Brighton Heights Lutheran Church HOLY WEEK

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 13<sup>TH</sup> SERVICE 7:00PM

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 14<sup>TH</sup> SERVICE 7:00PM

EASTER EVE SATURDAY, APRIL 15<sup>TH</sup> 5:00PM  
EASTER SERVICE SUNDAY, APRIL 16<sup>TH</sup> 10:30AM

*We will participate at the Sunrise Service on Easter Morning  
at 6:30am in Riverview Park by the Observatory.*

## EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday April 2<sup>nd</sup> from Noon -2PM

We will have a coloring contest with prizes,  
crafts, food, and of course plenty of fun!



THANKS to all those people that helped to set up, cook, clean-up and attend the Mardi Gras this year. It was a great success and a lot of fun!



THE LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF AGENCY provide all types of resources to be used to help in their mission. We are participating in the Basket of Promise. We have only 2 more weeks.

**April 2 – nail clippers (metal, attached file optional)**

**April 9 (Palm Sunday) bars of soap**

We have received a lot of items for the LWR Basket of Promise. Thank you and continue with the donations The Personal Care Kits will be assembled on April 10<sup>th</sup>





Brighton Heights Lutheran Church

Saturday, April 1

10 am - ?

Come and join your fellow members and help clean up the church.

THE MORE HELP THE LESS TIME!



SEE WHAT IS HAPPENING AT BHLC

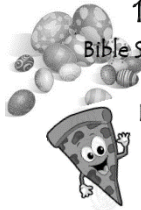


BRIGHTON HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, APRIL 2

12:30 PM TO 3 PM

Bible Story, Craft, Tattoos, Egg Hunt, Coloring, Face Painting, Door Prizes and Lunch



TUNCH & WOLF'S WALK for the homeless is on Saturday, May 27. This benefits the Light of Life Rescue Mission. We at BHLC are trying to organize a team. to walk at Heinz Field. Please consider taking a walk for those in need, while getting great exercise. If you are interested let Patty Petrusch know. For more information on the walk see their website at [crowdrise.com/twwalk2017](http://crowdrise.com/twwalk2017).





We are planning to attend a PIRATE GAME ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 4 (7:05PM GAME). Tickets are \$25 and are in section 300. The band "Chicago" will play after the game. Please plan to attend, it's always a great time to "root on" the Pirates and spend time with our members and friends of

BHLC. Please make checks to BHLC (memo Pirate Game) or give cash to Patty Petrusch. LET'S GO BUCS!!

**COMMUNITY NEWS:**

BRIGHTON HEIGHTS ANNUAL EARTH DAY CLEAN UP is Saturday, April 22. They will meet at the Brighton Heights office at 3629 California Avenue starting at 9am. Gloves and trash bags will be provided. Also coffee, fruit and donuts will be provided for those who volunteer.



APRIL 1: April Fools Day is an opportunity for playing jokes or tricks on one another. The challenge is to carry out a trick that is believable! Tricks and jokes must be harmless and in good taste. They must not be dangerous or hurt anyone's feelings.

APRIL 2: This is National Peanut Butter and Jelly Day or "PB and J". Peanut Butter and Jelly sandwich is the favorite lunchtime sandwich of American kids and many adults.



APRIL 7: This is National Walk to Work Day. The U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, Tommy G Thompson, declared this holiday on April 2, 2004. This day was initiated to draw attention to the need to get out and exercise and to get in shape.

APRIL 7: Besides National Walk to Work Day it is also World Health Day! World Health Day is sponsored by the United Nation's World Health Organization (WHO). It is an international event to emphasize and work on important health issues.



APRIL 10: This is National Sibling Day. A day to appreciate your brothers and sisters. Celebrate National Sibling Day – Give your brother or sister a call!



APRIL 15" This is Husband Appreciation Day, a day for wives to show appreciation to husbands in a childless marriage. In a marriage with children there is Father's Day.

APRIL 15: is also Titanic Remembrance Day. It is dedicated to the memory of over 1500 people that died the day the Titanic sunk in 1912.

APRIL 17: Patriot's Day is a holiday in New England. It commemorates the Battle of Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775. This is the battle that began the American Revolutionary War. It also honors the "Midnight Ride of Paul Revere" when Paul Revere warned the colonist "The Red Coats are coming".



APRIL 20: is Volunteer Recognition Day. Thank someone who volunteers and get yourself involved with a volunteer activity.



APRIL 25: World Penguin Day – not the Pittsburgh Penguins! This date coincides with the annual northward migration of penguins.

APRIL 27: This date honors one of Baseball's greatest players ever. Babe Ruth Day.


April 28: National Arbor Day is the Tree Planter's Holiday. It has been celebrated since 1872. It is a day to plant and dedicate a tree to help nature and the environment. The Latin word for "Tree" is "Arbor".





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