

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



2017

visit us at
www.brightonheightslutheranchurch.org

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

A message from the Pastor:

Sometimes I wish that all the Christians in the world could have a big meeting somewhere. We could deal with a lot of things. We probably wouldn't get a lot of things decided but at least we would be aware of each other's reasons for doing what we do. But I'd like to see us get one thing done. Let's change the date of Christmas—and not tell anybody else when it is. THEN WE CHRISTIANS WOULD BE FREE TO CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS IN A DIFFERENT WAY.

The world—at least the wealthy part of the world—has turned Christmas into either a narcissistic and materialistic orgy of buying and accumulating toys for children and adults, or a bacchanalian-like festival of consumption, gorging ourselves with food and drink. That is to say:

- ✧ We spend great sums of money to buy things for those we love who already have more things than is good for them. Some people even talk about buying Christmas gifts for themselves. You can't buy a Christmas gift for yourself. If you are buying it for you, it is not a gift.
- ✧ We spend great sums of money to buy intoxicating drink and weight-producing food and then for the rest of the winter we try to convince ourselves that we will undo the consequences of all this in the spring.

Almost nothing about the way the world portrays Christmas has anything at all to do with Jesus. And, heaven forbid, we must not publically connect Jesus to the Holiday that bears his name or some atheist group will have the ACLU trying to get it removed.

If we could let the world celebrate its great commercial explosion in November and December, and we celebrate our great Christian observance in secret, Christmas could take on a whole new life. Here are a few ideas:

- ✳ Baby Jesus only received three gifts from the three (or more?) wise men. Yet we teach ourselves to expect lots of gifts. Maybe we could give each other only one gift to each person from each person. It would be easier to remember what the gift giving signifies.
- ✳ How about if the rich part of the world bought Christmas presents for the poor part. This would mean that you and I would probably not receive a gift but wouldn't it be wonderful knowing that God has blessed us with so much that we can afford to be a giver.
- ✳ If we want to give a gift to our children how about if we give them a two-part gift, part for them to keep and part of them to share with another.

Sorry if I sound like Ebenezer Scrooge. Actually I'm not sorry. Scrooge had some things right! For one thing, the importance of one's own work in a work economy in order to make employment for others. For another, his disapproval for buying things one can't afford. Sure, there were lots of things Scrooge got wrong, like his lack of kindness and generosity, his failure to pay a fair price or wage, and his inability to be grateful and to celebrate. However his Christmas visitations got him straightened out about all that.

I know that by now I seem like the Grinch to many people. Oh, well, let me be grouchy about one final thing and then I'll be done. I HATE BLACK FRIDAY!!! For the world, Christmas begins on the Friday after Thanksgiving. Stores look like war zones. On TV we see yelling, mayhem and even fights. What has this to do with our Lord's birth? I hate to think that some of these people behaving so badly on Black Thursday call themselves Christians.

You see, we Christians have our own black Friday. That is the day the little baby of Bethlehem—all grown up—was

nailed to a cross and died. In that dying he took all that separates us from God and from each other with him into death. His death was the only thing that could destroy that unholy trinity of sin, death and the devil.

The world's black Friday is about self. Our black Friday is about Jesus. The world's Black Friday is about buying. Our black Friday is about getting a gift. It is a gift that we do not deserve. It is about God's grace. That Grace was confirmed by Jesus' resurrection only three days later. The resurrection brings to fulfillment our Christmas celebration. The baby in the manger is the King of Heaven. If he is the King of your heart, as you live in Him day by day, then Christmas will never be a "false and commercial holiday", as Scrooge calls it. Instead, Christmas will ever be about the most important birth in history—Christ the Savior is born!

I hope you have the happiest of Christmas celebration and the most meaningful and blessed New Year?

God Bless You,

Brian F Shurey



**KEEP
CHRIST IN
CHRISTMAS**

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

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

FOR HEALING AND WELL-BEING: Zoey, Susan Spriggs, Will Lugaila, Betty Kirby, Kimberly Mason, Donna Erdner, Don Hoffer, Diane Stiegler, Chad Lowe, Bonnie Guest, Evan Ray, Bernie Kirk, Bonnie Klem, Raymond, Mary & Mahala Linnabary, Kathy Smith, Sandra Flourney, Nanette McHue, Monica Weisensee, Alicia Jacobs, Judy Ingram, Victoria Kromp, Valerie Chiesa, Diane Jakobowski, Christian Reilly, Haylee Flory, Linda Collins, Betty Heover, George Lucas, George Meyer, Donna Krass, Debbie Hankins, Don Aurin, Steve Aurin, Pauline Aurin, Gloria Davis, Trevor Gibson, Garrett Francis, Roberta Axton, Carol Stewart, Denise Labella, , Chantel Burns, Baby Claire, Ken Axton, Paul Reilly, Sherry Kinslow, Barry R, Pat Stella, Mike, Eddie Nagel, Scott Tegler, Anthony Zoller, Michelle Pop, Carol Baland, Earl Weaver, Heather Ann, Alan Campbell, Melissa Stipinsky, Pat Zokies, Jim Wilson, John Pfsipter, Gage, Tylor, Kim Turkovich, Leona Weaver, Carol Martinez, Roland Reynolds, Georgia Rielly, Ruth Dorsey, Ramae Mazza, Rhoma Myers, Nancy Lee, Denise Gates, Shirley Harman, Sequoia White, Jess, Kim Behr, Michele Frankenberg, Patricia Cole, Will Spade, Janet Fullerton, Bonnie Signs, Rick Fagan, Tara Gottschalk, Patrick Ireland, Kathryn Ann Plumley, Mark Woodke, Rosen Petrov, Janice & Roy Engleman, Kathy Romine, Dionne Blackwell, Tom Lennon, Janice Cici, Sylvia Burney-Stevens, Jacinta Dorsey, Dedrick Dorsey, Patty Ireland, Colleen, Dave Adams, Barb Cinkan, Jeff Kaiser, Rich Stewart, Steve Hill, Larry Stephens, Tiffany's unborn baby, Frank Greco, Billy Ireland, Chuck Skalos, Mindy Rice, Elaine Santora, Wilma Blythe

FOR COMFORT IN TIME OF LOSS: Rienhardt Family, Eich Family, Stevens Family, Family of Alfred Hunt, Family of Al Prem, Family of Linda Kraft, Family of Phyllis Willams, Caine Family

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

*We always thank
GOD for all of you
and continually
mention you in
our prayers.*

1 Thessalonians 1:2, NIV

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.

SERVERS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

DECEMBER 3

2 Ushers:	Dave Fink Rich Stewart
Acolyte:	Nick Hammel
Lector:	
2 Comm. Presenter:	Linda Lagualia Kim Spriggs
Comm. Helper:	Dave Fink

DECEMBER 10

2 Ushers:	Rich Dummer Bob Fink
Acolyte:	Shane Lundy
Lector:	Jan Krepp
2 Comm. Presenter:	Rich & Mary Ann Stewart
Comm. Helper:	Kathy Skeva

DECEMBER 17

2 Ushers:	Dave Fink Rich Stewart
Acolyte:	Nick Hammel
Lector:	
2 Comm. Presenter:	June Baginski Kathryn Skeva
Comm. Helper:	Bob Fink

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

2 Ushers:	Rich Dummer Bob Fink
Acolyte:	Shane Lundy
Lector:	
2 Comm. Presenter:	Linda Lagualia Kim Spriggs
Comm. Helper:	Dave Fink

CHRISTMAS EVE DECEMBER 24

2 Ushers:	Dave Fink Rich Stewart
Acolyte:	Nick Hammel
Lector:	Jan Krepp
2 Comm. Presenter:	Rich & Mary Ann Stewart
Comm. Helper:	Kathy Skeva

DECEMBER 31

2 Ushers:	Rich Dummer Bob Fink
Acolyte:	Shane Lundy
Lector:	
2 Comm. Presenter:	June Baginski Kathryn Skeva
Comm. Helper:	Jan Krepp



SATURDAY SERVICE, December 23 is at 5pm

SUNDAY SERVICE, December 24 is at 10:30am

CHRISTMAS EVE: Sunday, December 24 at 7 pm Service

NO SERVICE CHRISTMAS DAY

THE CONGREGATION WILL HOLD ITS ANNUAL MEETING ON DECEMBER 17, 2017 following the 10:30 am Worship Service.

On the agenda will be:

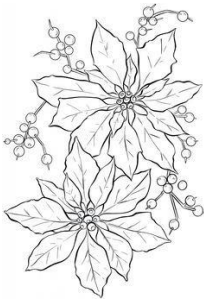
Congregational Meeting

- Passing a 2018 budget
- Electing council members
 - President - two year term
 - Secretary - three year term
 - Cemetery Board - three year term
 - Two at large members. Nominations will be taken from the floor.
- Constitutional changes that were presented at a first reading at the annual meeting last year.
- Other items of business may be brought up at this meeting by any member of the congregation. Please plan to attend.
- BHLC NEEDS YOU.



ALL THE ANGELS HAVE BEEN TAKEN FROM OUR TREE!! THANKS TO ALL!! Gifts are to be placed in a gift bag (requested by the home) with the angel attached and return it to

Brighton Heights Lutheran Church by Dec 9 or 10.



BHLC will be ordering POINSETTIAS for Christmas to adorn the altar. The poinsettias will be \$8.00 each. Your money must accompany your order. Please make checks payable to "Brighton Heights Lutheran Church". You may order the poinsettias:

In Honor of

In Memory of,

In Thanksgiving for Someone.

Deadline for ordering is December 17, 2017. Order forms are in the back of church or in this newsletter.



THE BIBLE STUDY GROUP will hold its Christmas party at Eat'n Park on the Blvd. on December 19, 2017 at 6:30pm. If you need a ride call the pastor.

THE NEXT SATURDAY SCHOOL, "Journey with Jesus" is December 2 from 10 -11:30am. Bring a friend, neighbor and/or relative. The Saturday School Students will have practice on December 9th from 10:00 am to 10:30 am for their Christmas Story Presentation that they will present at the 10:30am service on December 24th. *God Bless you and yours, Hope to see you Saturday.* Saturday School Staff



ST. AFTERSCHOOL thanks everyone who helped the Afterschool Kids raise money for the KDKA Turkey Fund. We raised \$100.00 this year and PNC will match that \$100.00 and give \$200.00 in Brighton Heights St. Afterschool Name. *Thanks again from the Kids at St. Afterschool.*



BRIGHTON HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH is making YARD CROSSES. They are a \$10.00 donation. Let's show our friends and neighbors that we want to be counted as belonging to Jesus Christ. The cross is a great idea on the graves of those we love. See Rich Stewart or call the church office.



“ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE AND CHRISTMAS COOKIES” Come and enjoy a new tradition at Brighton Heights Lutheran Church! We will provide the kitchen, you bring your baking supplies. We will have a fun time and hopefully make this a yearly tradition. Date:

December 17, 2017 Time: 1:00 to 4:00 pm. Feel free to come even if you're not baking and socialize and maybe pick up a few recipe ideas. Please let BHLC know if you will attend and bring friends, neighbors or relatives. Office: 412-761-8545

CHRISTMAS FOOD DRIVE Brighton Heights Lutheran Church will gather non-perishable items to help those in need. We will donate the food to Northside Common Ministries. Please find it in your heart to help those that might not have the resources to provide a meal during the



holidays. We will be collecting the can goods (jars of gravy, box potatoes, vegetables etc.) in the Narthex from December 1 thru December 17.

Thanks to all who took who took a shoe box!
We filled 53 boxes!



COMMUNITY NEWS

NORTHSIDE COMMON MINISTRIES:

Temperatures are dropping and the street homeless who use Northside Common Ministries for their daytime drop-in center for meals, showers and laundry are dropping in to ask for winter weather help. Please consider leaving your adult winter gloves or hats, men's thermal underwear (sizes medium to 2XL, hand and foot warmer pads, sleeping bags, insulated hoodies and larger size adult winter coats in the back of the church. Helping keep someone warm in the winter will warm your heart too



1	Steven Alexander
5	Cara Krepp Donna Alexander
8	Linda Durler
14	Kaylee Stewart
25	Chrissy Vardzel
26	Roy Engelman

DID YOU KNOW?

THE ADVENT WREATH is of German origin, and is made up of two basic parts: the wreath itself and the candles. The wreath is made of evergreen, either real or artificial. Its circular



shape represents eternity, for it has no beginning and no end. The evergreen was chosen as it symbolizes growth and everlasting life. There are four candles, three purple and one pink. They represent the four weeks of preparation during Advent. The First Purple candle represents hope. The Second Purple Candle stands for love. The Third, pink candle: represents joy. The Fourth purple candle is a symbol of peace.

THE BILL OF RIGHTS originally were proposed to the state legislatures as 12 amendments to the constitution, however, on December 15, 1791 only 10 of these amendments were added to the constitution.



THE BILL OF RIGHTS INCLUDES THESE AMENDMENTS:

AMENDMENT 1- Freedom of speech, press and religion

AMENDMENT 2 - The right to bear arms

AMENDMENT 3- Protection of homeowners from quartering troops, except during war.

AMENDMENT 4 - Rights and protections against unreasonable search and seizure

AMENDMENT 5 - Rights of due process of law, protection against double jeopardy, self incrimination

AMENDMENT 6 - Rights of a speedy trial by jury of peers and rights of accused

AMENDMENT 7 - Rights to trial by jury in civil cases

AMENDMENT 8 - Protection from cruel and unusual punishment, excessive bail

AMENDMENT 9 - Protection of rights not specified in the Bill of Rights

AMENDMENT 10 - States rights, power of the states

The original Amendments that were not approved were, Amendments # 1 and #2 did not pass These dealt with the number of representative to congress, and compensation to representatives. Had they passed, there would be over 6,000 congressman today!!!

CHILDREN'S CORNER



A DREIDEL is a four-sided spinning top with a Hebrew letter printed on each side. It is used during Hanukkah to play a popular children's game that involves spinning the dreidel and betting on which Hebrew letter will be

showing when the dreidel stops spinning. Children usually play for a pot of gelt--chocolate coins covered in gold-colored tin foil--but they can also play for candy, nuts, raisins or any small treat. *Dreidel* is a Yiddish word that comes from the German word "drehen," which means "to turn." In Hebrew, the dreidel is called a "sevivon," which comes from the root "savov," which also means "to turn."

HOW TO PLAY THE DREIDEL GAME

Any number of people can play the dreidel game. At the beginning of the game, each player is given an equal number of gelt pieces or candy, usually 10 to 15.

At the beginning of each round, every player puts one piece into the center "pot." They then take turns spinning the dreidel, with the following meanings assigned to each of the

Hebrew letters:

How to read a Dreidel

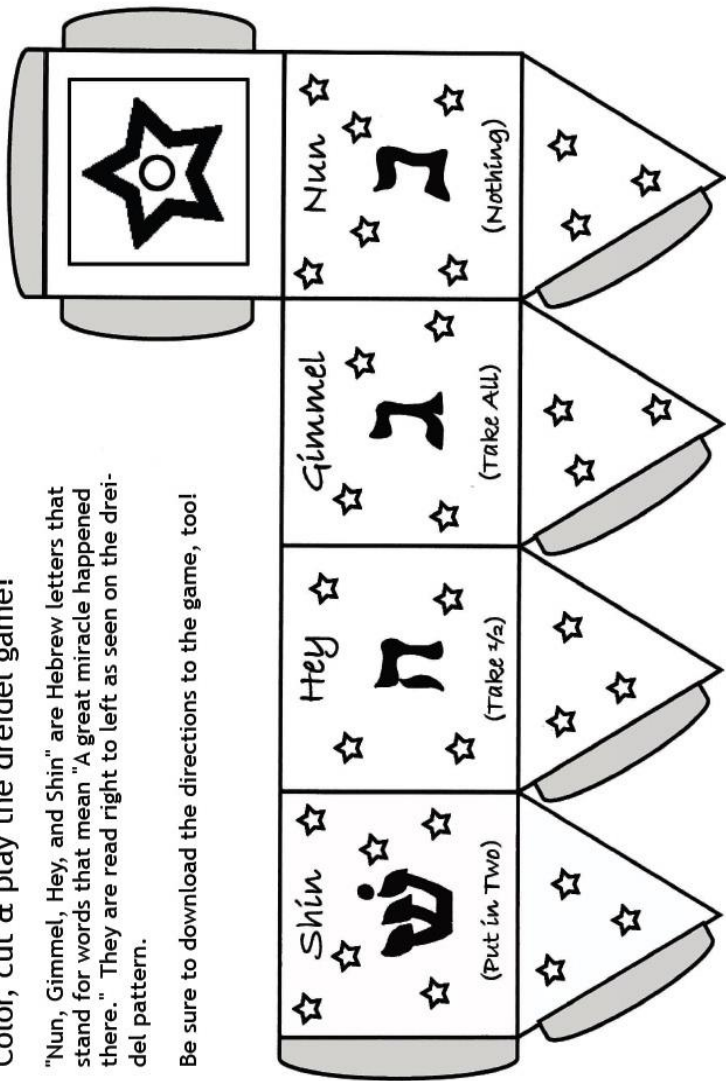
Letter	Letter name	Hebrew word	Translation of Hebrew	Game action:	Game action: (Yiddish)
נ	Nun	Nes נס	miracle	do Nothing	(<i>nisht</i>)
ג	Gimmel	Gadol גדול	great	Get all	(<i>gesht</i>)
ה	Hey	Hayah היה	happened	take Half	(<i>halb</i>)
ש	Shin	Sham שם	there	Share (add token)	(<i>shtel</i>) 

Once a player runs out of game pieces they are out of the game.

Color, cut & play the dreidel game!

"Nun, Gimmel, Hey, and Shin" are Hebrew letters that stand for words that mean "A great miracle happened there." They are read right to left as seen on the dreidel pattern.

Be sure to download the directions to the game, too!



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POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS 2017

BHLC will be ordering Poinsettias for Christmas to adorn the altar. The poinsettias will be \$8.00 each. Your money must accompany your order.

Please make checks payable to "Brighton Heights Lutheran Church".

You may order the poinsettias: In Honor of, In Memory of, or In Thanksgiving for Someone.

Deadline for ordering is December 17, 2017

In Memory of: _____

by _____

In Honor of: _____

by _____

In Thankfulness for: _____


by _____





Brighton Heights Lutheran Church
3830 California Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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