



BRIGHTON HEIGHTS
LUTHERAN CHURCH

3830 CALIFORNIA AVE.
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212
(412) 761-8545



2018

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



Every Christmas-time I like to watch as many different movie versions of *THE CHRISTMAS CAROL* by Charles Dickens as I can get. In addition, I read Dicken's short novel once or twice. I am very fond of this particular story. But if I could only have either the movies or the book, I would choose to have the book. I have never found a

movie version which manages to present the whole beautiful picture that Dickens gives us in the book. If you've never read it you might want to get your hands on the book and do so. I find that this little story does more to put me in the Christmas mood than all the store decorations, sales, and piped-in Christmas music that you find in any mall or big department store. In this story there is no Santa, no reindeer, no jingle bells, no animated snowman and no Grinches. I, for one, don't miss them.

This is only a little Christmas-time ghost story. But it is based upon the real meaning of Christmas. I don't know whether Charles Dickens was a practicing, committed Christian or not but Dickens assumes that the character's, and the readers, know who Jesus is and believe in Him. He assumes that they learned it from the bible and heard it regularly in church. In a culture that took for granted that everybody (except Jews and Muslims) were Christians, we may be sure that the characters in the book are Christian as well. Therefore we may be sure that Scrooge not only became a better person, he became a better Christian. One of the first things Scrooge does on Christmas Day—after a night of ghostly encounters—is to go to church.

Will I become a better Christian because of Christmas, 2018? Will you? Will anybody? I hope so. Pray that you do, Let us all pray that we become better Christians. Let us ask God to fill us with the Holy Spirit this Christmas. Faith, Love and Hope are not things we can put in a box, wrap up and top with a bow. But they certainly gifts. This year, instead of asking for presents under the tree, let’s ask God for His gifts in our hearts.

The baby of Bethlehem is the Savior who rose from the dead in Jerusalem. The child that Joseph and Mary lifted up from a rude manger bed is the Savior who was lifted out of death by His heavenly Father. To know this—to know Jesus—is the most important knowledge you can ever possess. To serve and follow Him is the greatest blessing you can ever experience. I hope you will grow in that knowledge and blessing as a result of Christmas, 2018. Then we could say along with Tiny Tim, “God bless us, everyone!”



The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

May you have a truly blessed Christmas season.
God Bless you,

PS: Happy New Year! We wait to see what the new year will bring. We know it will have 12 months, 365 days, 8,760 hours or 525,600 minutes! Time is the stage in which things occur. So instead of asking what the new year will bring you, ask yourself what you intend to bring to the new year!

Brian F Shirey

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS



SHUT-IN: Rohma Kropf, Bonnie Furman, Gloria Davis, Betty Lou Moore, Loraine Andrzejwski, Chuck Skalos

FOR HEALING AND WELL-BEING: Susan Spriggs, Will Lugaila, Donna Erdner, Chad Lowe, Judy Ingram, George Lucas, Don Aurin, Pauline Aurin, Roberta Axton, Melissa Stipinsky, Shirley Harman, Janet Fullerton, Roy

Engleman, Mindy Rice, Eileen Lundy, John Koerbel, Nanette McHugh, Skip Lagaila, Barb Cinkan, Betty Stephens, Luke Recker, Scott Fink, Shyanne Lion, Debra Bailey, Paul Lichauer, Beverly Lichauer, Kathy Hand, Michael Conti, Brianna Reiley, Haley Reiley, Earl Weaver, Dan Stephens, Sharon Harriet, Tish Lennon, Sharon Harriett, Beverly Watt, Karrah Timko, Diane Scott, Janice Engleman, Debbie Thornton, Pastor Wayne Harrison, Tony Stephens, Charles Brown, Jean Benadetti, Mr. Yagelski, Kim Behr, Patti Noll, Chuck DeJong, Tony Celander, Peggy Ayres, Carl Hendrickson, Joyce Barret, Chantel Burns, Rob Hite, Thomas Kaiser, Veronica Thrasher

FOR COMFORT IN TIME OF LOSS: Family of Diane Stiegler, Family of Wilma Blythe, Family of Gerald Repcheck, Family of Paul Baginski

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

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.

DECEMBER WORSHIP TEAM

DECEMBER 3

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

DECEMBER 9

2 Ushers: Rich Dummer, Bob Fink
Acolyte: Shane Lundy
Lector:
2 Comm. Presenter: Betty Stephens, Patty Petrusch
Comm. Helper: Jan Krepp,

DECEMBER 16

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

DECEMBER 23

2 Ushers: Rich Dummer, Bob Fink
Acolyte: Shane Lundy
Lector:
2 Comm. Presenter: June Baginski, Patty Petrusch
Comm. Helper: Jan Krepp

DECEMBER 24

2 Ushers: Dave Fink, Rich Stewart
Acolyte: Nick Hammel

Lector: Jan Krepp
 2 Comm. Presenter: Rich & Mary Ann Stewart
 Comm. Helper: Dave Fink

DECEMBER 30

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



There's a Place for You!

INTERESTED IN BEING INVOLVED WITH WORSHIPING?

We could use you as an Usher, Acolyte, Lector, Communion Presenter or Communion Helper. If you want to

know more about these opportunities in your church, ask Pastor Brian or call the church office.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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



BHLC NEWS

THERE WILL BE A COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 10 AT 7PM.

WE WILL HAVE OUR ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16TH AFTER OUR SERVICE.

Congregational Meeting



FLOWERS AND SANCTUARY CANDLES can be purchased for the altar. The sign up sheet is in the back of the church. There are also envelopes with a label to place your money and can be put in the collection. THE PRICE OF FLOWERS ARE NOW \$40.



BHLC will be ordering POINSETTIAS for Christmas to adorn the altar. The poinsettias will be \$10.00 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.



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

WITNESS AND MISSION

We would like to organize a group (2 people in each group) that would be willing to visit members of Brighton Heights Lutheran Church's congregation that we haven't seen for a while. We would call and set up time to visit. We just want these folks to know that we miss them and are reaching out to let them know we are here to help in whatever way we can. Please let Patty Petrusch know if you are interested.



It's Time for our annual non-perishable food drive! There will be a collection basket in the Narthex for your donations of nonperishable food such as soups, stews, veggies, sauces, dry pasta, stuffing mix, noodle mixes and baby food. These items will be donated to the Northside Common Ministry's Food Bank. This food drive will continue until December 16th.



Food Collection

Dear BHLC Family
Thank you for the beautiful dish garden and your support at this different time. We appreciate it.
Thank you again,
Love,
June Baganski and family



THANKS to all for filling the Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes. We had 42 boxes. Thank you for your support.



THANKS to all who contributed to St. Afterschool's Turkey Fund for KDKA's Turkey Fund. We raised \$105.50 and will be doubled by PNC bank to \$205.50.

THANKS to all who took and an angel from our Christmas Angel Tree. The gifts are for the residents at the Reformed Presbyterian Home. They are due by December 9th.

ONE PERSON'S JUNK IS ANOTHER'S TREASURE. About one month ago my church had a table of things they were getting rid of and anyone can take. I took A.S.A.P. *Always Say A Prayer*



Dear Family,

I desperately need your help. As many of you know, Roy had a heart transplant 11 years ago and a year later God sent us our sons. We have struggled with issues over the years (as we all do) and now Roy life is at great risk.

He was born with only one kidney, which is currently dying. And a Necrotic (dead) right hip was recently diagnosed, which they will not replace until he receives a kidney, preferably from a living donor.

I am asking for your prayers and that you help me get this message out via word, social media, etc. Please share it. We currently have no computer and are not very literate.

I do have faith that with prayers and action, Roy's life may be restored to health and years to share with his "families". Please Help.

*With love, thanks and blessings to all,
Janice Engelman*

**"A VISIT TO BETHLEHEM" PRESENTED BY ST. JOHN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH OF HIGHLAND,
311 Cumberland Road(across from
Northland Library), on Dec.**

**8,9,15,16 from 1pm to 4pm. Come
and explore the true meaning of
Christmas this holiday season. Walk
through the streets of Bethlehem
as they existed in the time of
Christ. Experience the story of the
Nativity first hand, as the people of Bethlehem go about their
work. Admission is free.**





It's time for our annual non-perishable food drive!!!!

Please start thinking of those you know and those you don't know in our Neighborhoods who might be struggling at this time of year to have a simple meal. We here at Brighton Heights Lutheran Church have always responded well to this annual food drive. So please when you are out shopping over the next few months remember to add a couple of non-perishable food items to your list. Canned goods (soups, stews, veggies, sauces), dry pasta, stuffing mixes, noodle mixes and don't forget baby food!

We will have a collection basket in the Narthex starting on Sunday, 10/28/18 and will have the first collection turned in to the Northside Common Ministry's Food bank on the Monday before Thanksgiving and will continue to collect until Sunday, 12/16/18 when we will take it to the food bank as well.

Thank you all in advance for your caring & sharing!

BRIGHTON HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS 2018

BHLC will be ordering Poinsettias for Christmas to adorn the altar. The poinsettias will be \$10.00 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 16, 2018

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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