

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

DECEMBER

2019

visit us at
www.brightonheightslutheranchurch.org

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



FROM
THE
PASTOR



Almost Christmas 2019

To all friends at this blessed time of year;

What is your favorite Christmas story? *A Christmas Carol? How the Grinch Stole Christmas? Miracle on 34th Street? A Charlie Brown Christmas?*

My favorite Christmas story is Luke 2:1-20. Every year I read it on Christmas Eve. This year, I invite you to attend our Christmas Eve Service and hear it once again. It is the only detailed telling in the Bible of Jesus' birth story. (Matthew tells a briefer account, while Mark and John begin their gospels with Jesus' adult ministry).

The narrative in Luke has three important parts. It begins with a young, but pregnant Mary on a journey with her husband Joseph. They are making their way from Nazareth to Bethlehem. A trip required by the decree of Caesar Augustus and by the census of the Governor, Quirinius. The trip culminates in the birth of Jesus, the Christ, in the city of Bethlehem, the city of David and enables the fulfillment of prophecy.

The second part is the humble birth. There are no hospitals with birthing suites, not even a place at the local Holiday Inn Express. But Mary's time had come, so Jesus was born among the animals - what we often refer to as a stable and He was placed in a food trough - what we often call a manger. It was a very humble way for the Son of God to make His appearance here on earth and He seems so vulnerable (even before Herod orders the murder of all males under two years of age).

The third part of the birth narrative is about those who first came to pay homage to the newborn. It is not royalty that got the first word about the humble, but miraculous birth - it is some lowly (by that society's standard) shepherds. These hard-working loners were out working among the smelly sheep, trying to stay warm, when they are visited by an angel. The message bearing angel is accompanied by a heavenly choir, breaking into song and surrounded by the Glory of God that shines brightly in the night. The heavenly message was that long-awaited good news, the promised Messiah, come to save all people, is here! The shepherds are told to go to Bethlehem, watching for the sign of a child, wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. Upon arrival, they shared with the mother all that had been told to them about the child. Mary treasured all their words and pondered them in her heart.

Such is the essence of the great story at the heart of Christmas. It warms our hearts, just not on cold winter days, but throughout the entire year, as we live knowing the Good News of Jesus Christ. It is the message of hope, not just for one very special day on the calendar but the proclamation that The Light of the World has come and will come again to dispel all darkness of sin, death, and the Devil.

This Christmas Eve I get to share my favorite story again. I always worry how I can do it justice in reading and preaching about it. My prayer is that you will listen with open hearts as the greatest story is told once again, even if you have to read it for yourself.

I also pray His richest blessings on you and yours this Christmas season.

Pastor Bill⁺

From the President

I want to wish everyone a joyful Christmas season. I hope we all remember why we will be celebrating. We should be celebrating the gift that our God gave us. He so loves us that he sent his only Son to die for us, so our sins will be forgiven and we will be in His loving embrace for all eternity!

The best way to do this would be that we should be trying to live as Jesus taught us. LOVE one another as He has loved us. We should be feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, forgiving those who sinned against us, helping the poor, the sick and those who are alone, and did I mention LOVE one another.

These are important, everyday things we can do to show people we are Christians. You should check your closets for winter coats (or any winter clothes) you don't wear any more (for whatever reason!) and give them to a shelter for the homeless. Buy some extra food when you are shopping for the big family dinner and donate the extra cans of veggies or bags of stuffing or boxes of potatoes. Most grocery stores have those items on sale now!! And you will get the fuel points for your good deed! If you don't already know where to donate those items, just bring them to church! We are collecting all those items right now to give to those less fortunate.

Remember that being a Christian is not just saying you are one, but trying to live by the Word each and every day. We are His children and we should not take that for granted! And while we are hopefully trying our best to live in the Word, please remember that we are supposed to SHARE the Word!

So let us celebrate this Christmas season by rededicating ourselves to Share the Word of our Father. To let others know of His Love and what better way to start than to invite those friends and family members that need to know about God's love for them to church with you! Invite them all, you never know what their answer will be until you do. What greater way to celebrate the birth of our Savior, than to lead one of His lost children back to His loving embrace.

Your brother in Christ,
Steve Krepp - President - BHLC Council

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

SHUT-IN: Rohma Kropf, Bonnie Furman, Gloria Davis, Betty Lou Moore, Shirley Harman, Flora Storm, Michelle Anderson



FOR HEALING AND WELL-BEING: Susan Spriggs, Will Lugaila, Donna Erdner, Chad Lowe, Judy Ingram, Don Aurin, Pauline Aurin, Melissa Stapinsky, Roy Engleman, Skip Lagaila, Barb Cinkan, Luke Recker, Debra Bailey, Paul Lichauer, Michael Conti, Brianna

Reiley, Haley Reiley, Earl Weaver, Karrah Timko, Diane Scott, Janice Engleman, Pastor Wayne Harrison, Carl Hendrickson, Chantel Burns, Rob Hite, Thomas Kaiser, Jenn Reiley, Bob & Peg Berg, Nick Libby, Rachel Mileski, Chris Hrivnak, Jerrick Dorsey, Anna Bird, Jim McMahan, Olivia Poor, Gage Thrasher, Matt Stella, Dan LaVann, Michele Hunt, Jeffrey Walldemeyer, Allen Miksic, Dorothy Smith, Gary Mihlfried, Everly Mae, Charles Rice, Donna Krass, Cecelia Dehler, Carol Martinez, Robin Dorsey, Mrs. Evans, Julie Ryan, Donna Smola, Andre O'Rourke, Bridget Brenneman, Braxton Wells, Chuck Kempf, Burt Noll, John Koerbel, Georgia Reilly, Doris Didolce

FOR HEALING AND WELL-BEING: FOR COMFORT IN TIME OF LOSS: the Family of Kim Behr

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

Please call the office 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.



Pastor Bill is looking for volunteers for Saturday lectors. Let him know if you are interested.

WORSHIP TEAM FOR DECEMBER

DECEMBER 1			DECEMBER 22	
1 Ushers:	Rich Stewart		1 Ushers:	Rich Dummer
Acolyte:	Ben Blobaum		Acolyte:	Nick Hammel
Lector:	Patty Ireland		Lector:	Patty Ireland
2 Comm. Presenter:	June Baginski & Betty Stephens		2 Comm. Presenter:	Jan Krepp & Patty Petrusch
Comm. Helper:	Bob Fink		Comm. Helper:	Bob Fink
DECEMBER 8			CHRISTMAS EVE DECEMBER 24	
1 Ushers:	Ben Blobaum		1 Ushers:	Bob Fink
Acolyte:	Nick Hammel		Acolyte:	Ben Blobaum
Lector:	Steve Krepp		Lector:	Steve Krepp
2 Comm. Presenter:	Lynn & Joe Pelcz		2 Comm. Presenter:	Patty Ireland & Betty Stephens
Comm. Helper:	Dave Fink		Comm. Helper:	Dave Fink
DECEMBER 15			DECEMBER 29	
1 Ushers:	Dave Fink		1 Ushers:	Rich Stewart
Acolyte:	Ben Blobaum		Acolyte:	Nick Hammel
Lector:	Jan Krepp		Lector:	Ben Blobaum
2 Comm. Presenter:	Linda Lugalía & Kim Spriggs		2 Comm. Presenter:	Linda Lugalía & Kim Spriggs
Comm. Helper:	Patty Petrusch		Comm. Helper:	Jan Krepp



OFFICE HOURS



PASTOR BILL WILL BE HAVING REGULAR HOURS THURSDAYS, DECEMBER 5th, 12th, 19th FROM 9AM TO 2PM. STOP BY AND INTRODUCE YOURSELF.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

Our annual CONGREGATION MEETING will be on Sunday, December 15th, after our service. We will be discussing and voting on our budget for 2020. There are copies of the proposed budget in the office and the Narthex. We also will have our elections. This year the following offices will be up for election:



PRESIDENT -- A FULL 3 YEAR TERM

Some of the duties of the President are: Conduct all meetings of the church council and the congregation. Authorized to sign official document for BHLC. Be the person who with the Pastor, interfaces with the Mission District and the NALC

FINANCE CHAIRPERSON -- A FULL 3 YEAR TERM

Some of the duties of Finance Chairperson are: be responsible to the financial matters of the congregation prepare and oversee the annual budget.

PROPERTY CHAIRPERSON -- A FULL 3 YEAR TERM

Property chairperson is responsible for the physical plant of the congregation, to maintain existing structures, repair any damage by working with our Custodian.

WORSHIP & CELEBRATION CHAIRPERSON - TO FINISH A 2 YEAR TERM.

The Worship & Celebration chairperson is responsible for the worship life of the congregation they will oversee the worship planning and Altar guild, and oversee all celebrations of special significance.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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



Notes From the Office

SATUDAY SCHOOL FOR DECEMBER IS CHANGED FROM DECEMBER 7TH TO DECEMBER THE 14TH.



BIBLE STUDY WILL RESUME ON TUESDAYS AT 7PM

SAVE THE DATE: FEBRUARY 23rd 2020
BHLC 21st ANNUAL MARDI GRAS EVENT!!!
More details to follow in next month's LINK



ST. AFTERSCHOOL would like to thank you for your donation to the 2019 KDKA Turkey Fund. St. Afterschool raised \$60 + \$50 from PNC for a total of \$110.00. THANKS TO ALL WHO GAVE!

BAPTISM

HOLY BAPTISM: We rejoice in the baptism of a new addition to our fellowship, Gage Alan Thrasher II, the son of Ashley Lynn Scott Thrasher and Gage Alan Thrasher. He was baptized at Sunday Morning Service on December 1st. We welcome him into God's family



Just a friendly reminder that ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CEMETERY is part of Brighton Heights Lutheran Church. We have recently repaved the road through making it easier to navigate through. The cemetery is located on Buente St on the Northside of Pittsburgh.

We offer very competitive rates. Discount rates for veterans. Give us a call at 412-761-8545

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CEMETERY COMMITTEE hopes everyone has a safe and happy holiday season. If you must indulge in alcohol, do so in moderation, remember "DO NOT DRINK AND DRIVE", we're in no hurry to serve you.

JUST A LITTLE
Reminder



If you receive 2020 calendars that you can't use please bring them to church. They are being sent to people in prison.

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS, RELATIVES OR NEIGHBORS TO COME AND WORSHIP WITH US DURING ADVENT AND ON CHRISTMAS EVE.



CHRISTMAS DECORATING:

We are trying something different this year, as we prepare for Christmas during advent, we will also be decorating our worship space each week. Please come a little early each Sunday.



- We'll start on December 1st with the window candles and wreaths and two banners.
- Week 2, December 8th door wreaths and two banners,
- Week 3, December 15th Stable with animals and two banners.
- Finish up on Week 4 December 22nd, with the tree, stable characters, pew candles, luminaries, and banners.



A MESSAGE FROM THE WITNESS AND MISSION COMMITTEE: I just wanted to thank everyone for their generous donations. We had a very busy couple of months going on here at BHLC:

1. ONE BACK PACK for slightly used or new blankets, our goal was ten, we went over that. We will still be collecting for the winter months, so that the homeless can be warm.
2. OUR RONALD MCDONALD POP TAB challenge he have over 10 lbs. of tabs.
3. We also had our SAMARITAN PURSE SHOE BOXES. The boxes go to other countries for boys and girls. It helps to put a smile on their face at Christmas. Our goal was 50, we have 62!
4. We also have our CHRISTMAS ANGEL TREE for seniors at the Reformed Presbyterian home. The gifts are for senior that have no one. Let's put a smile on their faces which is priceless.

5. Our monthly BENEVOLENCE for November went to “We raise Foundation” and December Benevolence is going to friends of Madagascar.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING:

We are restoring our annual tradition of caroling at the RPH and we will do this year in memory of Janet Fullerton (our church musical director who passed away this year).



We will meet at BHLC on December 14th at 1:00 and carpool up to the home. At 1:30 we will sing carols and hymns from Christmas. We will then play “Caroling Bingo” with the residents and have pizza and cookies. Please consider coming you will be making a day brighter and cheerier for the residents and we guarantee the feeling you’ll receive will be priceless.

FAMILY IN NEED:

It has come to my attention that there is a family in need. We at BHLC have already given a monetary gift and food, but it would be a great service project to help this family until the mom can get back to work after a serious injury. There will a basket in the Narthex (labeled Toni’s Family). Please consider giving clothes (Woman 1XL, boy size 12, age 12), food, household items (cleaning, toiletries, laundry etc.) or gift cards to Target or Kuhn’s. Any questions please see Patty Petrusch



AMBASSADORS FOOTBALL PITTSBURGH was overwhelmed by the generosity and hospitality of Brighton Heights Lutheran Church during Octoberfest to benefit our local soccer ministry in underserved communities, including nearby Northview Heights. Your support is a blessing and encouragement as we begin our next 20 years dedicated to “giving glory to Jesus by providing high quality soccer training in a fun environment that promotes player and team

excellence in the game and in life.” Thank you and God bless you for all your hard work!

Thanks, Lenny Muckle and Joe Pelcz



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 November 24th to December 15th.

DISCOVERING MEMBERSHIP

Do you know anyone who is interested in becoming a member at Brighton Heights Lutheran, after all membership has its privileges? Invite them to

come to “Discovering Membership” on Sunday, February 16, 2020, immediately after worship service, in the Fellowship Hall. This is a great opportunity to learn more about Brighton Heights, the NALC, and our Lutheran Faith. You will also meet other new potential members and some current members. We will start with a nice luncheon together. Topics for the afternoon include: beliefs and practices, BHLC ministries, expectations of members and answers to all questions. Those who decide to become members will be received at the 10:30 worship service on February 23rd. To register for “Discovering Membership,” please contact the church office at 1-412-761-8545.

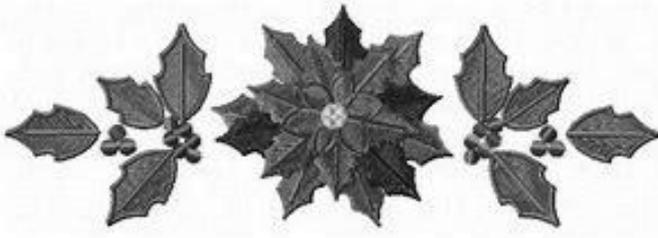


Angel Tree

We are again starting our Christmas Tradition of helping others during this holiday season starting on November 17 to December 8. Please find it in your heart to help a senior resident at the Reformed Presbyterian Home who may not have the opportunity to receive a gift during Christmas. Please pick an angel off the tree and buy the gift listed. Wrap the present and attach the same angel from the tree to your gift. Please return your wrapped gift by December 7 or 8 (or sooner). Last sit back and feel the spirit of Christmas fill your hearts for doing God's work by sharing Christ's love with others.



Thanks to all of our wonderful people at BHLC who took an angel from our tree. Please consider adopting a senior from the RPH by sending cards, giving birthday gifts, or better yet visiting them once in a while. Some of them have no family and would love to see a smiling face once in a while.



BRIGHTON HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS 2019

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 15, 2019

In Memory of: _____

by _____

In Honor of: _____

by _____

In Thankfulness for: _____

by _____

A CHRISTMAS QUIZ

(answer will be in January Link or visit
<https://pursuant8.com/lhm/2019/christmasquiz/>)

Answers are either True or False

- 1 Jesus was born on December 25 _____
2. On the night Jesus was born, a star shone to mark the place _____
3. We don't know how many wise men there were. _____
4. Mary and Joseph were turned away from the inn _____
5. Jesus was born sometime between 6BC and 4BC. _____



BRIGHTON HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF
Interim Pastor: The Rev. Dr. William G. Beck, STS
Custodian: Steven Cvetkovic
Secretary: Mrs. Jo Ann Pomietto
Musician: Jesse Crownover



WISHES EVERYONE A
MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR!!



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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