

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

A message from the Pastor:

It seems that every few days another person in entertainment, politics, education or even religion is accused by credible people of ‘sexual harassment’. It is heart-breaking. ‘Sexual harassment’ is now a sort of generic term for saying and/or doing things that are at best grossly inappropriate and at worst monstrous. Are there ever false accusations made? I’m sure that there must be. But all accusations need to be taken seriously, especially when multiple accusers, who do not know one another, tell consistently similar stories. Ideally, all accusations could and would be proven or disproven but in most cases this just isn’t going to happen. Sexual harassment has been covered up for so long that we have become used to circumstances usually favoring the accused rather than the accuser. The accuser is often kept quiet with threats to the accusers’ career, nondisclosure agreements or financial settlements often paid not by the harasser but the organization or institution the harasser belongs to—sometimes with tax money out of public view or charitable donations the givers thought were going to important causes.

The world will come up with lots of ways to try to keep sexual harassment from occurring but none of them will work. Until the world changes the way people are taught to think and act this problem will continue. But the world is unwilling to make this change because it would have to affirm what the bible teaches. The answers are already given to us. But the world will never willingly admit it. The world would rather sacrifice

innocent victims than admit that the root problem is addressed in the bible and given by God.

The world will blame the problem on social or cultural reasons, but the world will never admit the reality of sin, Christ's atonement for it, or the efficacy of the Holy Spirit in changing human hearts. Here are some things that I believe our culture would need to do to address sexual harassment.

1. We must recognize that we are not our own—we were bought with a price.
2. We must turn to the bible. We are all the work of a loving Creator who has a specific plan for our being. If we refuse to live according to this plan we mustn't be surprised if life turns out to be less than it could be. The bible is the only source of the disclosure of this plan. It is given through the Law. We may not be saved by works of the law but the law shows us God's plan. Until we turn our hearts to the law and strive to live by it we should not be surprised when what we invent to replace the law doesn't work.
3. We must recognize that Jesus is the fulfillment of the law and we keep it by striving to live as closely as we can to His example. It may sound corny, but if every person who has been guilty of sexual harassment would have striven to live a Christ-like life and asked himself (or herself, but not nearly as often) "What would Jesus do" and let that guide his actions, these horrible things would never have happened.
4. We must never let the hypocrisy of some who profess to be Christians be an excuse for ignoring God's plan. The examples of Christians who said one thing and lived out another are not hard to find. Jim Baker, Jimmy Swagart, David Koresh easily come to mind. Examples of politicians who hypocritically claim to be Christian include Tim Murphy and, almost certainly, Judge Roy Moore. Those who want to ignore God's plan and blame

it on the hypocrisy of others will have no trouble find lots of examples to use as excuses. Many eagerly point to the hypocrites as evidence that God's plan doesn't work. But it is the hypocrites, not the plan, that are flawed.

5. We must admit that the so called "sexual revolution" that has been a big part of our culture for the last forty years is a fraud and a failure. Sexual activity without restraint has damaged our society more than any war we have fought. For forty years Hugh Hefner has been a secular saint. But he is dead. The Playboy mansion was up for sale while he was even still alive and the magazine he founded is considering discontinuing the practice of showing nude women in its pages. The sexual revolution has trained men to believe that "no" doesn't mean "no". "No" means that the man hasn't tried hard enough or used the right persuasion and if cultural pressure doesn't get her to say yes alcohol helps.
6. We must admit that the sexual revolution almost exclusively benefits men and that women bear the consequences. In forty years of ministry I have never seen a single mother who is better off than the "baby Daddy". Women take the hardest hit economically, socially, psychologically and physically. Free Love—or sex without any commitment—exploits women. Even many feminists make this claim.
7. We have to end our culture's war on marriage. True Christian marriage has always been and still is the best protection women can have. My wife has the right to expect a certain standard of behavior from me; and as a Christian husband I have a responsibility to live up to the covenant that I made with my wife. I say true Christian marriage because many marriages, including

so-called Christian marriages, are exploitive, abusive, unfaithful, and soul-stifling. These marriages, even the so-called Christian ones, are not Christian marriages. Some are quick to point to certain bible passages, without a consideration of the context, as proof that the Christian teaching about marriage encourages exploitation, abuse, and repression. But there is no room in Christian Marriage for these things. Such marriages are not Christian marriages.

But we as a culture, as a society, will not face up to these realities. Sexual harassment will continue. Tomorrow or the next day some new public figure will be exposed as a sexual harasser. Good people will wonder when it will end. And innocent people will be hurt. Government will continue to try to legislate a solution. This legislation, accommodating special interests and political ideologies, will fail to end this disgraceful behavior because it will allow us to ignore sin in our lives. And an opportunity for our society to grow and improve will be lost. This tragedy is all the more tragic because the answer is so close by. In His earthly ministry our savior Jesus wept over Jerusalem because of the city's rejection of His Lordship. Would Christ weep over our current culture? I think so. The Church—the body of Christ—will continue to point to God's plan and will weep for the victims of our contemporary culture as the revelations of this particular sin continue.

Let me know what you think.

My you find new insight and renewed faith this Lenten season.

God bless you,



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

1 Thessalonians 1:2, NIV

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

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, Monica Weisensee, Alicia Jacobs, Judy Ingram, Victoria Kromp, Valerie Chiesa, Diane Jackobowski, Christian Reilly, Linda Collins, Betty Heover, George Lucas, George Meyer, Donna Krass, Debbie Hankins, Don Aurin, Pauline Aurin, Gloria Davis, Trevor Gibson, Garrett Francis, Roberta Axton, Carol Stewart, Denise Labelle, 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 Pfiapter, 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, Detric Dorsey, Patty Ireland, 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, Steve Aurin, Carol Frioni, Haller Family, Eileen Lundy, Ari Shirey,

Stella Bass, Claire Panico, John Koerbel, Courtney Pomietto, Nanette McHugh, Sara Upchurch, Jackson Coulter, Chuck Kempf

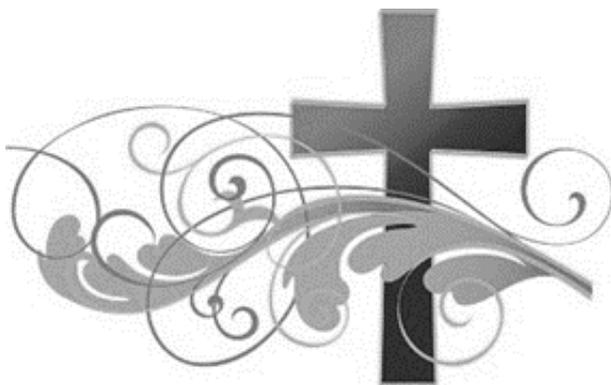


Caine Family, Mahich Family, Family of Haylee Flory, Family of Colleen Heienike, Family of Phylis Vicare, Family of Lois Collins

SERVING THE MILITARY: Erik Kunkle, Stephen November, 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.



MINISTRY



ASSISTANTS

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

FEBRUARY 11

2 Ushers: Rich Dummer, Bob Fink
Acolyte: Shane Lundy
Lector:
2 Comm. June Baginski, Kathryn
Comm. Helper: Dave Fink

FEBRUARY 18

2 Ushers: Dave Fink, Rich Stewart
Acolyte: Nick Hammel
Lector: Jan Krepp
2 Comm. Linda Lugalia, Kim Spriggs
Comm. Helper: Bob Fink

FEBRUARY 25

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

Offering Envelopes



OFFERING
ENVELOPES for
2018 are in the back of the church. Please
pickup your box. Please note your number
has been changed!

NEWS & Notes

The CHRISTMAS FOOD DRIVE is over but BHLC continues to collect food for the Northside Common Ministries. We *thank* everyone for their continued donations.



BHLC COULD USE YOUR HELP!
Interested in being involved with worshipping? 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 office.

MARK THE DATE! MARDI GRAS SUNDAY WILL BE SUNDAY FEBRUARY 11TH, 2018.



- *We are asking for donations for our gift baskets. Please drop off your gifts donations to the parish office.
- *Desserts are needed
- *We will have set up for Mardi Gras on Saturday, February 10th from 6pm to 8pm
- *We hope you will join us for this Mardi Gras celebration!

FEBRUARY 14 IS ASH WEDNESDAY this year. We will worship on Ash Wednesday with a penitential service of Holy Communion



at 7pm. You may receive a mark of ashes at this service if you want to. There will be a fellowship meal to which all are invited at 6pm. This meal will be meatless. Plan to be at BHLC on

Ash Wednesday for mediocre food, good fellowship and meaningful worship!

BEGINNING WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, we will have Midweek Lenten Worship every Wednesday (February 28, March 7, 14, 21 & 28) until Holy Week at BHLC. This will begin with a Soup & Supper Fellowship Meal at 6pm and a Devotional Worship Service at 7pm.



ALL ARE WELCOME. YOU'LL BE GLAD YOU CAME!



3	John McCue
4	Johanna Yoho
8	Dereon Greer
10	Michael Dummer
17	Nick Errett
19	Lisa Gyure
22	Joann Beerhalter
26	Chad Lowe
29	Rohma Kropf

Embracing our
COMMUNITY

NORTHWAY CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY



CHURCH at 12121 Perry Highway, Wexford, PA 15090 has a "Healing Service" Monday evenings at 6pm. This service helps a person cope with sickness through faith filled prayer.



BRIGHTON HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH

FLOWERS FOR EASTER 2018

BHLC will be ordering Flowers for Easter to adorn the altar. The flowers will be \$8.00 per plant. Your money must accompany your order. Please make checks payable to "Brighton Heights Lutheran Church".

You may order the flowers: In Honor of, In Memory of, or In Thanksgiving for someone.

Deadline for ordering the flowers will be March 18, 2018.

In Memory of:

by _____

In Honor of:

by _____

In Thankfulness for:

by _____



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3830 California Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

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