

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



2017

visit us at  
[www.brightonheightslutheranchurch.org](http://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

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



In 64 A.D. a significant and central chunk of Rome burned to the ground. It burned for six days before Rome could even get it under control. The Roman Emperor at that time was a guy named Nero and he was a Kim Jung Un class tyrant and narcissist. The fire benefited Nero in a number of ways:

- 🏛️ The houses that were burned were the wooden houses of the lower class rather than the stone houses of the upper class. The fire cleared out a lot of undesirable—that is, poor—people from the imperial city; people for whom Nero felt no sympathy.
- 🏛️ The fire cleared out a very large tract of land making valuable land available in central Rome.
- 🏛️ Nero just happened to want to build a new palace. This would be the biggest palace in the ancient world. After it was built it even had an artificial lake. It is said that from one end of the palace to another you could walk for almost a mile without going outdoors.
- 🏛️ Nero had a convenient scape-goat at hand to blame for the fire. A relatively little known religious community was growing in Rome. They didn't believe in all the official gods and goddesses of Roman religion and taught, in fact, that there was only one God who gave Himself to suffer and die for his own humble creatures.

Legend paints us a picture of Nero sitting on his balcony watching the flames that were nearby and playing the lyre (not a fiddle—but close enough). Soon he was building his mega-

palace and killing Christians for public entertainment. Still today we talk about how, "Nero fiddled while Rome burned". Last month, in my Link letter, I wrote about responsibility. Much of what I write is not worth remembering or saving but this is. I wrote in that letter, "Responsibility means living in response to something prior to and outside of yourself. For the Christian this is in response to the savior who died for us and rose again in victory. Everything I do responsibly is something I do toward and for Jesus Christ". Everything that I do that is not done toward and for Jesus is just fiddling around.

While the world is trying to build a society or community based on the values of the world, we must be about building a community that is based on Jesus' values and teaching. The values of the world can be summed up in just one word, "ME". Life is all about what I want. The values of God's kingdom can also be summed up in just one word. "JESUS". Life is all about Jesus. Remember Jesus never said, "I am the resurrection but your life is up to you. What Jesus said was, "...I am the resurrection and the **LIFE.**" (John 11:25a) He never said, "I am the way and the truth but you are the life." Jesus said, "...I am the way, and the truth, and the **LIFE.**" (John 14: 6a) Instead of living **IN JESUS' LIFE**, do I want to live **WITH JESUS IN MY LIFE?** Think about that long and hard. As a Christian do I want Jesus in my life (a phrase I often hear) or do I want to be with Jesus in his life. All too often we want to live in Jesus' love but by the world's values.

The world's values look at minds. God's Kingdom's values look at hearts. The world's values are all about correct thinking. The kingdom's values are all about loving. You cannot really live out kingdom values without love. St. Paul makes that abundantly clear:

"If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I

have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned,<sup>[a]</sup> but have not love, I gain nothing.” (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)

Love does right because it doesn't worry about the right. It worries about relationship. Instead of trying to be on the right team (republican/democrat, protestant/catholic, male/female, etc.) try to identify Jesus' values and live by them not by what is popular or feels good. Everything done according to the principle of self glorification and gratification is contrary to God's will even if the cause it advocates is righteous. Everything done in an attempt to be Christ-like is pleasing to God even if we get the results wrong.

Ever get that feeling that you are right and you know you are right and no matter what you are going to do the right? It's called 'self-righteousness' because it is based on self. My understanding, my feelings, my certainties. Self-righteousness burns like the great fire of Rome and is even harder to get under control. All too often, while self-righteousness burns we stand with our fiddles replaying the old familiar tunes that all have the same melody: it's all about me. Let's live as though our lives—our relationships—our communities—our challenges—our strivings—and our enjoyments are only to be found with Jesus at the center. It's not just a way of life it's reality.

As we strive to live this way, the Holy Spirit teaches us a new way to see ourselves, each other (even our enemies) and the world. St. Peter described this way of seeing reality so beautifully let me close with his words:

As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, <sup>5</sup> you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> For it stands in Scripture:

"Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame... But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy." (1 Peter 2:4-5, 9-10).

I hope you are having a great summer. May God bless you and keep your faith strong and joyful,

*Brian F Shurey*



IN OUR  
*Thoughts and Prayers*

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

FOR HEALING AND WELL-BEING: Zoey, Susan Spriggs, Will Lugaila, Betty Kirby, Kimberly Mason, Donna Erdner, Don Hoffer, Diane Stiegler, Chad Lowe, Judy McGregor, Bonnie Guest, Evan Ray, Patricia Abersol, 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 Jacobowski, Christian Reilly, Haylee Flory, Linda Collins, Betty

Heover, George Lucas, George Meyer, Donna Krass, Debbie Hankins, Don Aurin, Steve 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, Michelle Pop, Carol Baland, Earl Weaver, Heather Ann, Alan Campbell, Melissa Stipinsky, Pat Zokies, Jim Wilson, John Pfspter, Gage, Tylor, Kim Turkovich, Leona Weaver, Carol Martinez, Ruth Ann Stevens, Loraine Andrzejwski, Roland Reynolds, Georgia Rielly, Ashly Augustine, Patty Gates, Ruth Dorsey, Ramae Mazza, Rhoma Myers, Nancy Lee, Patrick Ireland, Denise Gates, Shirley Harman, Sequoia White, Jess, Katie Cerny, Al Prem, Kim Behr, Michele Frankenberg

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.***

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

1 Thessalonians 1:2, NIV



## ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP

### July 2

2 Ushers: Al Calhoun, Rich Dunner  
Acolyte: Nick Hammel  
Lector: Jan Krepp  
2 Comm. Presenter: June Baginski, Linda Lugalía  
Comm. Helper: ~~Kathy Dearth~~

### July 9

2 Ushers: Bob Fink, Dave Fink  
Acolyte: Shane Lundy  
Lector: Ashley Scott  
2 Comm. Presenter: Jan Krepp, Patty Petrusch  
Comm. Helper: Kathy Skeva

### July 16

2 Ushers: Al Prem, Rich Stewart  
Acolyte: Nick Hammel  
Lector: Celeste Spriggs  
2 Comm. Presenter: Carol & Jim Stewart  
Comm. Helper: Tony Stephens

### July 23

2 Ushers: Al Calhoun, Rich Dummer  
Acolyte: Shane Lundy  
Lector: Tony Stephens  
2 Comm. Presenter: Rich & Mary Ann Stewart  
Comm. Helper: Johanna Yoho

### July 30

2 Ushers: Bob Fink, Dave Fink  
Acolyte: Nick Hammel  
Lector: ~~Kathy Dearth~~  
2 Comm. Presenter: Celeste Spriggs, Kathryn Skeva  
Comm. Helper: Patty Petrusch

## August 6

2 Ushers: Al Prem & Rich Stewart  
Acolyte: Shane Lundy  
Lector: Jan Krepp  
2 Comm. Presenter: June Baginski, Linda Lugalia  
Comm. Helper: Kathy Dearth

## August 13

2 Ushers: Al Calhoun, Rich Dummer  
Acolyte: Nick Hammel  
Lector: Ashley Scott  
2 Comm. Presenter: Patty Petrusch, Kim Spriggs  
Comm. Helper: Bob Fink

## August 20

2 Ushers: Bob Fink, Dave Fink  
Acolyte: Shane Lundy  
Lector: Tony Stephens  
2 Comm. Presenter: Rich Stewart, Mary Ann Stewart  
Comm. Helper: Kathy Skeva

## August 27

2 Ushers: Al Prem, Rich Stewart  
Acolyte: Nick Hammel  
Lector: Johanna Yoho  
2 Comm. Presenter: Carol Stewart, Jim Stewart  
Comm. Helper: Tony Stephens

### BRIGHTON HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH NEEDS



VOLUNTEERS for serving at service. If you would like to volunteer please contact the church office at 412-761-8545 or via email [bhlcsecretary@outlook.com](mailto:bhlcsecretary@outlook.com)





COUNCIL WILL HAVE COMBINED JULY AND AUGUST MEETING ON MONDAY, AUGUST 7<sup>TH</sup> AT 7PM.

BRIGHTON HEIGHTS CHURCH PICNIC is on Sunday, September 17 (10-11 am service followed by fellowship) at Evergreen Community Park (3430 Evergreen Road, Pgh. PA 15237). *We are in need of volunteers to be on the planning committee.* If you want to be part of this fun filled committee contact a church council member or call the office.



Mystery????? Cat???

No Bereavement Meeting till the fall.

DAY CAMP IS JULY 17-21.

\*Thanks to all who brought snacks for our camper, we do appreciate it.

\*Camp registration is still open and anyone interested in enrolling their child/children can call the church office or see Patty Petrusch or Kim Spriggs.

\*ALSO WE ARE LOOKING FOR FAMILIES TO HOST the Lutherlyn Counselors (3) for dinner (either at your house or out to a restaurant). Days to host them are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Please let Patty Petrusch or Kim Spriggs know if you can take care of this.



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. See Rich Stewart or contact the church office.



### NALC LAUNCHES HOLY FAMILIES! (INITIATIVE)

Holy families! – Discipleship resources for the home. - The North American Lutheran Church has launched its Holy Families! initiative. Holy Families! offers discipleship resources for families to use at home. The Holy Family Time devotional was written with these key emphases in mind:

1. Solid Biblical Content
2. Child-and Family-Friendly Readings.
3. Lutheran Theological Perspective.
4. Questions Asked by the Children.
5. Employing Luther's Three-fold Approach to Scripture: Prayer, Study, and Struggle.

For more information visit [Holy Families! – Discipleship Resources for the Home](#)

BRIGHTON HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH WEBPAGE has been updated.



You can get the monthly calendar, server schedule, weekly announcements, BHLC newsletter, upcoming events, links to North American Lutheran Church, and our Mission District web sites. Our web page can be found at

<http://www.brightonheightslutheranchurch.org/> We are also on Facebook!

PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS

JULY

&

AUGUST



**July**

|    |  |
|----|--|
| 4  | Barbara Vardzel  |
| 5  | Germaine Palfy   |
| 6  | Celeste Spriggs  |
| 7  | Kimmie Spriggs   |
| 8  | Fiera Magnone  |
| 9  | Michael Bookser<br>Susan Errett<br>Nickolas Hammel<br>Curtis Storm |
| 10 | Jan Krepp  |
| 12 | Adrianna Lagamba   |
| 14 | Loren Altenhof   |
| 18 | Donna & John Alexander<br>(Anniversary)<br>Edith McCleary          |
| 20 | Beth Dummer  |
| 21 | James Stewart  |
| 22 | Alana Baginski<br>David McCleary<br>Leah Yoho                      |
| 25 | Jane Albright  |
| 28 | Janet Fullerton  |
|    | <b>August</b>  |
| 1  | David Fink<br>Denise Murphy  |
| 3  | Keith Orth   |
| 4  | Leslie Orth  |
| 6  | Bethany Altenhof   |
| 9  | Alexander Baginski<br>Deanna Baginski<br>Katherine Baginski        |
| 11 | Alvin Calhoun  |
| 12 | Haylie White   |
| 15 | James Walton   |
| 18 | Samantha Lowe  |
| 23 | Betty Stephens   |
| 26 | Sam Johnston   |
| 31 | Kathryn Skeva  |

# EYD

July 1 - Canada Day – Canada became self-governing on July 1, 1867 with the passage of the British North America Act (BNA Act) in the British Parliament. The U.S. and Canada share the largest un-defended border in the world.

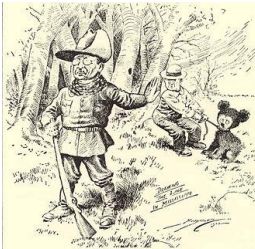


July 4 - Independence Day – This is the birthday of our nation. We celebrate and enjoy our freedom. Thomas Jefferson is the author of the Declaration of Independence. It was voted and approved on July 4, 1776, however, it was not signed by John Hancock, President of the Continental Congress until August, 1776 to make it official



July 7 – Chocolate Day – Chocolate is America’s favorite flavor. Chocolate is a vegetable! It comes from the Cacao tree found in tropical rain forests. Eat and enjoy your chocolate today!

July 10 – Teddy Bear Picnic Day – Stuffed Teddy Bears are kid’s favorite. Take your bear out for a day in the sun! The



origin of the Teddy Bear dates to the early 1900s when, President Theodore Roosevelt (a hunter) was in office. While hunting in Mississippi in 1902, he refused to shoot a small bear. The Washington Post picked up on this story, and made a cartoon of the event. Toy store owners, Morris and Rose

Michtom, wrote to President Roosevelt for permission to call their stuffed animal “Teddy Bears”. Teddy bears became wildly popular. Their company went on to become the Ideal Toy Company, one of the largest toy companies in the world.

July 11 – World Population Day – World Population Day was established by the United Nations to raise awareness of global population issues.



July 16 – National Ice Cream Day – In 1984, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed July as National Ice Cream Month and established National Ice Cream Day as the third Sunday in July.

July 20 – National Lollipop Day – George Smith, owner of Bradley Smith Company, invented and patented the Lollipop in 1908. Legend has it, George named the Lollipop after his favorite racehorse, “Lolly Pop”.

July 23 – National Hot Dog Day – This is the day we celebrate one of America’s favorite summer sandwiches.

July 24 – Amelia Earhart Day – This day honors, Amelia Earhart, a famous aviation pioneer, who broke many early aviation records. This day celebrates her birth in 1897.



July 30 – International Day of Friendship – In 2011 the United Nations declared this day as a time to encourage peace, respect and celebrate diversity.

August 3 – National Watermelon Day – This fruit is one of summer’s favorite fruit! It has over 90% water but taste good and makes a picnic complete.

National Watermelon Day!



August 4 – National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day –



Chocolate Chip Cookies are America’s favorite cookie. They were invented by Ruth Graves Wakefield from Massachusetts in 1938. Her husband ran the Toll House Inn, resulting in her cookies being called “Toll House” cookies. Nestle’s bought the rights to the name and the rest is history!

August 5 – Opening Day Ceremony for the Summer Olympics – This year they are being held in Rio de Janeiro.



August 9 – Book Lovers Day – Great day to open a book and sit in a shade, or poolside and read.

August 14th – 15th (Septmeber 2) – VJ Day (Victory in Japan Day) – Ending of World War II - Why the confusion over the



date? Japan surrender was made the afternoon of August 15, 1945 in Japan. Because of time zone differences, it was announced in the United States on August 14th. September 2, was the ceremony and formal signing of the surrender. It was held in Tokyo Bay aboard the USS Missouri.

August 19 – National Aviation Day – This date honors the birthday of aviator Orville Wright. The Wright brothers, Orville and Wilbur, were pioneer aviators in the United States. Orville was the first person to successfully fly an airplane.

August 22 – Be An Angel Day – This day encourages us to do acts of kindness and to help others. It was created by Jayne Howard Feldman in 1993. Visit her website at <http://www.earthangel4peace.com> to learn more about Jayne.



August 26 – Women’s Equality Day – This date commemorates women’s right to vote throughout the United States. This was passed as the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment to the United States in 1920.

August 26 – National Dog Day – This day was created by the National Dog Day Foundation. They have 2 goals, to honor dogs and to rescue dogs from homelessness and abuse. Their motto is “Saving 10,000 Dogs – One Day at a Time”.




HAPPY 4TH OF JULY  
ENJOY YOUR SUMMER!





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

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