

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:

Toys R Us is closing all its stores. I always assumed that toy stores would be around as long as there were grandparents to spoil their grandchildren. Soon toy stores will be as strange to children as the dial telephone or cursive handwriting.

The way we shop has changed. Grandparents still spoil their grandchildren but they buy the toys over the internet. It's more convenient. It used to be fun to go to the mall. People used to enjoy it. But now going to a store is seen as an unnecessary and time consuming chore.

Today how people live has changed. How people shop has changed. **AND HOW PEOPLE WORSHIP HAS CHANGED.**

You see, our understanding of community has changed. When I was growing up my parents used to visit people. While the grown-ups talked the kids would go outside and play. Today, we visit others without leaving our own homes and others visit us the same way. Facebook, Face time, Twitter, U Tube and a host of other social media connect us. And that's all the connection they want. It's a small step from not wanting to leave home to visit to not wanting to leave home to worship. I have little doubt that a congregation could function perfectly well with the majority of its ministry done on social media. We could have a small worship space for those who often or occasionally want actual Christian Community. The lessons, sermon and liturgy could be found on U-tube or Facebook or something like that. One could participate in Sunday morning worship without even getting out of bed. Sunday school or catechism could be taught to many different people even in many different places at the

same time. Youth Group games could be played by many different people in many different places at the same time. Even communion could be taken. The parishioner would indicate that he or she wants to receive communion and we ship out or deliver prepackaged elements. When the small group actually attending worship take communion, the large group on social media simply join in. Participants could download our newsletter, bulletin or other important information. We could even take an offering on social media. Unless something radically changes in our society this is the way we are headed and the church better start heading in the same direction.

These new development are bound to have an effect on smaller, neighborhood congregations like BHLC. Some have already disappeared. More will disappear as time goes by. It breaks our hearts—this is not the church we knew and loved.

But wait a minute! What about the mega churches. What about those congregations with big auditorium-style buildings. What about those who count worship attendance in the thousands, membership in the tens-of-thousands and giving in the millions. Perhaps we should copy them. Surely, they will be around long after BHLC-style congregations are gone. I doubt it. It may take a while but Mega churches will decline and die—and for the very same reasons. Mega churches were formed to address the same trends in our society with 1980's technology. Mega churches are congregations where you can be as invisible as you want to be. You can hide in the crowd. If you get up and walk around, nobody will care. If you want to get a cup of coffee at the coffee bar or a healthy snack from the hospitality table, no one will even notice.

Most Mega churches depend upon small internal groups for their sense of community. So, instead of having to learn to know and live with a large number of people, you only have to interact with about twenty or so. While you might have some interaction with a pastor or someone on the pastoral team, you will almost never interact with the senior pastor. That pastor will probably never have the opportunity or need to know your name. In worship, the liturgist, preacher and

the musicians are all on stage but you can't see them very well because they are so far from you. But that doesn't matter. Real time video of them is shown on the screen above them and you may even become more comfortable watching the screen than with the worship leaders themselves. If communion is offered, you may receive it from one of the pastors, but there are so many different communion stations you will most likely receive it from a volunteer that you don't know.

"Well," I hear you ask. "If the mega church is as you have described, won't the folks who like the virtual church also like the Mega church?" I answer, "For now, maybe. But as time goes on the virtual church will have so much more to offer with so much more privacy and convenience that even the Mega churches will be considered old-fashioned and so many will move from the Mega church to the virtual church that the Mega church will be a shadow of its former self and begin to disappear.

So what's a congregation like Brighton Heights to do? As the time for my retirement in 2019 approaches I wonder about this. I would like to leave to your next pastor lead a strong and vibrant BHLC. But I don't have the ability to take BHLC where it needs to go. I spent almost all of my long career as a pastor in a church (and world) so different than it is today that instead of the wisdom of age all I have to offer is the novelty of the antique. So I ask again, what's to do?

We can simply do nothing. We are well enough endowed that we will be able to pay for our current style of being church, maybe not forever, but for a good while. BHLC has the ability to call a new pastor and under the leadership of that new pastor we might even see some numerical growth. But if the vision and ministry of BHLC doesn't change that growth will not be all that significant.

No urban neighborhood congregation will become a Mega Church; but adopting the outward forms of the Mega Church we might attract people in the area who don't want to drive out into the suburbs to a Mega Church. We could retire our pipe organ and replace it with a "praise band" which resembles a rock band (or at least an electronic one). We

couldn't put a projector screen over the chancel. BHLC's windows let in far too much light for projection. But we could mount one or two very large Digital TVs and many along each side aisle—roughly where the speakers are now. We can put a coffee bar and snack wagon in the narthex or even in the back of the nave. We could sing praise songs instead of hymns and we could illustrate the sermon with captions and pretty pictures. It might help—for a while—but if your next pastor stays even half as long as I have, he or she will be looking at the same challenges I'm looking at now.

Research show that throughout the country, large and growing congregations have only one factor in common. It is not their style of worship. It is not their style of building. It is not the conservative or liberal complexion of the congregation. It is certainly not the tradition or denomination of the congregation. The one factor that they all share is that they are all located in areas that have a growing population. If we sold our building, BHLC might have enough resources to rent or buy a place to worship in an area with a growing population. We could move the congregation to Seven Fields or Pine Township! We might even become a Mega church. But we would never again be a neighborhood church.

We could jump into the 21st Century and begin to intelligently use social media. But we must not simply use it for communication and fellowship. **WE MUST LEARN TO USE IT FOR WORSHIPPING, TEACHING, ADMINISTERING AND EVANGELIZING.** It must be woven into the entire fabric of our ministry. But to do this we need help—a lot of help! We need to be able not just to use social media but to understand it. We need to think like social media users think. We need to reach them, teach them and keep them using social media. Unfortunately, BHLC has become like its pastor: old, slow and clueless. On any given Sunday, we almost never have someone attending who is less than 45 years old. We need 25 year olds or even younger people to show us how to be church in the age of social media. I know they're out there. I just don't know how to talk to them. Their English isn't the same as my English. My English was once adequate for talking to Presidents and Kings. Today I can't even understand what a

college sophomore is saying. We need help. We need to figure out how to catch a few of them and to have them teach us how they expect the church to work. We can't wait for them to come to us. We have to go and find them. We have some time. We have some resources. And I am convinced that if we pray for it, God will give us the desire and the will to face this hurdle and overcome it.

MAY GOD BLESS AND KEEP YOU.

Brian F Shurey

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

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

FOR HEALING AND WELL-BEING: Susan Spriggs, Will Lugaila, Kimberly Mason, Donna Erdner, Don Hoffer, Diane Stiegler, Chad Lowe, Judy Ingram, Victoria Kromp, George Lucas, Don Aurin, Pauline Aurin, Trevor Gibson, Roberta Axton, Carol Stewart, Chantel Burns, Melissa Stipinsky, Pat Zokies, Jim Wilson, John Pfisher, Leona Weaver, Carol Martinez, Roland Reynolds, Shirley Harman, Sequoia White, Kim Behr, Michele Frankenberg, Janet Fullerton, Rick Fagan, Tara Gottschalk, Kathryn Ann Plumley, Mark Woodke, Roy Engleman, Dionne Blackwell, Tom Lennon, Janice Cici, Dave Adams, Jeff Kaiser, Larry Stephens, Tiffany's unborn baby, Frank Greco, Chuck Skalos, Mindy Rice, Elaine Santora, Wilma Blythe, Eileen Lundy, Stella Bass, Claire Panico, John Koerbel, Nanette McHugh, Sara Upchurch, Jackson Coulter, Chuck Kempf, Skip Lagaila, Butch Burgoon, Jacqueline Langer, Barb Cinkan, Jan Krepp, Betty Stephens, Jacinta Dorsey, Marley Visnansky, Luke Recker, Scott Fink, Ashley Augustine, Linda Nard, Shyanne Lion, Debra Bailey, Alberta Greer, Eva Kuhn, Paul Lichauer, Steve Krepp, Justin Asten Dorsey



*Lord,
Hear Our
Prayer*

FOR COMFORT IN TIME OF LOSS: Lennon family, the Family of Chuck Skalos on the death of his sister, Julia

FOR COMFORT IN TIME OF LOSS: 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.



3	Giada Jenkins
4	Cassandra DiPippa
5	Steve Krepp
12	June Baginski
13	Francis Beerhalter
14	Jeffrey Knauss
16	Patricia Petrusch
23	Anthony Stephens JoAnn Lucas
24	Jacob Lundy
26	David Calhoun Kara Calhoun
27	Shane Lundy
30	Sabrina LaGamba

OOPS!!

I missed Betty & Tony Stephens anniversary on May 5.

Happy Anniversary Betty and Tony Stephens!!!



JUNE WORSHIP HELPERS

JUNE 3

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

JUNE 10

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

JUNE 17

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

JUNE 24

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



CONGRATULATIONS TO AMANDA STEWART AND STEPHEN FIORINO II on their wedding on Saturday, May 5, 2018.

DAY CAMP is coming up in June 18-22 and as in the past our congregation has been very generous in donating snacks. We hope we can count on you again. Please drop snacks off at the church office Tuesday through Fridays or bring them to either Saturday's or Sunday's services.



Suggestions for snacks (but any will do) pretzels, freeze pops, popsicles, cheese crackers, animal crackers, veggie straws, gold fish crackers etc. Please turn the snacks in by *June 10th*. Thanks in advance for your donations.

Also we will be 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.



Church picnic will be on September 23 at Riverview Park activity Building from 11 am to 7 pm

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT AN ARTICLE OR IDEA FOR YOUR NEWSLETTER, LET ME KNOW. I CAN BE CONTACTED AT 412 761 8545 OR VIA EMAIL AT BHLCSECRETARY@OUTLOOK.COM

MESSAGE FROM A BHLC MEMBER

At times, I think of how our American judicial system of today would handle the arrest, trial and execution of Jesus. I am not trained as an American lawyer but I have had a life of observing our criminal justice system as a nonprofessional. We cannot compare our American system to the system in use in Jerusalem two thousand years ago with the Romans holding final military, civil and criminal power over the Israelites despite their being Jews with the God given Ten Commandments. In the system of justice in Jerusalem at the time of Jesus, the Roman governor ultimately controlled total power. Jesus in many different ways could have stopped His being crucified in Jerusalem. But that would have been putting Himself first just as many people and Satan put themselves first. Jesus willingly sacrificed His life for all believers. He easily could have stopped His being arrested, tried, sentenced to death and crucified many, many different ways. Jesus easily could have prevented His being arrested. He was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane.^[1] He could have gone to a new location to pray rather than where He was not known to pray. Judas knew where to find Jesus. These ways Jesus could have escaped being crucified included arguments with the Jewish priests and Pontius Pilate where Jesus would have cited Biblical law and Jewish and Roman civil law to defeat those who wanted to crucify Him. However, Jesus through His Father in Heaven willingly accepted being arrested, tried sentenced and crucified because of His love for us. He died willingly for the sins of the Christians of this world. Jesus suffered for all of our sins even the sins we commit today, nearly two thousand years after His death on His cross. Jesus being the Son of God knew what will be happening and so Jesus suffered for the sins of the future when He suffered and died on His cross.

Reverend Carl Hendrickson - April 20, 2018

^[1] Matthew 26.36-56, Mark 14.32-52, Luke 22.40-53, John 18.1-12,
1 John 3.16-24, John 8.31-34



Life-changing Adventures In Faith

LUTHERLYN DAY CAMP

at Brighton Heights Lutheran Church
June 18-22, 2018

WHO: Children entering 1st - 5th grade this fall

WHERE: Brighton Heights Lutheran Church
3630 California Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15212
412-781-8545

WHEN: June 18-22, 2018 (Mon-Fri)

WHY: Because Lutherlyn and Brighton Heights Lutheran Church are committed to providing a safe and fun environment for every camper that promotes and encourages Life-Changing Adventures in Faith! We will have a great week doing lots of fun camp stuff (games, nature activities, crafts, songs, puppets, stories, Bible Study, "campfire", and lots of surprises)!

Detailed Registration information is available from the church office.

Visit www.lutherlyn.com for more detailed information about Lutherlyn and the programs offered.



Need something to do
this summer?
Here are 2 great ideas!



CINEMARK SUMMER MOVIE CLUBHOUSE

All Showtimes at 9:30 AM on Mondays - Thursdays

6/11 - 6/14	Smurfs: The Lost Village	(PG)
6/18 - 6/21	The Lego Ninjago Movie	(PG)
6/25 - 6/28	Storks	(PG)
7/2 - 7/5	The Nut Job 2	(PG)
7/9 - 7/12	My Little Pony	(PG)
7/16 - 7/19	Ferdinand	(PG)
7/23 - 7/26	Paddington 2	(PG)
7/30 - 8/2	Captain Underpants	(PG)
8/6 - 8/9	The Emoji Movie	(PG)
8/13 - 8/16	Boss Baby	(PG)

ALL SEATS ARE FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED FOR ALL MOVIES. RESERVED SEATING IS NOT OFFERED.

PLAYING AT THIS LOCATION:

Cinemark Robinson Twp.
2100 Settlers Ridge Center Dr.
Pittsburgh, PA 15205
412-787-1368 1034@cinemark.com

\$2 OFF ANY LARGE POPCORN OR FOUNTAIN DRINK

Each Coupon is valid for one item only at participating Summer Movie Clubhouse locations. One coupon per transaction. Coupon code and barcode must be visible. Applies to large items and beverages. Not valid with any other discounted item or offer. Not cash value or exchange. Not valid for resale. To redeem: present coupon at concession stand during Summer Movie Clubhouse hours only. For exact information on coupon visit cinemark.com/coupon-policy

Offer valid: 5/21/2018 - 8/31/2018

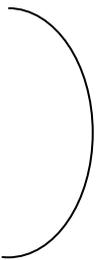


SMC104



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Pittsburgh, PA
Permit No. 2002