

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


NOVEMBER

2017

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:

LOOKING FORWARD TO THANKSGIVING DINNER

What would you be having for Thanksgiving Dinner if you had to grow or hunt all, or even most, of your own food? I thought about this and came up with my personal menu.

In many of our neighborhoods there are deer and wild turkey available—sometimes walking through our own yards. But we are not allowed to shoot them so we have no legal way to harvest them. Deer can run fast and turkey can fly (although they usually prefer to stop and be in your way.) Since the only way to get one legally might be to hit it with a car, a turkey would be a much better choice than a deer. Plus a turkey is a lot easier to clean and prepare than a deer. So my menu would include roast wild turkey.

When I lived in Clarion County I once grew enough potatoes and onions to last about six months. I think I could do that again. Forget sweet potatoes! When I tried growing them I harvested sweet potatoes between six and seven inches long. The trouble is they were only as big around as a pencil. So my menu would include potatoes and onions.

I was really good at growing carrots. I grew a lot of them. If they are covered over properly, you can harvest them long after the growing season is over. I was able to harvest fresh carrots for Thanksgiving, Christmas and the following Easter. So my menu would include fresh carrots.

Growing enough wheat to make flour might be possible so I will be optimistic and put bread and piecrust on the menu. Although the bread would have to be more like a cracker than a roll. I have an apple tree which I suspect would produce a good apple pie.

So if I had to produce everything for thanksgiving dinner myself, the menu would be: Roast Wild Turkey, bread and onion stuffing, baked potatoes, carrots, and apple pie. Of course, it would take a lot of preparation and planning. I would have to start preparing for Thanksgiving dinner in April but—theoretically—I could do it. That is, if someone would cook it for me because I would almost certainly burn it after going to all the trouble of getting the food. And we are only talking about one meal. If we had to live self-sufficiently every day, I know I wouldn't last very long. Actually, my guess is that without Giant Eagle, Kuhn's, and Shop'n Save we would all starve.

THANKSGIVING IS MORE THAN FOOD.

To tell the truth, the pilgrims and native-Americans at the first Thanksgiving weren't self-sufficient either. They needed to trade or barter for what they could not produce themselves. They needed COMMERCE and commerce is a function of COMMUNITY.

After God created human beings, God put them in a beautiful garden where they not so much self-sufficient and they were "God-sufficient". As God's creation, the only way we can ever be self-sufficient is to be God-sufficient! In order to be God-sufficient we must be in community. To depend upon God puts us in a relationship with God. And being in relationship with God puts us in relationship with one another. Unfortunately, many people today are "world-sufficient" rather than "God-sufficient".

CONSIDER THE CATS AND DOGS.

Consider, if you will, the example of my two dogs and one cat. All three of these animals depend upon me. I feed and water them. I give them health care so they will not get sick, or get fleas. I give them a warm place to sleep in winter and a cooler place in summer. I license them to keep them safe from the dog-catcher (or cat catcher). I do this because they are mine, not because of any benefit I receive from them. I know full well that if I fell down the stairs and told my animals to go get help the dogs would head for the nearest chair/sofa/bed. The cat would just ignore me. Remember

Lassie? Lassie would go and get help. Not my animals. But they are mine and I care for them.

However, the simple fact that I provide what they need means we have a relationship. My dogs and cat and I are in a simple, but important, community.

So Thanksgiving is not so much a time to count my blessings as it is a time to count my dependencies. Each one of my deficiencies is a source of community with God. Each dependency is a cause of thankfulness and praise. Or it can be the cause of dissatisfaction and complaining. To live in Thanksgiving and praise is often a sign of faith. To live in dissatisfaction and complaining is often a sign of worldliness. How we live is, after all, a reflection of what we value.

WHO BELONGS TO WHO?

To go back to my animals, all three receive the same sort of care and providence from me. But the cat responds very differently than the dogs. The dogs sit in the same room as I do. If I move they get up and follow me, albeit in hope of some blessing like a dropped morsel of food. It is clear that the dogs consider me to be more than the instrument of their provision. They consider me to be the source.

The cat is a different matter. To him I am the instrument providing what he needs but not the source. The source of what he gets is his own entitlement. He eats when he is ready, not when it is provided. When I take the dogs to the veterinarian they are unhappy but trusting. When I take the cat he is indignant. I pet the dogs when I want to and don't pet them when I don't want to and they are happy. If I pet the cat when he doesn't want bothered he is indignant but if he wants petted and I don't oblige he swats at me until I do. In other words the dogs value our relationship and let me be in control. The cat controls our relationship and makes it clear who is the boss.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT AT THANKSGIVING DINNER.

As you sit down to dinner this Thanksgiving dinner this month I hope you will begin by saying a heart-felt prayer of thanks. But before you say grace, give some thought to one

simple question: Are you a dog or a cat in your relationship to God?

One final thought: my dogs don't know they are dogs. We are all one big family. They see everything in terms of community. They don't see any distinction between us. They are what I am only in a different way. The cat, on the other hand, knows that I am not what he is. I am a different animal whose purpose is to carry out his will. The cat doesn't know or care what I am as long as I do my job.

Many people approach God the same way as my cat relates to me. Many don't care who God is as long as they are provided for. They don't want to understand God—for them a casual acquaintance will suffice. These people see God as distant and disinterested. They value their relationship to God little if at all. The generic term, "god" is good enough for them.

Other people are like dogs. They want to know who it is that cares for them. Their master is important because it is through their relationship to their master that they relate to the world. People who are like dogs want to know God personally. They want to be in relationship with someone, not something! There is good news for people like this. Jesus is our specific knowledge of God. As St. Paul teaches us in Colossians 2:8-10: *See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.*

Jesus is all I know, all I need to know and all I want to know! I hope your Thanksgiving is happier, tastier and more nourishing than the one I could produce by myself.

God Bless You,



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

1 Thessalonians 5:2, 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, Chuck Skalos, Nanette McHue, Monica Weisensee, Alicia Jacobs, Judy Ingram, Victoria Kromp, Valerie Chiesa, Diane Jakobowski, Christian Reilly, Haylee Flory, Linda Collins, Betty Heover, George Lucas, George Meyer, Donna Krass, Debbie Hankins, Don Aurin, Steve Aurin, Pauline Aurin, Gloria Davis, Trevor Gibson, Garrett Francis, Roberta Axton, Carol Stewart, Denise Labella, , 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 Pfispter, 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, Ezra Shirey, Will Spade, Janet Fullerton, Jim Kunkl, Bonnie Signs, Mindy Rice, Rick Fagan, Don Brown, 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, Jacinta Dorsey, Dedrick Dorsey, Doreen Strickland, Patty Ireland, Leona Heyl, Colleen

FOR COMFORT IN MY TIME OF LOSS:
Rienhardt Family, Eich Family, Stevens
Family, Family of Alfred Hunt, Family
of Al Prem



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

*Please call the office or tell the Pastor if anybody should
betaken off the prayer list. Also if you or a loved one are
in the hospital, please contact the office if you wish a
visit.*



SERVERS

November 5

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2 Ushers: | Rich Dummer, Bob Fink |
| Acolyte: | Nick Hammel |
| Lector: | Jan Krepp |
| 2 Comm. Presenter: | Linda Luqalia, Kim Spriaqqs |
| Comm. Helper: | Dave Fink |

November 12

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 2 Ushers: | Dave Fink, Rich Stewart |
| Acolyte: | Shane Lundy |
| Lector: | NEED SOMEONE |
| 2 Comm. Presenter: | NEED SOMEONE |
| Comm. Helper: | Jan Krepp |



November 19

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 2 Ushers: | Rich Dummer, Bob Fink |
| Acolyte: | Nick Hammel |
| Lector: | NEED SOMEONE |
| 2 Comm. Presenter: | Rich & Mary Ann Stewart |
| Comm. Helper: | Kathy Skeva |

November 26

| | |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| 2 Ushers: | Dave Fink, Rich Stewart |
| Acolyte: | Shane Lundy |
| Lector: | Jan Krepp |
| 2 Comm. Presenter: | Kathryn Skeva, June Baginski |
| Comm. Helper: | Bob Fink |



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD:
Brighton Heights Lutheran Church will participate in Operation Christmas Child. We have shoe boxes to give to anyone who is interested in filling them along with suggestions (doll, ball, stuffed animal, clothing, hairbrush, crayons) of what to place in

the box. We are also asking you to give a check for \$9 to cover shipping charges. The boxes will be sent to children in need all around the world for Christmas. Filled boxes need to be returned to Brighton Heights Church

by November 4th & 5th. If you would like to donate items for the shoe boxes, bring them to the church marked "Operation Christmas Child". Please do not send candy, food, toothpaste, seeds, fruit snack or breakable items. For more information and a list of suggestions go to www.samaritanspurse.org/occ



We will be doing the ANGEL TREE for the residents at the Reformed Presbyterian Home. Please find it in your heart to take an angel off the tree...place the gift in a gift bag (requested by the home) with the angel attached and return it to Brighton Heights Lutheran Church by Dec 9 or 10.



ST. AFTERSCHOOL started on October 23. There is still time to sign up. Children in grades k-5 are invited to participate from 3-6:00 pm. We help with homework, do a craft and have a snack and a full meal. When the weather permits we go to Marmaduke Park. Carnegie Science Center and Museum come and provide information and fun activities during the year. For more information or to receive an application call the church office at 412-761-8545, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday 9am to 2pm or email at bhlcsecretary@outlook.com.



"SATURDAY SCHOOL": We had our first Saturday School on October 4th. We had a great turnout and will always accept more adults and children. We played games and sang songs. Pastor Brian gave a great bible study and had the kids spellbound. The children and adults took part in our bible reading and made a craft to be given to the Reformed Presbyterian Home. Please consider attending our next "Journey with Jesus" session on November 4th from 10-11:30 and bring a friend, neighbor and/or relative.



*God Bless you and yours,
Saturday School Staff*

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

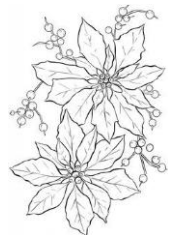
Brighton Heights Lutheran Church will gather non-perishable items to help those in need. We will donate the food to Northside Common Ministries. Please find it in your heart to help those that might not have the resources to provide a meal during the holidays. We will be collecting the can goods (jars of gravy, box potatoes, vegetables etc.) in the Narthex from November 5th to November 19th.



BRIGHTON HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH is "Painting With A Twist". It is a time to relax and have fun with friends and family. It is on Sunday, November 12 from 2pm to 4pm. The cost is \$40.00. See the flyer in this newsletter.



BHLC will be ordering POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS to adorn the altar. The poinsettias will be \$8.00 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 17, 2017. Order forms are in the back of church or in this newsletter.



COMMUNITY NEWS

BRIGHTON HEIGHTS CITIZENS FEDERATION next general Membership meeting is Thursday, November 9, 2017 at 7pm at the Morrow Auditorium (corner of Davis and Fleming Avenues).

NORTHSIDE COMMON MINISTRIES: Temperatures are dropping and the street homeless who use Northside Common Ministries for their daytime drop-center for meals, showers and laundry are dropping in to ask for winter weather help. Please consider leaving your adult winter gloves or hats, men's thermal underwear (sizes medium to 2XL, hand and foot warmer pads, sleeping bags, insulated hoodies and larger size adult winter coats in the back of the church. Helping keep someone warm in the winter will warm your heart too



in

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON FOR SINGLE SENIORS - Greenstone United Methodist Church on 939 California Avenue Avalon will honor widowed & single Seniors with a free luncheon. The luncheon is on Thursday, November 30 from noon to 2:30pm. RSVP is required by November 10 by calling 412-487-8685.



Can You Step In?

WE NEED SERVERS:

LECTORS, ACOLYTE, USHERS, COMMUNION PRESENTERS AND HELPERS!

CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE BY CALLING 412-761-8545 OR EMAIL: BHLCSECRETARY@OUTLOOK.COM

RECENT WEDDINGS



CONGRATULATION TO:

Ashley Scott & Gage Thrasher

and

DeAnna Hunt & Eric Caldwell



| | |
|----|---------------------------------------|
| 6 | Carol Stewart Lorraine Andrzejwski |
| 9 | James Walton Jr. |
| 15 | Robert Fink |
| 19 | Shirley Harman |
| 28 | Charles Skalos Kathy Dearth |
| 29 | Richard Stewart |

SORRY FOR THE MISTAKE -
FORGOT THE BIRTHDAY OF
BEVERLY LICHAUER
ON OCTOBER 20



BRIGHTON HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH still has
YARD / CEMETERY CROSSES available. Crosses are
only \$10. See Rich Stewart or call the church
office.

BRIGHTON HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH IS



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12
FROM 2PM TO 4PM

At Brighton Heights Lutheran Church

Come, relax and have fun with friends and family! A talented local artist will guide us step by step as we paint a custom wooden cutout.



Try something new!
Cost: \$40
21 and older
Bring food & drink
No alcohol please

Register on line at: <https://www.paintingwithatwist>
Location is Brighton Heights Lutheran Church, it is on the South Side calendar and Password is "church"

FYI

NOVEMBER 1: ALL SAINT'S DAY / DIA DE LOS MUERTOS / ALL SOULS DAY

Translated to English, this is "The Day of the Dead". In actuality, Dia De Los Muertos is not one, but two days spent in honor of the dead.



The first day celebrates infants and children who have died. This is a group which is believed to have a special place in heaven, and are referred to as "Angelitos" or little angels. The second day is in honor of adults who have passed away. Mexicans embrace death. They use Dia De Los Muertos as an opportunity to celebrate the death and the life of loved ones and friends they knew in this world. And it is a day of celebration, not a day of mourning.

NOVEMBER 5: DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

Set your clocks back 1 hour before going to bed!



NOVEMBER 7: GENERAL ELECTION DAY



The General Election is held on the first Tuesday AFTER the first Monday in November. Therefore, by definition, it will never be on the first of November. It's a revolution... a peaceful one, where majority rules!! While Democracy may not be perfect, it's better than any other type of government on the planet. And, it offers us freedoms and safeguards that do not exist in many other countries. Our founding fathers had the wisdom to create a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. It is every American's right and privilege, to vote for our government officials. Please exercise your inalienable right and go out and vote!

NOVEMBER 10: USMC DAY

USMC Day celebrates the birth of the United States Marine Corps. The Marine Corps were created during the Revolutionary War. The Continental Congress of the newly created United States of America, authorized the creation of the Continental Marines on November 10, 1775.



NOVEMBER 11: VETERAN'S DAY

★ **Veterans Day** ★ Veterans's Day honors all members of the Armed Forces who served this country. This holiday originally was called Armistice Day and was first celebrated in 1921. In 1954, President Eisenhower changed it to Veteran's Day, in honor of those who served and died from all wars. On November 11 at 11:11, 1921 the U.S., France and England each buried an unknown soldier in honor of those who died in World War I.

This began the annual Armistice Day holiday. The time and day was picked because fighting ceased in WWI in 1918 on November 11 at 11:11.

NOVEMBER 13: WORLD KINDNESS DAY

World Kindness Day encourages us to be kind to others, helping to create a nicer, better world. According to the World Kindness Movement website, *World Kindness Day* is intended to "build a kinder and more compassionate world". Use today as an opportunity to be kind to family, friends, neighbors, and others. You will find kindness rubs off on others, and generates even more kindness.



FYI continued on back of calendar



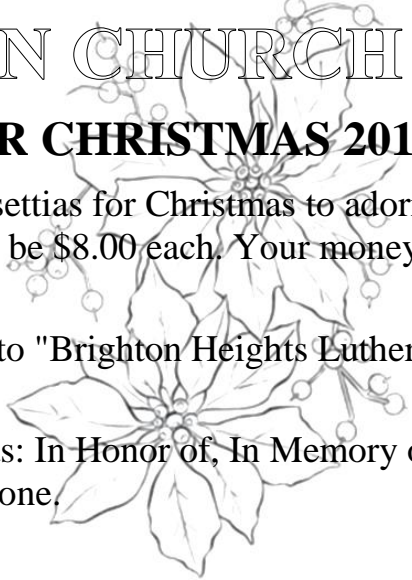
BRIGHTON HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS 2017

BHLC will be ordering Poinsettias for Christmas to adorn the altar. The poinsettias will be \$8.00 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 17, 2017

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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