

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



How can I be truly thankful for Thanksgiving dinner? My Thanksgiving table will be full, but I feel guilty feasting when so many—adults and children—will not have enough food this day or any day. How can I enjoy the scrumptious deserts when I know that throughout the world many will die this day of malnutrition? How can I be truly thankful, Lord, for having my family around me, especially my grandchildren when there are orphans of war, refugee children, or young people being snatched, given, and sold into sexual slavery (sometimes by their own family)?

How can I find peace in a Thanksgiving worship service after the shooting at Tree of Life synagogue? What peace can there be when places like schools, places of worship, etc., that we assumed would always be safe, become arenas for those demented by evil and hate to kill innocent and vulnerable people? In Pittsburgh, we have grown numb to the almost nightly shootings in our various neighborhoods. But executing sweet, devout, harmless worshippers that you don't even know, simply because of who they are and what they believe, is enough to destroy any peace we may be caring in our hearts.

I don't blame God. I don't even question why God allowed this to happen. God created us to have a free will

and we caused that free will to warp and become broken by turning it away from our God and toward our self. When evil has the same claim to freedom as the good, evil things will and do happen. I'm not even surprised by such things. I know that evil is real. It is not simply an adjective, it is a noun. I have faced and fought evil all my life, both for control in the world around me, and in my own heart. Evil will be a daily reality until Jesus comes to take me to that place He has prepared for me. But how can I give thanks when my heart is broken into many little pieces?

Before Thanksgiving this year there are a few things I need to do.

- I need to turn to God's word for a solid foundation in an unstable world. In that word alone is truth to which we can hold fast. We need to hold on to the conviction that in spite of anything that happens, God will redeem and restore. I read Psalm 16:9-11: ***Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also dwells secure. For thou dost not give me up to Sheol, or let thy godly one see the pit. Thou dost show me the path of life; in thy presence there is fullness of joy, in thy right hand are pleasers for evermore.***
- I need to keep hate out of my heart. Our culture is focused on winning. But the monster who walked into Tree of Life synagogue on Saturday morning didn't win. He lost! And our hating that monster with a greater hate than he has won't make us win either. If justice is meted out, he will receive what he deserves. But hatred isn't justice. Your hatred allows the person who shot our gentile neighbors to reach out and harm you too. Your hate won't hurt him. But as your hate gets stronger and heavier the weight is yours to carry, not his.
- We cannot fix the brokenness, violence and hatred in our world with easy answers. Gun control will not keep evil from happening. Neither will arming everybody, or hardening soft targets. Violence is like poison Ivy. You can cut it off but it just grows back. It will continue to

grow back until you kill the root. The root grows not just in our culture, our government or our political ideology. The root grows in the human heart. I can do nothing to rid another's heart of evil except to exhort or persuade. But I can do something about my heart. I can refuse to give in to hate. I can refuse to dislike someone I don't even know. I can focus on doing good over getting even. I can't make you do that, but I can make myself do it.

- Finally, don't fool yourself into thinking your anger is righteous anger. Don't think that just because you stand on what you see as the "correct" side of any issue that you have any right to act against anyone. The recent Supreme Court nomination is a perfect example. Both the nominee and his accuser seemed perfectly sincere in what they testified. But those testimonies were complete opposites. It is possible that neither was telling what really happened. It is possible that both sincerely believed that he or she was telling what really happened. It is possible that one knew he or she was telling what really happened while the other was being deliberately deceptive. All of that is possible. What is impossible is that both were telling what really happened. Both stories cannot be actual fact. So it all boiled down to which one you believed. Did we, as a nation, sit down with others who disagreed with us and talk about why? Many rose up in righteous anger thinking that they knew the unknowable and that gave them the right to say or do almost anything they wanted to those who disagreed with them. Civil discourse flows from a loving and respectful heart; not from self-righteousness.

This thanksgiving I am not going to give thanks because my world is perfect. I am not going to give thanks because my heart and mind are perfect. I am certainly not going to give thanks because I have been more fortunate or better off than so many others. I am going to give thanks that I am loved, called and held by a savior who calls my failures sin, paid sin's price for me, and forgives and draws me to Himself. In this

broken world it is all I have to give thanks for but it is more than enough! Have a happy and sincerely meaningful thanksgiving.

God bless you.

Brian F Shirey

*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, Betty Lou Moore, Loraine Andrzejwski

FOR HEALING AND WELL-BEING: Susan Spriggs, Will Lugaila, Donna Erdner, Chad Lowe, Judy Ingram, George Lucas, Don Aurin, Pauline Aurin, Roberta Axton, Chantel

Burns, Melissa Stipinsky, Shirley Harman, Janet Fullerton, Roy Engleman, Mindy Rice, Eileen Lundy, John Koerbel, Nanette McHugh, Skip Lagaila, Barb Cinkan, Betty Stephens, Luke Recker, Scott Fink, Linda Nard, Shyanne Lion, Debra Bailey, Alberta Greer, Paul Lichauer, Beverly Lichauer, Kathy Hand, Michael Conti, Brianna Reiley, Haley Reiley, Chuck Skalos, Earl Weaver, Judy Sakola, Dan Stephens, Sharon Harriet, Tish Lennon, Marie Andre, Sharon Harriett, Beverly Watt, Karrah Timko, Diane Scott, Janice Engleman, Debbie Thornton, Pastor Wayne Harrison, Tony Stephens, Charles Brown, Earl Weaver, Jean Benadetti, Mr. Yagelski, Kim Behr, Patti Noll, Chuck DeJong, Tony Celander, Peggy Ayres, Austin Ballinger, Carl Hendrickson, Joyce Barret, Cassie DiPappa, Baby Peyton, Chantel Burns

FOR COMFORT IN TIME OF LOSS: Family of Diane Stiegler

SERVING THE MILITARY: Erik Kunkle, 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.

ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP



November 4

2 Ushers: Rich Dummer, Bob Fink
Acolyte: Shane Lundy
Lector:
2 Comm. Presenter: Betty Stephens
Comm. Helper: Jan Krepp

November 11

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

November 18

2 Ushers: Rich Dummer, Bob Fink
Acolyte: Shane Lundy
Lector:
2 Comm. Presenter: Jan Krepp, Patty Petrusch
Comm. Helper: Dave Fink

November 22 Thanksgiving

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

November 25

2 Ushers: Rich Dummer, Bob Fink
Acolyte: Shane Lundy
Lector:
2 Comm. Presenter: Jan Krepp, Patty Petrusch
Comm. Helper: Jan Krepp

INTERESTED IN BEING INVOLVED WITH WORSHIPING? 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 church office.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 29 Mary Ann & Rick Lowe

CHURCH NEWS

ST AFTERSCHOOL started on October 15. During the month of November they will be collecting for the KDKA Turkey fund. There will be a jar in the back of the church for your donation. .



SATURDAY SCHOOL started on October 6. The next Saturday School will be NOVEMBER 17, from 10am to 11:30am. Children and their parents and any adult are welcomed to this Journey with Jesus.

THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED AND PARTICIPATED IN BRIGHTON HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH VENDOR AND CRAFT FAIR. We had 23 vendors and crafters and great food to purchase. Shoppers had a great choice for Christmas gifts.



BAPTISM

On October 21 Brighton Heights Lutheran Church rejoiced in the baptism of Christian Tyler Reilly and Grayson Ashton Popp.

Christian is the son of Jennifer and Paul Reilly. Grayson is the son of Michelle and Phil Popp. Both are the grandsons of Patty Ireland. We welcomed them both into God's family.

WITNESS AND MISSION



We would like to organize a group (2 people in each group) that would be willing to visit members of Brighton

Heights Lutheran Church's congregation that we haven't seen for a while. We would call and set up time to visit. We just want these folks to know that we miss them and are reaching out to let them know we are here to help in whatever way we can. Please let Patty Petrusch know if you are interested.

IT'S TIME FOR OUR ANNUAL NON-PERISHABLE FOOD DRIVE!



Food Collection

There will be a collection basket in the Narthex for your donations of nonperishable food such as soups, stews, veggies, sauces, dry pasta, stuffing mix, noodle mixes and baby food. These items

will be donated to the Northside Common Ministry's Food Bank. This food drive will continue until December 16th.

THERE WILL BE THE FIRST MEETING OF THE CALL COMMITTEE ON NOV. 11TH AFTER THE CHURCH SERVICE, ABOUT 12:00. This is for ANYONE

who is interested in helping call our next Pastor. Please remember to look on the NALC website (www.thenalc.org) and click on the tab that has CALL PROCESS, and review all the information before Nov. 11th. For everyone else, please keep the Call Committee in your prayers.

Thank you, Your brother in Christ,

Steve Krepp - Chairperson of the Call Committee.



HONORING OUR VETERANS AND ALL MILITARY PERSONNEL



During November 1st to November 11th, we will be collecting items to “OPERATION GRATITUDE” to help in making care packages that will be sent to Deployed Troops, New Recruits, Veterans, First Responders and Wounded Heroes and their Care Givers. We need your donation to show our Heroes they are not alone! Please check the list below and make whatever donation you can and leave it in the Narthex (back of church). Thank-you in making a Hero feel loved and not forgotten!



WISH LIST

- All Purpose Wipes (Single & 30ct Packs or Less)
- Batteries ("AA" and/or "AAA")
- Deodorant (Travel Size, non-aerosol)
- Drink Mix (Individual Serving Packets)
- Gum
- Hand Warmers
- Jerky (Individual Bags)
- Lip Balm
- Pencils (Mechanical preferred)
- Playing Cards
- Powder (Travel Size)
- Puzzle Books (7"x10" preferred size)
- Sewing Kits (Travel size)
- Socks (Black Crew Length)
- Sunscreen (Travel Size, non-aerosol)
- Handmade With Love Items
 - ◆ Cool Ties
 - ◆ Knit or Crocheted Hats and Scarves
 - ◆ Paracord Survival Bracelets

** All donated items must have a shelf-life/expiration date of at least 6 months from the date of our receipt.*

WOMEN OF THE NALC EVENTS:

- April 6, 2019 Spring Gathering at Emmanuel LC in Export, PA
- April 27, 2019 Ladies Encounter at Altoona, PA featuring Alan & Lisa Robertson from Duck Dynasty - \$40 including lunch. Contact Amy Werner
- October 5, 2019 Fall Gathering at First LC in Washington, PA



**COMMUNITY
NEWS**

Hard to believe but it's already HOODIE SEASON !



If you have some gently used adult size hoodies or sweat shirts you would be willing to part with we can find them good homes. Donations can be dropped off at PLEASANT VALLEY SHELTER for men experiencing homelessness at 1601 Brighton Road, Pgh., 15212. Someone is here 24 hours a day Monday- Friday and from 5pm-8am Saturday and Sunday

THE ASSUMPTION THEATRE GUILD of Bellevue presents the murder mystery dinner theater production of "Three Doors to Death" Saturday, November 10 at 6pm in McGovern Hall, North Jackson Ave. Bellevue, (across from Assumption School). \$30 per plate. Reserve tickets at www.atgshows.com Proceeds benefit Religious Education for Assumption Parish Families.



“A VISIT TO BETHLEHEM” presented by St. John’s Lutheran Church of Highland, 311 Cumberland Road(across from Northland Library), on Dec. 8,9,15,16 from 1pm to 4pm. Come and explore the true meaning of Christmas this holiday season. Walk through the streets of Bethlehem as they existed in the time of Christ. Experience the story of the Nativity first hand, as the people of Bethlehem go about their work. Admission is free.




TRUMBULL CORPORATION AND LINDY PAVING will be holding a Construction Career Fair on Monday, November 12 from 5pm-7:30pm at the Energy Innovation Center, 1435 Bedford Avenue, Pgh Pa 15219

Remember:


Thanksgiving
Service

Thursday, November 22 at 10am



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3830 California Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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