

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

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

### *A message from the Pastor:*

As I write this, the television is showing the tremendous effort going on in Mexico City to find and free persons who are trapped in or below the rubble of buildings which collapsed in a recent earthquake. This is made even more poignant because one of the collapsed buildings was an elementary school full of children. There are a lot of people digging. There is some heavy equipment. But most of the workers are equipped with only picks and shovels. The sense of urgency is masked by the need for quiet and carefulness while the workers search desperately but slowly for any sign of life. The banner at the bottom of the television screen says: "Race against time to find trapped survivors."

Pray for the people of Mexico City. Pray for those suffering deprivations and for those who are still suffering as hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Maria, and all those other storms swirling around the Atlantic Ocean that have yet to make landfall. I wish I could see in at BHLC, and many, many other congregations, the same spirit of urgency and the same singleness of purpose I see in the pictures of the heroic effort to find and save those who are trapped. The parallels are striking. Just as the elementary school and the other buildings that collapsed were, I'm sure, well-built and well suited to its purpose, God's creation was well made and suited to God's own purpose. That includes that part of creation that walks around on two legs. This is the point that the bible makes in the first two chapters of the book of Genesis. It is not about how or when, it is about why.

But God’s good creation—like the buildings in Mexico City—was broken. The earthquake that broke God’s creation is called sin. However, unlike an earthquake which lasts a matter of minutes, sin continues to shake God’s creation and will until we, like John, see a “new heaven and a new earth coming down out of heaven. Living out our call as Christians in a sinful world is like trying to rescue and rebuild while the earthquake still goes on.

God created human beings—all human beings—to be in a relationship with Him that glorifies and honors Him. This relationship to God gives meaning and everlasting life to human beings. However, humans can’t see it because our world is being shaken so much that nobody can see straight. It is hard to stay focused on God’s purpose when the debris of life is falling all around you.

But God sent a rescuer into the midst of this chaos. God sent a rescuer to deal with the earthquake of sin. His name is Jesus! He is God’s own Son which means He Himself is God. He gives his life to buy back all who will follow him out of the earthquake into the peace and stability of His Kingdom. He bids those who are rescued to become one of the rescuers of others. God doesn’t simply send the rescued back into the earthquake. Jesus forms us spiritually into His very body. The Holy Spirit is at work in us joining us to Jesus and to one another and equipping us for His purpose. We are not just a bunch of people. We are the body of Christ and individually members of it. Faith and hope are the arteries and veins of this body. And love is the system of capillaries that turns hope into faith.

Christ’s church is called to live in this world shaken by sin even though our true home is in the tranquility of the Kingdom of God. We are called to pull as many as we can out of the earthquake. That is why it matters whether BHLC remains a vibrant Christian community instead of dying the sad and quiet death that has come to so many congregations around us.

- ⊕ It is not just to keep the building open, although this building is a valuable resource. Without dedicated

rescuers, this building has no purpose. Actually, this corner would make a nice little strip mall.

- ⊕ It is not about keeping the Lutheran ‘brand’ alive. It is certainly not about keeping a particular denomination of that brand alive. Lutherans in America come in a lot of different denominations: NALC, LCMC, ELCA, LCMS and lots more. Lutheranism is a way of understanding the bible within Christ’s Church but it is not in itself Christ’s Church. BHLC could function just as well (if not better) as a non-denominational congregation.
- ⊕ It is not to keep alive all the memories of people and events that made BHLC a great congregation. Most memories last only a generation or two. I have been the pastor of BHLC long enough that I can remember names and events that would mean little or nothing to most of you but still bring a smile to my face or warmth to my heart. But is not called to live on memories. It is called to make new ones.

Even all the good things that BHLC does in and for our community are only auxiliary benefits. They are not our primary mission, they support our primary mission! We are here to rescue others from the earthquake of sin. Apart from there is no reason for BHLC to exist! Martin Luther referred to the “unholy trinity” of sin, death, and the devil. That “unholy trinity” continues to shake God’s good creation. But Jesus continues to redeem the creation from sin, death, and the devil, and we—you—are called to be on God’s team of rescuers. In order to be part of and do the work of God’s kingdom BHLC must always be a gathering place for rescuers, not a social club for the rescued.

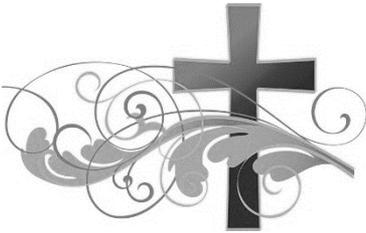
God Bless You,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian F. Shurey". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed text "God Bless You,".

Robert W. Jenson 1930 - 2017

On September 2—only a few weeks ago—one of the churchmen that I most admired died. I was privileged to be able to study with him as my teacher. Robert Jenson had one of the finest theological minds—some would even say the finest—of the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. He studied under Karl Barth who was the most influential protestant thinker since the days of Martin Luther and John Calvin. But Robert Jenson wasn't content simply to have learned theology from a great theologian. He spent most of his life adding to Christian theology with an understanding and insight that made him one of the premier theologians of our time.

On November 1<sup>st</sup> we will celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the presentation of Dr. Martin Luther's Ninety-five Thesis. This began the process that we call "the reformation" that would change both the church and the world forever. It seems to me that it would have been nice for Dr. Jenson to live a few more months to see that anniversary. But in God's economy of amazing love and grace, this was not to be. Robert Jenson is at the throne of God, basking in the light of Jesus. But his many books—and many admirers—will be here to reflect that light to Christ's Church. Thank you, Dr. Jenson. Grant him eternal rest, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.



**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MEMBERS  
AND FRIENDS**

**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 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, Trevor Gibson, Garrett Francis, Roberta Axton, Carol Stewart, Denise Labela, 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 Pfsipter, Gage, Tylor, Kim Turkovich, Leona Weaver, Carol Martinez, Ruth Ann Stevens, Roland Reynolds, Georgia Rielly, Patty Gates, Ruth Dorsey, Ramae Mazza, Rhoma Myers, Nancy Lee, Denise Gates, Shirley Harman, Sequoia White, Jess, Katie Cerny, Al Prem, Kim Behr, Michele Frankenberg, Patricia Cole, Ezra Shirey, Steve Weaver, Ainslee Atkins, 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, Beverly Ohemeng, Janice Engleman, Cathy Romine, Dionne Blackwell

FOR COMFORT IN MY TIME OF LOSS: Family of Tim Horcick, Rienhardt Family, Eich Family, Family of Ed Smith, Stevens Family, Family of Dennis Kaminski

SERVING THE MILITARY: Erik Kunkle, Stephen November, James Thompson, Matthew McPaul, Jason Fullmer, Robert Fink, Jason Cole (Kuwait), Jessie Strickland, Jacinta Dorsey, 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.***

# Server Schedule

## OCTOBER 1

2 Ushers: Al Calhoun, Rich Dummer  
Acolyte: Shane Lundy  
Lector: Kathy Dearth  
2 Comm. Presenter: June Baginski, Jan Krepp  
Comm. Helper: Bob Fink

## OCTOBER 8

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

## OCTOBER 15

2 Ushers: Rich Stewart, Al Calhoun  
Acolyte: Shane Lundy  
Lector: Ashley Scott  
2 Comm. Presenter: Carol & Jim Stewart  
Comm. Helper: Johanna Yoho

## OCTOBER 22

2 Ushers: Rich Dummer, Bob Fink  
Acolyte: Nick Hammel  
Lector: Johanna Yoho  
2 Comm. Presenter: Rich & Mary Ann Stewart  
Comm. Helper: Dave Fink

## OCTOBER 29

2 Ushers: Dave Fink, Rich Stewart  
Acolyte: Shane Lundy  
Lector: Kathy Dearth  
2 Comm. Presenter: Kathryn Steva, June Baginski  
Comm. Helper: Jan Krepp





ST. AFTERSCHOOL will start up on October 23. 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 (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday, 9am to 2pm).



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 call the office.



### OKTOBERFEST NEWS

Oktoberfest will be held on October 15, 2017, from 12:00-4:00.

- \*\* We are asking for donations for dessert, please bring the desserts on the day and leave them in the kitchen.
- \*\* Any items that can be raffled. Please leave items in the church office marked OKTOBERFEST, by September 24th.
- \*\* Invite your friends and relatives;
- \*\* We will have great German food, music and raffles.
- \*\* There is a free will offering which will benefit programs of Brighton Heights Lutheran Church.
- \*\* Please bring a nonperishable food item to donate to Northside Common Ministries.

BRIGHTON HEIGHTS CHURCH  
PICNIC was on Sunday,

September 17, at Evergreen Community Park. All present had a great time. Thanks to those who did the planning, set up and clean up.



CHOIR REHEARSAL is on *Wednesdays* from 4:30 - 6:00 pm. Come and Join us! The choir works hard but has a good time. *New faces and new voices* are always welcomed.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: Brighton Heights Lutheran Church will participate in Operation Christmas Child. We are asking member to send empty shoes boxes to church by October 15<sup>th</sup>. We will then give the shoe boxes out to anyone interested in filling them. We will give suggestions of what to place in the box, and also ask to 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 by November 5th. More information will follow.



"SATURDAY SCHOOL": We are starting a Monthly "Saturday School" to take the place of Sunday School. We will meet the 1st Saturday of every month starting with October 7. (Nov. 4, Dec.2, Jan 6, Feb 3, Mar. 3, April 7,). We will have a snack, a bible lesson, and make a craft. Children and their parents, and members of our congregation are invited to come and enjoy time together while learning about Jesus and the journey that he provides for us. Adults are invited to stay with the children or have time with the other adults (coffee and sweets provided). Please consider attending in this trouble time in the world we all can definitely afford to learn and live as God planned for us. Please see the flyer for Monthly Saturday School in this newsletter.





## Women of the North American Lutheran Church

The Annual Fall Gathering of the Women of the Mid-Northeast District of the North American Lutheran Church will be held Saturday, October 7th, 9 AM at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 525 Main Street, Berlin, PA. The women's ministry of Holy Trinity will be displaying quilts, covers, cancer caps, wheelchair and walker caddies, prayer shawls and other items that they make and donate to many organizations. Our featured speaker will be Kathy Bell, liaison between Canine Partners for Life, a non-profit organization that provides affordable service dogs for those who need them, and the Prison Puppy Program at SCI Somerset. There is a \$6.00 per person cost for lunch and an offering will be collected to be divided between our WNALC District missions and our speaker's organization. Please RSVP names of all who wish to attend to Carolyn Rastrelli at 814-267-6277 or stonycreekkennels626@gmail.com no later than Thursday, October 5th.

## Embracing our COMMUNITY

BRIGHTON HEIGHTS CITIZENS FEDERATION will be holding their Annual Halloween

Parade and Fall Festival on Saturday October 28 from 1 pm to 3pm. Register for the

homemade costume contest at Kunsak's Funeral Home between 11:30 am - 12:30pm. The parade will start promptly at 1pm, followed by Brighton Height's Fall Festival at Legion Park.



**BRIGHTON HEIGHTS**  
CITIZENS FEDERATION

BRIGHTON HEIGHTS CITIZEN FEDERATION is having their fall trash pickup on October 7<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed. Contact Tim Maloney at dirtdoctim@msn.com

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) is the short name for TOPS Club, Inc. It is Weight-loss support that's affordable and works. No fad diets or foods to buy. Eat what you love and lose weight with portion control and healthy weight loss tips. For more information visit <http://www.tops.org/tops/tops/default.aspx>



TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY

Daylight Saving Time happens on Sunday, November 5. Set your clocks *back* 1 hour!



## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



1	Arta Mae Camino
3	Amber Lagamba Sandra Thor
5	Kenneth Kropf Linda Lagaila
6	Keneth Kallstrand
13	Richard Dummer
21	Stephen Spriggs
24	Roberta Axton Rebecca Lowe
26	Katherine Yoho

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The body of an organization has four kinds of bones: The WISHBONES, who spend all their time wishing someone else would do the work. The JAWBONES, who do all the talking, but very little else. The KNUCKLEBONES, who knock everything that everybody tries to do, and the BACKBONES, who cheerfully get under the load and do the work.

Check carefully!! What kind of bones are you rattling this year???

(Frances Buck via the C.D.A Newsletter)

# 500<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary OF THE REFORMATION

On this 500th Anniversary of the nailing of the 95 theses on the Castle Church door in Wittenberg, Germany, we remember the firestorm created by a young monk named Martin Luther. Focusing on the Word of God in its purity, Luther challenged the Church of his day to return to the Lord and to forsake manmade pieties that only caused believers to doubt their salvation and carry a heavy burden of guilt.

Taken from Sola publishing



## *"What is Reformation Day?"*

Each year, the Church celebrates Reformation Sunday, on the last Sunday of October, commemorating a significant event in the history of the Reformed tradition. It was on October 31, 1517, that, German monk, Martin Luther posted his 95 theses on the door of All Saints' Church in Wittenberg.

The impact of Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation has been enormous on global Christianity. In contrast to the extra-biblical traditions and works-based practices of Roman Catholicism, Luther called the Church back to the good news of salvation by grace alone through faith alone (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Luther believed the Word of God was the supreme authority for the Christian faith, rather than tradition or papal decrees. In the process of bringing the Scriptures to the common person, Luther translated the Bible into German, published numerous books and sermons of biblical teachings, and composed numerous hymns based on biblical themes. Many of

his hymns are still sung today.

Luther was brought to trial before the church, and the court attempted to force him to recant. Luther's response is often quoted: "I cannot choose but adhere to the Word of God, which has possession of my conscience; nor can I possibly, nor will I even make any recantation, since it is neither safe nor honest to act contrary to conscience! Here I stand; I cannot do otherwise, so help me God! Amen."

From Germany, the Protestant Reformation expanded through Europe, influencing the work of John Calvin in Geneva, Ulrich Zwingli in Zurich, and John Knox in Scotland. The Reformation Luther led also sparked the Anabaptist (free church) movement and the English Reformation. These movements, in turn, influenced the spread of Christianity to the Americas and throughout the world where European exploration took place. South Africa, India, Australia, and New Zealand all felt the impact of Luther's hammer in Wittenberg.

Robert Rothwell has noted, "Today, Luther's legacy lives on in the creeds and confessions of Protestant bodies worldwide. As we consider his importance this Reformation Day, let us equip ourselves to be knowledgeable proclaimers and defenders of biblical truth. May we be eager to preach the Gospel of God to the world and thereby spark a new reformation of church and culture."

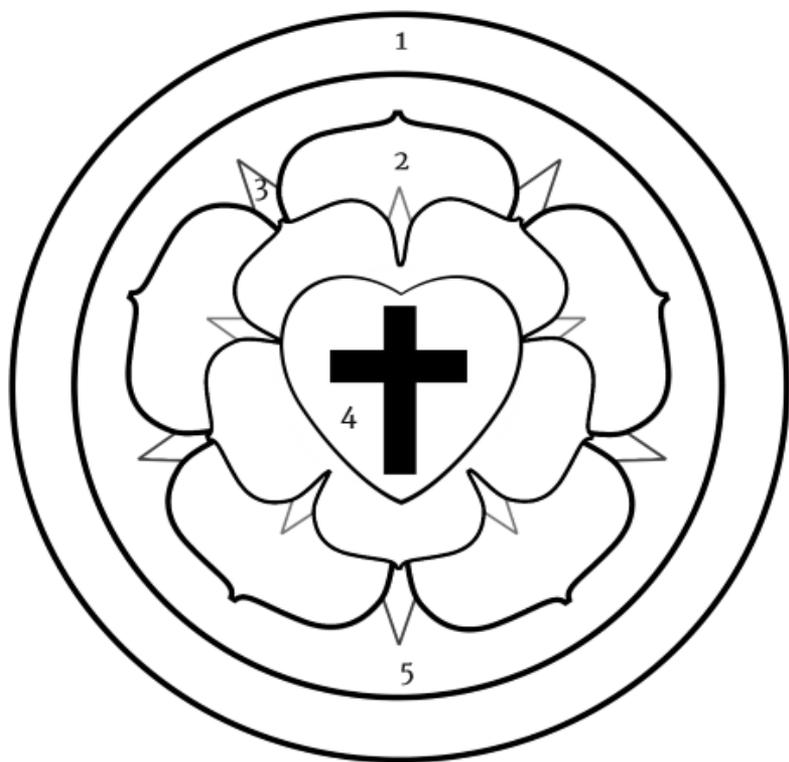
Reformation Day remains a central rallying point for all of those who choose to follow Christ by faith according to His Word. The holiday commemorates the actions of a man who was willing to stand against the ideas of his day and to present God's Word as our guide for salvation (John 3:16) and Christian living.

*Taken from <https://www.gotquestions.org/Reformation-Day.html>*

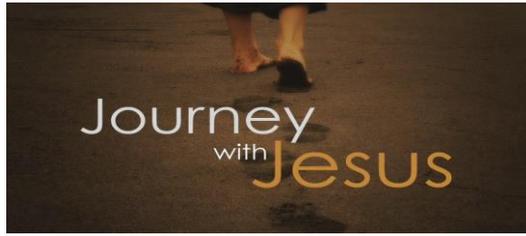
## Children's Worship Pages

Martin Luther created a special seal for the new church to remind us of the beliefs we share.

*Color the seal according to the directions.*



- 1 = Gold. The outer ring is the color of precious metal.
- 2 = White. The flower petals are the color of peace.
- 3 = Green. The leaves are the color of new life.
- 4 = Red. The heart is the color of the saving blood of Jesus.
- 5 = Blue. The area around the flower is the color of joy.



We are starting a "Monthly Saturday School" to take the place of Sunday School. We will meet the *1st Saturday of every month* starting with October 7 then (Nov. 4, Dec.2, Jan 6, Feb 3, March 3, April 7). We will have a snack, a bible lesson, and make a craft. Children, their parents, and members of our congregation are invited to come and enjoy time together while learning about Jesus and the journey that he provides for us. Adults are invited to stay with the children or have time with the other adults (coffee and sweets provided). Please consider attending in this trouble time in the world we all can definitely afford to learn and live as God has planned for us.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

How many children \_\_\_\_\_

Name and ages of the children \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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