

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



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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:

The grand jury report on sexual abuse by Roman Catholic clergy in eight Pennsylvania Dioceses has created a lot of reporting, a lot of discussion, and a lot of emotion. Its contents shouldn't have been surprising given the report on the Altoona Diocese that was presented about a year ago. We can clearly see that this heinous activity was ongoing and systemic. More reported cases here, in Pennsylvania, have come to light since the grand jury findings. I really suspect that a similar report could be made if a Grand Jury were to investigate almost every diocese in every place. But before we point fingers, ask yourself what a Grand Jury could find if it looked at the seventy years in all the protestant churches in Pennsylvania. Or the last seventy years in athletic organizations in Pennsylvania. Or child-care facilities in Pennsylvania. I suspect that in the last seventy years more abuse has taken place in family, blended-family or home situations than in any outside organization. Even though child sexual abuse has been identified and, hopefully, safeguards put in place to keep it from happening again by Roman Catholic Clergy in Pennsylvania, we cannot claim victory until there is no more sexual abuse of children, adults without the mental, physical, or economic ability to resist. We should all be working toward that goal. We do not seek an end to child sexual abuse by Catholic priests. We seek an end to child sexual abuse by anybody! You must speak and act against it whenever and wherever you can.

People who work with children in Pennsylvania must have State Police clearances. A number of people here at

BHLC have them. I have them. People who don't have them are not permitted to interact on behalf of the congregation with children other than their own. Never turn your children over to the care of someone who can't produce those clearances. Never lightly turn you children over to the care of those who have these clearances. Get to know those who spend time with your children. Be aware of the policies of all organizations and individuals with whom your child is spending time. Don't be afraid to ask questions. I have been a pastor for thirty-nine years and have never been offended by any questions I have been asked in this regard. I welcome it.

You know, if we want to, we can convince ourselves of just about anything. We think that if somebody does something bad that makes him or her a bad person and because I do not do that particular bad thing I have the right to do something punitive, even harmful, to that other person. Moreover, we are prone to lumping people together. So often I think I have the right to do something punitive, even harmful, to those who are like the person who does something bad. Wearing the collar of clergy will make targets of honest, hard-working and safe Clergy persons (which is what the vast majority of all clergy, including Roman Catholic priests). There have already been attacks on priests by persons who, full of "righteous indignation", have beaten up clergy. Vigilante justice will not end sexual abuse. It will only make the vigilante feel better. So to the vigilante I say, "It's not about you or your feelings, it is about the safety and protection of children. If you aren't willing to do something to really help, get out of the way and let others do it."

Our children are too valuable to be left unprotected. Here at BHLC we will do whatever we can to keep them safe. Please do the same. Watch, report, protect and pray, pray, pray.

On October 1, 2018 I will be sending a letter to the presiding bishop of the NALC stating my intention to retire as the Pastor of Brighton Heights Lutheran Church and from full-time ministry as an ordained minister of the NALC on June 30,

2019. I intend to remain an ordained minister of the NALC and I'm open to helping out with pastoral vacancies, and other needs on a part time basis within our Mission District.

Guided by the Holy Spirit, I make this decision freely and I'm convinced that it is the right decision both for BHLC and myself. I am glad that I have been the pastor of BHLC for more than two decades. If I were a young pastor and had two more decades of full-time ministry left in me, I would want to spend them at BHLC. I love this parish and all of you deeply. But I am not a young man and I don't have two more decades of ministry left in me, so the loving thing for me to do is to step down and pray our Lord sends BHLC someone who does.

I am announcing my retirement nine months ahead instead of the suggested six months ahead of time. This is to give the congregation a little more time to prepare to find and call a new pastor. [Besides, it's going to take that long just to clean out this office!]. There will be more to say about my retirement in the months to come but for now, let me just say "Thank You" to our Lord—and to you—for choosing me to be the pastor of BHLC. It has been an amazing experience!

God bless you.



PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

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

FOR HEALING AND WELL-BEING: Susan Spriggs, Will Lugaila, Kimberly Mason, Donna Erdner, Don Hoffer, Diane

Stiegler, Chad Lowe, Judy Ingram, George Lucas, Don Aurin, Pauline Aurin, Trevor Gibson, Roberta Axton, Chantel Burns, Melissa Stipinsky, Shirley Harman, Janet Fullerton, Roy Engleman, Janice Cici, Jeff Kaiser, Frank Greco, Mindy Rice, Elaine Santora, Wilma Blythe, Eileen Lundy, Stella Bass, John



Koerbel, Nanette McHugh, Sara Upchurch, Jackson Coulter, Chuck Kempf, Skip Lagaila, Butch Burgoon, Jacqueline Langer, Barb Cinkan, Jan Krepp, Betty Stephens, Luke Recker, Scott Fink, Ashley Augustine, Linda Nard, Shyanne Lion, Debra Bailey, Alberta Greer, Paul Lichauer, Steve Krepp, Dr. Jim Santora, Beverly Lichauer, Kathy Hand, Michael Conti, Brianna Reiley, Haley Reiley, Chuck Skalos, Tony Stephens, Earl Weaver, Judy Sakola, Dan Stephens, Calista Frost/Dedrick Dorsey, Sharon Harriet, Tish Lennon, Marie Andre, Sharon Harriett, Beverly Watt, Karrah Timko

FOR COMFORT IN TIME OF LOSS: The family of Regas Togle, Family of Helen Suscovich

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.

Dear Family,

I desperately need your help. As many of you know, Roy had a heart transplant 11 years ago and a year later God sent us our sons. We have struggled with issues over the years (as we all do) and now Roy life is at great risk.

He was born with only one kidney, which is currently dying. And a Necrotic (dead) right hip was recently diagnosed, which they will not replace until he receives a kidney, preferably from a living donor.

I am asking for your prayers and that you help me get this message out via word, social media, etc. Please share it. We currently have no computer and are not very literate.

I do have faith that with prayers and action, Roy's life may be restored to health and years to share with his "families". Please Help.

*With love, thanks and blessings to all,
Janice Engelman*

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP TEAM

SEPTEMBER 2

2 Ushers: Dave Fink, Rich Stewart

Acolyte: Nick Hammel

Lector:

2 Comm. Presenter: Rich & Mary Ann Stewart

Comm. Helper: Kathy Skeva

SEPTEMBER 9

2 Ushers: Rich Dummer, Bob Fink

Acolyte: Shane Lundy

Lector: Jan Krøpp

2 Comm. Presenter: June Baginski, Kathryn Skeva

Comm. Helper: Dave Fink

SEPTEMBER 16

2 Ushers: Dave Fink, Rich Stewart

Acolyte: Nick Hammel

Lector:

2 Comm. Presenter: Linda Lugalía, Kim Spriggs

Comm. Helper: Bob Fink

SEPTEMBER 23

2 Ushers: Rich Dummer, Bob Fink

Acolyte: Shane Lundy

Lector: Jan Krøpp

2 Comm. Presenter: Rich & Mary Ann Stewart

Comm. Helper: Kathryn Skeva

SEPTEMBER 30

2 Ushers: Dave Fink, Rich Stewart

Acolyte: Nick Hammel

Lector:

2 Comm. Presenter: June Baginski, Kathryn Skeva

Comm. Helper: Dave Fink





There's a Place for You!

Interested in being involved with worshipping? 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 office.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



- | | |
|----|----------------------------------|
| 1 | Brandon Vardzel |
| 4 | John Schnepf |
| 7 | Michelle Calhoun |
| 10 | Chantel Burns |
| 16 | Anthony Scalisi |
| 22 | Amanda Andrews |
| 26 | Janice Engelman |
| 30 | Kimberly Spriggs
Lydia Walton |



- | | |
|----|--|
| 23 | Eric & DeAnna (Hunt)
Caldwell
Gage & Ashley (Scot)
Thrasher |
|----|--|

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

ON SEPTEMBER 23, 2018 OUR SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP WILL BE HELD AT OUR BHLC PICNIC AT THE ACTIVITIES BUILDING IN RIVERVIEW PARK. It will begin at 11 am. If you need a ride to get out there, call the BHLC church office at 412-761-8545. There will not be Saturday evening worship at all on September 22, 2018. Our worship at the park will be informal but still revolve around word and sacrament. Please come and join in!



THE ANNUAL CONVOCATION OF OUR MID-ATLANTIC MISSION DISTRICT will be held on Saturday, September 22, 2018 from 9am till 4pm. It will be held at Emmanuel Lutheran in Export, PA., which is about a half hour drive from here but you need not drive yourself. Please look at the signs you see throughout our building for full information. If you have any questions, talk to Steve Krepp or the Pastor. There will be a sign-up sheet on the table at the back of the sanctuary. BHLC will pay the registration costs. Never been to a mission district event? This would make for a good first time.



VENDOR & CRAFT FAIR is being planned for Saturday, October 20th from 10 am to 3 pm. Tables will be supplied at \$25 per 8 foot table and \$5 extra for electricity. We are also asking each vendor to make a donation of a raffle prize valued at \$20. Anyone who knows of a vendor or crafter that would be interested in being part of our Vendor & Craft show, have them contact the church office at 412.761.4585 or via email at bhlcsecretary@outlook.com. Deadline for registration is on September 30th.





ST. AFTERSCHOOL will start up on October 8th. 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).

SIGN UP FOR OUR SATURDAY SCHOOL "JOURNEY WITH JESUS."

If you were participants last year expect an application in the mail in September. If you're a new applicant you can sign up by calling the church office or talking to Patty Petrusch, Joann Lucas or Pastor Shirey. We had a great time learning about Jesus and the disciples, playing games and making crafts. All ages are welcome! See you in October 6 at 10:00 - 11:30.



RUTH O'BRIEN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Scholarship applications are available for the Ruth O'Brien Memorial Scholarship Fund. Members, and nonmembers with a relationship to our congregation, may apply for financial aid with education after high school graduation.

The O'Brien Memorial Scholarship Fund was made

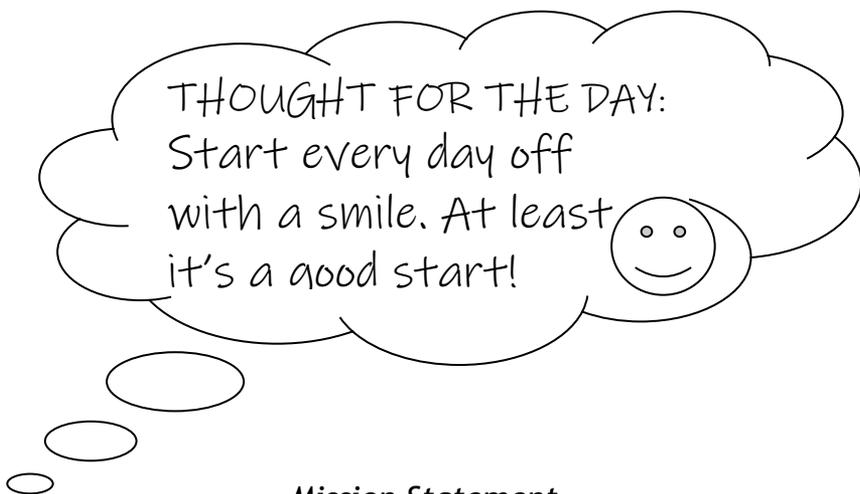


Scholarship Fund

possible by a bequest from Ruth O'Brien. Mrs. O'Brien was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church and, following the merger of 1972, of Brighton Heights Lutheran Church. Mrs. O'Brien passed away almost twenty years ago - in December, 1999. By her generous bequest, she continues to bless the congregations she loved so well.

Please note: You may get a copy of the application by contacting our church office at 412-761-8545. Applications can be received by BHLC no later than September 3, 2018.

NORTHSIDE COMMON MINISTRIES thanks you for your ongoing support. Without it we would not be able to carry out our mission. To that end, we invite you to join us 6:00 p.m. Thursday, September 13, 2018 in a “Celebration of Humanity” as we combine our annual fundraising and congregational recognition dinners. The new gathering at the former Allegheny Center Mall will include heavy appetizers, entertainment from the Pittsburgh Banjo Club, our annual awards presentation, a dessert and coffee buffet, and time for fellowship. Tickets are \$50 per person and can be ordered online at bit.ly/Humanity2018 or by calling 412-323-1163 or emailing Jay.Poliziani@ncmin.org. As a member of a Serving Church, when ordering your ticket online, you can get a 20% discount using the discount code of COH20. We look forward to seeing you and count on your continued support.



Mission Statement

“Brighton Heights Lutheran” church on the North Side of Pittsburgh has been called by God to be disciples of Jesus Christ. As such, we are a worshipping congregation, which provides hope and support to our communities, and share God’s love with all people. To that end we commit ourselves to hear, teach and communicate the word of Holy Scripture, to participate in the worship of God, to love and to serve God and our neighbor and to raise up future leaders of the church.



BHLC
Picnic
September 23
11am - 7pm

Riverview Park Activities Building

Worship at 11:00a.m.

followed by

Lunch, games, & fellowship

Folks with the last name A- K

Please bring a dessert

Folks with the last name L- S

Please bring a salad or hot dish

Folks with last name T - Z

Please bring munchies

Please make reservations by September 11, by contacting the Church office at 412-762-8545 or email at bhlcsecretary@outlook.com or Complete the following form. Rides will be provided if needed; Let us know

Name _____

Adults _____

Children _____

Need a ride _____ Phone _____



Brighton Heights Lutheran Church
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Pittsburgh, PA 15212

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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