

Bethlehem's Glad Tidings

Vol. 8 No. 6

June 2016

Rev. Peter D. Asplin, Pastor
Bonita Cadman, Church Secretary
Mrs. Melba McVay, Organist
Mr. Ed Conkle, Sexton

Bethlehem 724-945-5198
Pastor Home 724-503-4595
Pastor Cell Phone 724-678-8798

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
21 Church Road
Scenery Hill, PA 15360

Council Members

Helen Myers
Carol Brewer
Molly O'Brien
Roberta Mong

Elinor Ross
Becky Devore
John Ames

Arla Dague
Matt Devore
Rich Beck

FROM THE
PASTOR 

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What an exciting month we have in the month of June!

Our month begins with a visit to Pittsburgh Seminary on Friday Night, June 10th. That night one of the most prominent Lutherans (with two best selling books), **Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber**, will speak on the reality of the church in the 21st century. This 7:00 p.m. lecture is only \$15 if we have at least five people going!

Then Bethlehem is sending **Kara Blum** as a voting member to the **2016 Synod Assembly** at California University of Pennsylvania from Thursday, June 16 to Saturday, June 18. Kara will be voting on budgets, electing members of boards and committees, attending

an ordination service and learning what it **means** to be an active member of the Church! (And I'll be there, too.)

On **Father's Day**, June 19th, we will be holding a special **light lunch** in the gathering room of the new addition after church. We are encouraging everyone to **bring a picture** of themselves with their father or grand-father or who-ever you think of as your father-figure. We want to hold a special celebration of fathers on that Sunday!

Then, bright and early on Monday, June 20th, we will start our **Cave Quest VBS!!** Look at the invitation and registration materials in this newsletter.

What a great and busy month we will have here at Bethlehem!

And in between these special events, we will gather for Worship and Holy Communion! We will celebrate the blessings of God in all our lives. We will love tenderly, give generously and welcome all!

This month, June 2016 reminds us what it means to be the Church at Bethlehem Lutheran for 225 years!!

Yours with Excitement!

Pastor Asplin

Reflections from the Bishop

Stewards of the Gospel

On the back cover of a magazine I read every now and then there is an advertisement for a very expensive watch.¹ A man who appears to be wealthy is pictured relaxing on the couch beside a boy, presumably his son; they seem happy and comfortable. The text below the picture contends: “You never actually own a Patek Philippe. You merely look after it for the next generation.”

¹ *Car*, April, 2016, Bauer Consumer Media, Ltd., England and Wales.

While I believe the words of this ad are designed to communicate a sense of value great enough to justify a very expensive purchase, they turn out to be a near-perfect description of stewardship. We say very similar words to describe the stewardship of creation, for example: that we don’t really own the land, water, air, plants and animals of creation as much as we strive to care for all these good things for the sake of those who come after us.

The theme of our Synod Assembly this year invites us to apply this same pattern of thought to the Gospel itself. Permit me the indiscretion of parody in using the words found in the watch ad to make the point clearly: *You never actually own the Gospel. You merely look after it for the next generation.*

Once the matter of Gospel stewardship is put this pointedly, the stark contrast with our culture’s prevailing message of religious consumerism is revealed. The Gospel simply isn’t a product that can be owned, bought or sold, advertised, marketed, or even “messed.” It is at our great peril that we lower ourselves to fretting about the “quality of our band in the marketplace.”

The Gospel creates the Church in every generation. The Church is a community that tends the Gospel from one generation to the next.

And how is this done? That is, what does Gospel stewardship look like? Turn with me to the book of II Timothy for a powerful example:

St. Paul wrote, “I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you.” (II Timothy 1:5)

Gospel stewardship is, on its surface, the keeping of the saving story of Jesus Christ in one’s own lifetime so that it may be delivered intact to another generation.. Or, to press the matter into the very rapid pace of our current, pluralistic culture: Gospel stewardship means listening to the story of Jesus Christ actively and carefully, so as to remember it and tell it accurately to another person, One its surface, Gospel stewardship is about receiving and transmitting the narrative of God’s saving work in Christ Jesus.

Ah, but look *under* the surface, for the Gospel *lives* in its stewards. And in that deeper reality, people’s lives are changed profoundly. The faith “lived in” Lois, and in Eunice, and in Timothy. The faith is not simply an impersonal “message” kept in the memory only long enough to deliver to another person, much less an heirloom passed down from one generation to the next. The Gospel is not mail. Or a watch. The Gospel is life itself.

The saving story of Jesus Christ is received into a person’s life when that person experiences both death and resurrection as external powers greater than herself or himself. In this experience, any imagined personal righteousness gives way before external forces over which we have no control. The human person that has in this way lost all hope of self-justification, and yet who lives because of God’s mercy is a steward of the Gospel, a keeper of the story of salvation, one in whom the faith lives, and from whom others can hear what is rightly called “good news.”

Holy Baptism is a sacramental testimony to the saving story of Jesus Christ that applies his death and resurrection to a person through a liturgical act. Sometimes that sacramental act is applied

to infants in advance of any experience of death and resurrection they are yet aware of, as anticipation; at other times it is requested by an adult who knows full well, because of personal experience, what death and resurrection are.

The meal of Holy Communion declares sacramentally that death yields life: Jesus' broken body and blood poured out yield forgiveness, life and salvation for many. The community of faith, the church, stewards this mystery through frequent celebration of the same story it has received from those who came before.

Christian service, also, provides sacramental testimony to the saving story of Jesus Christ, when men and women give themselves in love for the neighbor so that death may not prevail among them, but rather yield life and hope and peace.

I thank God for the faithful stewards of the Gospel in this synod, and look forward in joy to our assembly, where we will celebrate the saving story of Jesus Christ once again for the sake of the world.

•
With you in Christ

+Kurt F. Kusserow, Bishop

Council Meeting May 17, 2016

In attendance were:

Helen Myers
Ara Dague
Carol Brewer
John Ames
Becky Devore
Collin O'Brien

Elinor Ross
Roberta Mong
Rich Beck
Matt Devore
Molly O'Brien

Molly opened the meeting with prayer.

Secretary and Treasurer reports were read and approved.

Old Business:

The sidewalk will be done when the weather breaks.

New Business:

Rice Energy has notified us that we will be receiving royalties by July.

Family Promise night will be June 6, 2016.

Memorial Day is being organized by Rich Beck

Six young people will be attending Lutherlyn this year.

Roberta will be resigning as treasurer on June 30, 2016.
Collin O'Brien will become treasurer for the church
July 1, 2016.

Meeting was closed with prayer.

**Rachel Held Evans -- Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber Event at
Pittsburgh Seminary**

Being Church. We love the Church. But we know that the 20th century church is not meeting the needs of the 21st century world. For many of us we are not certain that the church is relevant any longer. For others, we do not understand what all the fuss is about. June 10-11 Nadia Bolz-Weber and Rachel Held Evans will join us to further the conversation of being Church. Nadia's work is the work of a pastor living out gracious leadership in diverse communities. Her newest book, *Accidental Saints: Finding God In All the Wrong People*, will guide our communal consideration. Rachel Held Evans will join us to continue engaging Church as she works with us to consider her newest book *Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving and Finding the Church*.

VBS LEADERSHIP MEETING

Sunday, June 5, 2016 following our regular worship service, we will hold a get-together **meeting for all the leaders** of our 2016 **Cave Quest VBS**. If you are a station leader or plan to volunteer with us this year, please plan on joining us in the basement social hall for this meeting! **See you then!**

MOLLY O'BRIEN – CALLED BY THE CHURCH AS A YOUNG ADULT IN GLOBAL MISSION!!

It is with great excitement that I have accepted the opportunity to serve as a Young Adult in Global Mission volunteer in Australia starting in August! I will be one of more than 89 young adults serving on behalf of the ELCA in 11 different country programs around the world!

The ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission program provides young adults, ages 21-29, the opportunity to grow in their faith and work hand-in-hand with our global companions. Young adults in the program serve in churches, schools and social service ministries. Currently the program is engaged in work in Argentina/Uruguay, Australia, Cambodia, Central Europe (Hungary), Jerusalem/West Bank, Madagascar, Mexico, Rwanda, Senegal, Southern Africa and the United Kingdom. This is the first year for the program to be in Australia, but if you would like to know more about the larger program, here is a link to the ELCA's site.

<https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Global-Church/Global-Mission/Young-Adults-in-Global-Mission>

I do not know specifically where I will serve yet in Australia, but I hope that you will join me on this journey as I grow in my own faith and walk hand-in-hand with our global companions. I am thrilled to think about the ways in which this year will form and transform me. I ask for your prayers through the upcoming months

before I go, and throughout my year in Australia. I am looking forwarding to updating you on my service and giving you a glimpse of our global Lutheran Church!

SATURDAY, JULY 16, 2016
LAWN FESTIVAL

Saturday, July 16, 2016 is the date to save. Our annual Lawn Festival will be celebrated on July 16th. All make sure this date is marked on your calendar.

Father's Day Celebration, June 19, 2016

The Anniversary Committee is asking all for pictures of your Father for the celebration. There will be a light luncheon in the meeting room following the Worship service.

WELCA Meeting Second Wednesday, June 8, 2016

The WELCA will meet on Wednesday, June 8th at 10:00 a.m. The Bible Study, "The Heart of the Matter – Conflict, Forgiveness and Reconciliation" from Angela Shannon's "Treasure in Clay Jars".is the lesson. Scripture readings are taken from 1 John, Romans and 2 Corinthians. Bible study will be led by Ellen Smith. A covered dish luncheon will be held following the meeting. All women of the church are invited to join us for a morning of Bible Study and fellowship.

Knives, knife sets and spatulas are still for sale.

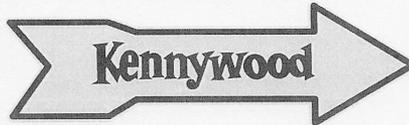
2016 Designated Outreach Mission

We are still collecting articles for Jeremiah's Place of Pittsburgh, PA. They provide a safe haven of respite, health, renewal and support for children and family free of charge during times of crisis.

Men's Choir for June 19, 2016 – Father's Day

We will have a Men's Choir on June 19th. All men and boys please come for practice on Wednesday June 8th and June 15th at 6:30 p.m. We will resume regular choir practice on June 22nd.

LUTHERAN DAY AT



Monday, July 18, 2016

**11:30 AM Welcome and Morning Prayer,
(Pavilion 5)**

**Proceeds from ticket sales will go to the
ELCA: Always Being Made New Campaign**

*Ticket also valid on the following dates for one time visit
7/6, 7/8 & 8/9*

TICKETS ONLY \$22

SAVE \$21.99 OFF REGULAR \$43.99 ADMISSION

Tickets are not reusable passes and are valid for only one admission and must be surrendered upon entrance. Kids 2 years old and younger are free.

Go to www.kennywood.com for more information.
Please submit your ticket orders by July 1, 2016
Tickets will not be mailed out until July 1!

Congregation _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ St. _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

of Tickets @ \$22 each _____ Total \$\$\$ enclosed _____

Send ticket order form and payment (check payable to SOUTHWESTERN PA SYNOD) and mailed to Deacon Amy Santoriello, Zion Lutheran, 11609 Frankstown Rd, Pgh PA 15235. Please contact Deacon Amy Santoriello at deaconamy@zionpennhills.org with any questions. Kindly consolidate your ticket orders to one large congregational order rather than individual family orders if possible.

CLASS OF 2016 GRADUATES

We congratulate the graduates of 2016 and our prayers go with them in their future hopes and dreams. Good luck to all.

High School

Kara Blum graduated from Trinity High School.

Devon Myers graduated from Bentworth High School

Jeremy Woods graduated from Trinity High School

Miranda Van Kirk graduated from Bentworth High School

College

Josh White graduated from W & J College

Jamison Randolph graduated from Waynesburg University

April Attendance and Offering

| Date | Attendance | Offering |
|------------------------|------------|------------|
| April 3 rd | 90 | \$3,521.00 |
| April 10 th | 110 | \$3,468.00 |
| April 74 | 74 | \$2,754.00 |
| March 27 th | 83 | \$3,487.00 |
| Averages | 89 | \$3,307.50 |

Acolytes

June 5th, Brendon Dayton and Austin Naser (Communion)
June 12th Jeremy Naser and Madison Allender
June 19th Miranda Van Kirk & Johanna Asplin (Communion)
June 26th Dale Glotfelty and Jessica Glotfelty

Lectors

June 5th, Bill Ulery
June 12th, Virginia DiAndreth
June 19th Collin O'Brien
June 26th Jacque Anderson

Counters

June 5th, - Shirley Schultz, Matt Devore and Rich Beck
June 12th, - Karen Naddeo, Elinor Ross and Jim Hart
June 19th, - Shirley Schultz, Ed Conkle and Janet Fowler
June 26th, - Karen Naddeo, John Ames and Arla Dague

Ushers and Greeters

June 5th, - Pat O'Brien and Molly O'Brien
June 12th, - Helen Myers and Devon Myers
June 19th, - Norman Davis and Michelle Davis
June 26th, - Arla Dague and Bernice Elliott

Communion Assistants

June 5th, - Jamison Randolph
June 19th - Linnea Asplin

Military Prayer List

+George Liker grandson of Emil & Audrey Liker
Tonya Morris – daughter of Dennis and Patty Kelley
†C.J. Wonsettler – son of Charles Wonsettler
Mario Brova nephew of Gretchen Ball
+Patrick Yeager grandson of Wayne & Alice Gorby
Miles Glotfelty – member at Bethlehem
+Matthew Reck – Grandson of Janet and John Fowler
+Mitchell Reck – Grandson of Janet and John Fowler
Wesley Baker – friend of the O'Brien Family
+Patrick Smith – friend of the O'Brien Family
Danny Seibel – friend of the O'Brien Family
Anthony Elston – Grandson of Jack Fowler
+Sean Shearer – Grandson of Dick and Eva Shearer
Paul Moore – relative of Helen Myers

† Serving in Afghanistan
+ Serving Overseas

PETER J. DALEY, II, MEMBER
PALETTON OFFICES:

657 MCKEAN AVENUE
DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA 15033
(724) 378-6540 • (724) 938-6736
FAX: (724) 938-5554
TOLL-FREE: 1-800-467-9486

130 WOODLAND COURT
BROWNSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA 15417
(724) 938-6800/6801 • FAX: (724) 938-6502

BENTLEYVILLE LIBRARY
901 MAIN STREET
BENTLEYVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA 15314
(724) 239-2238 • FAX: (724) 239-2302

NEW EAGLE BOROUGH BUILDING
157 MAIN STREET
NEW EAGLE, PENNSYLVANIA 15067
(724) 238-9000/8901 • FAX: (724) 238-8502

HARRISBURG OFFICE:

202 IRVIS OFFICE BUILDING
P.O. BOX 202049
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2049
(717) 783-9333 • FAX: (717) 783-7358



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

CONSUMER AFFAIRS
DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN

SUB-COMMITTEES

PUBLIC UTILITIES
TELECOMMUNICATIONS

CAUCUSES

SOUTHWEST
COAL
FIREFIGHTERS & EMERGENCY SERVICES
HUNGER
MASONIC
2ND AMENDMENT

WEBSITE: WWW.PAHOUSE.COM/DALEY

April 13, 2016

Dear Pastor:

On Wednesday, July 13, 2016, I am sponsoring my 8th Annual Kidz Fair for the youth of the 49th Legislative District, which includes portions of Washington and Fayette Counties. The fair is geared toward youth up to age 14.

Once again, the event will be held at the Center In The Woods, 130 Woodland Court, Brownsville, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The goal of the event is not only to offer children a fun evening, but also to educate.

This is a free event for children and their families that continues to draw more attendees each year.

I would appreciate if you could place an announcement about this upcoming event in your newsletters, bulletins and alert your members who have children 14 and younger, so that they may come and enjoy the fair.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for helping to make the Kidz Fair an evening of fun, food, education and entertainment. If you have any questions, please contact Donna Nicholson or Joanne Latkanich at 724-938-6800.

Sincerely,

PETER J. DALEY
State Representative
49th Legislative District

PJD:jm

Bethlehem Treasurer's Report
Summary of current operating account for April, 2016
Approved at Congregational Council Meeting May 17, 2016

| <u>Regular Income</u> | <u>April</u> | <u>Year to date</u> |
|---|--------------------|---------------------|
| Envelope Offering | \$9,246.00 | \$40,986.44 |
| Special Benevolence | \$1,024.00 | \$3,991.30 |
| Other | \$997.10 | \$4,006.90 |
| Total Income | \$11,267.10 | \$48,984.64 |
| <u>Expenses</u> | | |
| Benevolence | \$1,337.00 | \$5,348.00 |
| Special Benevolence | \$620.93 | \$3,863.42 |
| Staff Compensation | \$8,164.92 | \$32,232.44 |
| Church Administration | \$935.19 | \$2,878.19 |
| Church Property | \$737.37 | \$3,938.62 |
| Mortgage Payment | \$1,466.35 | \$5,865.40 |
| Worship & Music | \$341.83 | \$1,846.21 |
| Church Program | \$1,024.49 | \$1,773.79 |
| Total Expenses | \$14,628.08 | \$57,746.07 |
| Total Expenses over income for Month | | (\$3,360.98) |
| Total Expenses over income for year | | (\$8,761.43) |
| Total Income to Capital Campaign thru 4/30/16 | | \$351,213.04 |
| Total Expenses thru 4/30/16 | | (\$35,499.84) |
| Payment on mortgage. 4/30/16 | | \$50,000.00 |
| Citizen's Building Fund Balance 4/30/16 | | \$33,042.87 |
| <u>Combined Building Addition Finances</u> | | |
| Total Building Fund Income thru 4/30/16 | | \$351,213.04 |
| Congregational Savings Contribution | | \$165,036.00 |
| Balance due on Mortgage Principal thru 4/30/16 | | (\$197,964.19) |
| Total Expenses thru 4/30/16 | | (\$713,715.66) |
| Combined Building Fund Balance 4/30/16 | | \$33,042.87 |