

Bethlehem's Glad Tidings

Vol. 8 No. 9

September 2016

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Pastor Home 724-503-4595

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Pastor Cell Phone 724-678-8798

Mr. Ed Conkle, Sexton

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
21 Church Road
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Council Members

Helen Myers

Elinor Ross

Arla Dague

Carol Brewer

Becky Devore

Matt Devore

Jameson Randolph

John Ames

Rich Beck

Collin O'Brien

FROM THE
PASTOR 

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Fall is here again (although it doesn't feel much like it). Tomatoes and zucchini, football and schoolwork, hayrides and pumpkin patches (or pumpkin-spice latte if you don't do the farm thing). And with the fall returns our annual Bible Bowl Team program at Bethlehem.

This year the Bible Bowl team will be captained by Collin O'Brien and Kara Blum (both of whom are alumni of our Bethlehem Bible Bowl team)! And do they have a challenge on their plate this year

– REVELATION is the Bible Bowl book the middle and high schoolers will be studying.

Revelation, which begins with letters to the seven churches in what's now Turkey and ends with a vision of the joyful resurrection of all the saints. And in between, well, madness and chaos? At least that's what it feels like, as we read cycle after cycle of violence and mayhem on the earth and in heaven.

One of the biggest wonders of Revelation is the pure joy with which it depicts life with God at the time of the resurrection. And it takes the time to paint that picture over and over again.

In Chapter Seven:

⁹ After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" ¹¹ And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." ¹³ Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" ¹⁴ I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵ For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. ¹⁶ They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; ¹⁷ for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

And in Chapter 21:

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home¹ of God is among mortals. He will dwell² with them; they will be his peoples,³ and God himself will be with them;⁴⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." ⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶ Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. ⁷ Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

At the same time that Revelation has these wonderful visions of Resurrection hope, Revelation also has some of the most fearful visions of the violence human beings endure on the earth and the judgment of the final and everlasting Day of the Lord:

¹² When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and there came a great earthquake; the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood, ¹³ and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree drops its winter fruit when shaken by a gale. ¹⁴ The sky vanished like a scroll rolling itself up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. ¹⁵ Then the kings of the earth and the magnates and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, ¹⁶ calling to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of the one seated on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb; ¹⁷ for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand

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In the coming months, as the young people of the congregation struggle through Revelation, it's joys and its challenges, we will struggle with them. We'll take the time to look at particular passages of Revelation, and the ways that Christians have understood them (and misunderstood them), and how we, as faithful Christians can hear law and gospel in this Bible text. Please take the time to pray for Collin and Kara and the whole Bible Bowl team this year as they face a challenge unlike any other in the Bible!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Asplin

MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

Following the Cross

If I would have only one opportunity to say only one thing about the Churchwide Assembly held a few weeks ago in New Orleans it would be this: the processional cross was active in worship; and it was worth following closely.

We gathered for the Eucharist every day. That, in itself, was a precious gift. By the second or third day I began to be aware of a new pattern of liturgical movement. I suppose I should have noticed this right from the very start, but you know how it is – worship at Churchwide Assembly is big, and full of sights and sounds that we do not often encounter in our home congregations, so one might be forgiven for failing to notice *the first time* a specific liturgical component is used. But before long I *had* noticed that the processional cross moved during worship.

Now that I think about it, we generally make rather little use of the processional cross *during* worship. It leads us in, and leads us out, and apart from that stays put in its stand, except on those festival days when it leads the large pulpit Bible out into the midst of the congregation for the reading of the Gospel.

But here's what I saw at Churchwide Assembly: the processional cross (and the torches that followed it) led us in, and was placed prominently by the place of the Word. Then, after the sharing of the peace, it moved. With the torches following, the cross was lifted out of its stand and taken in solemn procession back to the font at the entrance of the assembly. There it met the gifts of bread and wine, and brought them through the gathered assembly and into the chancel. When the processional cross was set down again, it was in a different place, this time near the table. As an assembly, we had moved from Word to Sacrament, and we had been invited into each by the cross.

I found this to be, well moving! And it made me think of a familiar communion hymn, whose words suddenly took on deeper meaning. The hymn is #462 in the ELW, #203 in the LBW: *Now We Join In Celebration*. It's an old tune (composed by Johann Cruger, 1598-1662) graced with new words (author Joel W. Lundeen lived from 1918 to 1990). Listen to how the first verse describes so well the liturgical movement that I noticed at Churchwide Assembly:

Now we join in celebration at our Savior's invitation,
dressed no more in spirit somber, clothed instead in joy
and wonder,
for the Lord of all existence, putting off divine
transcendence,
stoops again in love to meet us, with his very life to feed
us.

Look! Listen! The visible movement of the processional cross helps us to see, as though for the first time, the words that we hear week after week, that it was "in the night in which he was betrayed" that the Eucharistic meal was first established. The slow movement of the cross out of the chancel to meet the bread and wine helps us to understand in a profound way what it is that we declare every week with conviction, "Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again."

The middle of the second verse establishes the point, that the Eucharist is connected necessarily to the cross of our Lord Jesus, perhaps even more pointedly:

For this bread and cup of blessing are for us the sure
possessing
of your loving deed on Calvary, of your living self, our
vict'ry.

The contemporary and salutary desire to frame the Sacrament of the Table as a visible sign of Christ's welcome and a

tangible expression of the Church's hospitality ought never to be diminished. But the clear presence of the cross at the offertory can reveal to the assembly that this bread of life and this cup of salvation are available to us only because of the bodily suffering and death of Jesus. The meal to which we are invited bids us come closer to the cross, to *possess* Christ's "loving deed on Calvary" – to hold in our hands Christ's body, which suffered and died and rose for our salvation.

When we make *this* gift our food, we find that dying and rising becomes our very way of being in the world.

With you in Christ

+Kurt

Dear Friends in Christ,

The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

Last Wednesday the actions of the boards of the seminaries at Gettysburg and Philadelphia to establish a unified seminary were announced. United Lutheran Seminary will be a newly-established seminary of the ELCA that continues the historic work of providing theological education to form leaders for public ministry in the church. Details of the board actions are described in the attached documents.

As a member of the Gettysburg Seminary Board, I celebrate this action as a bold and creative response to a very challenging time in the life of our church. I am particularly pleased to see that United Lutheran Seminary will carry forward our church's commitment to strengthen both urban ministry and town and country ministry. As your bishop I ask you to acknowledge with me the sacrifice that many are making for the sake of this venture. This action will directly affect the lives of the faculty members and the staff members of both seminaries, for whom we harbor deep love and appreciation.

The world is changing around us, and with it the Church. And so, in trust and hope, we pray together:

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

With you in Christ,

Kurt F. Kusserow,
Bishop Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod

COUNCIL MEETING JULY 2016

COUNCIL MEETING AUGUST 2016

Present were Becky Devore, Matt Devore, Collin O'Brien, Helen Myers, Arla Dague, Elinor Ross, John Ames, Jameson Randolph, Rich Beck, and Pastor Asplin.

Helen called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. On Tuesday, August 23, 2016.

Pastor opened with prayer.

Ed Conkle and Jim Hart representing the property committee presented a bid from Tetino construction for new sidewalks around the addition and curbing and corner landscaping to keep out the water, \$4,108.00 approved. Property committee was given assignment to get a bid for a Coyote water system and tapping into the cabin well.

Treasurer's report was received.

Pastor Asplin continued with the discussion of the statement "We are a church that believed God is calling us into the world-together."

Bethlehem will be hosting the Synod Council meeting on September 17; Pastor Asplin has been invited to lead opening devotion and introduction.

See Helen Meyers for making pies and help for the Synod Council meeting on September 17th.

Anniversary Year

October 30th is coming upon us fast

Two services on October 30th, 11AM and 3:30 PM

Lone pine social Hall for dinner that afternoon

Bishop Kusserow will be with us to preach and possibly preside.

Weiner Roast and hay Ride
September 11th.

Family Promise September 26th list will start on the 18th.

Pastor Asplin working on Window History.

Marianna Outreach School Days 2016

TWO HUNDRED FORTY SIX.

We provided school supplies, backpacks, clothes, shoes, underwear, and hygiene kits to two hundred forty six children in 118 families at the beginning of August.

While not every child got all of those items, most did. And we made a difference in 246 lives as school began this year. The ministry we did, and the good we provided matters. As having this portion of their needs covered makes it easier for families to buy a binder, or a new pair of jeans, or a gym uniform or after school snacks for their child to enjoy.

We made a difference, together. With the help of volunteers from multiple churches, Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Baptist, Methodist and even from folks who don't attend church. Working together to say to children and parents – you are valued by God and by us.

Thank you for your support of the Marianna Christian Outreach. Thank you for the time and energy you put into the ministry, for the dollars you contribute to make it possible.

As we move in to the fall and winter, we will be starting something new for our Marianna Outreach program, “Undies Sunday!” The last Sunday of each month will be “Undies Sunday.” We want to encourage everyone who can to provide socks and underwear for

the children we serve. Our hope is to provide one package of four or five pairs of sock or underwear to each child. If you find a great deal on bigger packages, please separate them into groups of four or five and put them in ziplock bags with the size and gender on the outside!

Our first Undies Sunday will be September 25!!!

ANNIVERSARY YEAR HISTORY COLLECTION

Over the next months we will be collecting history on the windows in our church. We are particularly interested in the dedications of the windows and the history of the people mentioned. If you know the history of one of our windows, please take time to talk to a member of church council or our history committee.

WELCA SECOND WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2016

The WELCA will meet on Wednesday, September 14th at 10:00 a.m. The Bible Study for September through November was written by Meghan Johnston Aelabouni, a pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Colorado. She shares a three-session study on “When God’s not fair; coming to terms with a merciful God.” The text explores the stories of Jonah, the Prodigal Son and the conversion of Paul. Session 1, Jonah and the terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day: When God forgives the guilty. The program 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.

ANNIVERSARY YEAR

October 30, 2016 will be our celebration of the 225th Anniversary of Bethlehem Lutheran Church. We will begin with a festival worship at 3:30 p.m. followed by a dinner at Lone Pine Social Hall! More details will follow!!

WEINER ROAST AND HAY RIDE

Sunday, September 11, 2016 will be our annual Hay Ride and Weiner Roast! Please join us for a wonderful evening of fellowship at 5:30 p.m. with hot dogs, marshmallows, corn hole and fun for all.

BIBLE BOWL – SEPTEMBER 11, 2016

Please join us for Bible Bowl Practice at 9:30 a.m. on September 11, 2016. Coaches this year are Collin O’Brien and Kara Blum.

FAMILY PROMISE, SEPTEMBER 26, 2016

How can you make a direct impact on the lives of the homeless? By participating in the Bentleyville Ministerium Family Promise Week. We need food for dinner, drivers and overnight hosts. Please pray for this program which is struggling to stay open.

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. They are in need of non-perishable food, formula, diapers and etc. Thanks so much for your continued support of these Outreach Projects. These organizations are selected and voted on by the Women of the ELCA. The Designated Outreach Mission for 2017 is chosen at the ELCA convention and is Grace Youth and Family Foundations.

Prayer Partners for Molly & addresses

| Date | Person Providing Prayers |
|------------|--------------------------|
| 09/04/2016 | Emil & Audrey Liker |
| 09/11/2016 | Judy Osborne |
| 09/18/2016 | Judi Hart |
| 09/25/2016 | Ruth Swart |
| 10/02/2016 | Arla Dague |
| 10/09/2016 | Pastor Asplin |

| | |
|------------|----------------------|
| 10/16/2016 | Gerald & Ellen Smith |
| 10/23/2016 | Nancy Banfield |
| 10/30/2016 | Betty Naser |
| 11/06/2016 | Judy Stepp |

At the end of your week or praying for Molly, please send her a note letting her know she was in your thoughts. Molly would also love to hear from you by either regular mail or by e-mail.

The following are her addresses and price of International Stamp is \$1.15. They will be available for purchase in office, see Bonnie.

Molly O'Brien
 Yirara College
 PMB 51
 Via Alice Springs
 NT 0872
 Australia

e-mail - - mollyobrien28@gmail.com.

HARVEST HOME FESTIVAL, SEPTEMBER 25, 2016

The Harvest Home Festival will be held September 25, 2016. People are needed to help decorate the chancel area. A covered dish luncheon will follow the service. Please plan to attend this special service

DART-BALL LEAGUES 2016 – 2017

MONDAY NIGHT LEAGUE

Practice for Home Game is 7:00 – 7:15

Practice for Away Game is 7:15 – 7:30

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|------|
| September 12 th | Bethlehem and North Ten Mile | Home |
| September 19 th | Cokeburg and Bethlehem | Away |
| September 26 th | Bethlehem and Pin Hook | Home |
| October 3 rd | East Beth and Bethlehem | Away |
| October 10 th | Mar/Zoll and Bethlehem | Away |

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|------|
| October 17 th | North Ten Mile and Bethlehem | Away |
| October 24 th | Bethlehem and Cokeburg | Home |
| October 31 st | Pin Hook and Bethlehem | Away |
| November 7 th | Bethlehem and East Beth | Home |
| November 14 th | Bethlehem and Mar/Zoll | Home |
| November 21 st | Bethlehem and North Ten Mile | Home |
| November 28 th | Cokeburg and Bethlehem | Away |
| December 5 th | Bethlehem and Pin Hook | Home |
| December 12 th | East Beth and Bethlehem | Away |
| January 2, 2017 | Mar/Zoll and Bethlehem | Away |
| January 9, 2017 | North Ten Mile and Bethlehem | Away |
| January 16, 2017 | Bethlehem and Cokeburg | Home |
| January 23, 2017 | Pin Hook and Bethlehem | Away |
| January 30, 2017 | Bethlehem and East Beth | Home |
| February 6, 2017 | Bethlehem and Mar/Zoll | Home |

TUESDAY NIGHT DARTBALL LEAGUE

| | | |
|----------------------------|--|------|
| September 6 th | Bethlehem & Faith United Pres. | Away |
| September 13 th | Bethlehem & Avery Methodist | Home |
| September 20 th | Bethlehem & Laboratory | Home |
| September 27 th | Bethlehem & Washington Alli.1 | Away |
| October 4 th | Bethlehem & C. C. N. A. | Home |
| October 11 th | Bethlehem & 4 th Presbyterian | Away |
| October 18 th | Bethlehem & Holy Trinity | Home |
| October 25 th | Bethlehem & First Christian | Home |
| November 1 st | Bethlehem & W. Washington | Home |
| November 15 th | Bethlehem & Fairhill Manor | Away |
| November 22 nd | Bethlehem & E. Buffalo | Away |
| November 29 th | Bethlehem & Jefferson Ave. | Home |
| December 6 th | Bethlehem & Immac. Concep. 1 | Home |
| December 13 th | Bethlehem & Chartiers Cross Rd. | Home |
| January 3 rd | Bethlehem & 1 st Lutheran | Away |
| January 10 th | Bethlehem & Immac. Concep. 2 | Home |
| January 17 th | Bethlehem & Wash. Alliance 2 | Away |
| January 24 th | Bethlehem & Faith United Pres. | Home |
| January 31 st | Bethlehem & Avery Methodist | Away |

| | | |
|---------------------------|--|------|
| February 7 th | Bethlehem & Fairhill Manor | Away |
| February 14 th | Bethlehem & C.C.N.A. | Away |
| February 21 st | Bethlehem & Immac. Concep. 2 | Home |
| February 28 th | Bethlehem & 1 st Presbyterian | Away |
| March 7 th | Bethlehem & W. Washington | Away |

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN LUNCHEON

The Bethlehem Lutheran Church Women will host the First Lutheran Church Women on October 13, 2016 at noon. Everyone is to bring a covered dish. Meat, rolls and beverage will be provided. Please contact Betty Naser or Melba McVay if you plan to attend. Come for an afternoon of fun and fellowship.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

The choir will be practicing on the Christmas Cantata by Don and Nancy Besig entitled “The Wondrous Story.” It is a story retold of our Savior’s birth in a reverent simple way, focusing on those who were present on that holy night.

We are in need of children to do the small speaking parts and to make a live manger scene. Needed are: Isaiah, Mary, Joseph, Innkeeper, 3 Kings, 3 Shepherds, 2 Angels and a Star. All the children will sing “Away in a Manger” at the end.

MEMBERS OF THE CHOIR TO PERFORM

During the month of September, members of the choir will perform each Sunday.

September 4th – Jackie Anderson accompanying herself on guitar

September 11th – Kristen Asplin and Carol Brewer

September 18th – Bell Quartet

September 28th – Choir

October 2nd – Collin and Pat O’Brian

APRIL ATTENDANCE AND OFFERING

| Date | Attendance | Offering |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|
| July 3 rd | 53 | \$3,608.37 |
| July 10 th | 89 | \$3,177.00 |
| July 17 th | 79 | \$4,555.32 |
| July 24 th | 60 | \$1,743.00 |
| July 31 st | 62 | \$3,421.94 |
| Average | 69 | \$3,301.12 |

Acolytes

September 4th – Kaylie Anderson & Brittany Dayton (Communion)

September 11th - Jacob Davis & Emma Sukal

September 18th - Kelsay Evans & Johanna Asplin

September 25th – Jessica & Dale Glotfelty (Communion)

Harvest Home

Lectors

September 4th - Susan Randolph

September 11th – Rich Beck

September 18th - Carol Brewer

September 25th - Dick Elliott

Counters

September 4th - Helen Myers, Arla Dague, Bill Ulery

September 11th Karen Naddeo, John Ames, Becky Devore

September 18th Shirley Schultz, Jim Hart, Matt Devore

September 25th Helen Myers, Carol Brewer, Rich Beck

Ushers and Greeters

September 4th - Susan Randolph and Jameson Randolph

September 11th - Eleanor Ross and Shirley Schultz

September 18th - Harry Dayton and Brendon Dayton

September 25th - Tuffy McVay and Glenn Higinbotham

Communion Assistants

September 4th Blair Yoder

September 25th Collin O'Brien

Treasurer's Expense Report, July 2016

| Disbursements | Budget | July | Year-to-Date |
|-----------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| Benevolence | \$ 16,044.00 | \$ - | \$ 8,022.00 |
| Special Benevolence | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 1,627.45 |
| Staff Compensation | \$ 100,777.00 | \$ 8,001.88 | \$ 56,341.40 |
| Church Administration | \$ 6,700.00 | \$ 384.35 | \$ 3,851.92 |
| Church Property | \$ 38,924.00 | \$ 2,525.09 | \$ 17,836.99 |
| Worship & Music | \$ 4,670.00 | \$ 195.14 | \$ 2,649.72 |
| Church Program | \$ 17,815.00 | \$ 576.14 | \$ 10,371.21 |
| | \$ 184,930.00 | \$ 11,682.60 | \$ 100,700.69 |