

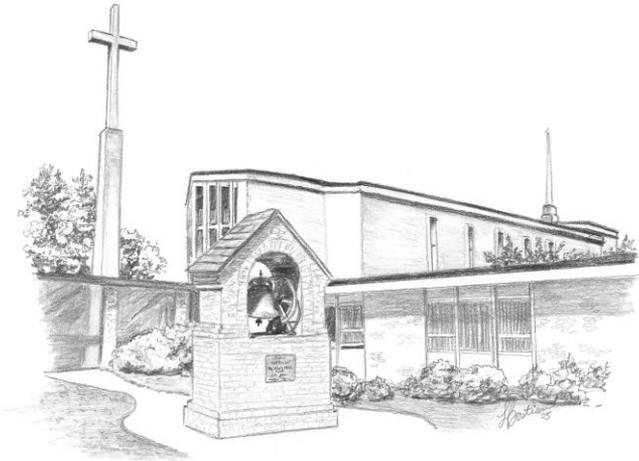
# *The Beacon*



“I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

✝ WHOEVER FOLLOWS ME WILL ✝  
NEVER WALK IN DARKNESS

BUT WILL HAVE THE LIGHT OF LIFE” (NRSV)



BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH • HICKORY, NC

MAY ✝ 2018

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

Last month, I began a series of reflections on the work of the Twentieth Century Swiss theologian Karl Barth (pronounced like Bart in English). The reflection was prompted by what has become a two-year project to write an article for *Pro Ecclesia*, a professional theological journal edited by some colleagues of mine. My reflections were also prompted by the fact



that several months ago, in preparation for our annual Epiphany Party for the present Council and previous year's members of Council, I had removed all my research materials from our den and moved them to some "safe place." Then after the gathering was over, I could not seem to find my research materials. A near panic then ensued and I became desperate to find the source materials which would assist me in writing the article. The article would serve as an important bridge for what I had written in my doctoral dissertation and in the view of one of my teachers and dissertation committee members, Dr. Joe Mangina, this article could make my dissertation more complete and closer to possible publication as a book. At the time of my defence (Canadian spelling), the dissertation was approved, completing my PhD requirements. The document was at the maximum length permissible by the University of Toronto and the Toronto School of Theology, which is a part of the University, made up of several schools, colleges and Universities that are part of a consortium of theological schools. So now I continue sharing with you the general direction my research had taken, before the "loss of my sources."

### *Second in a Series*

Karl Barth throughout the course of his writings as a theologian was critical of the Church for embracing too high a sense of itself. One matter among many which concerned Barth was the notion that God's ongoing work in the world

was being seen by many as ecclesially mediated. What this means is that Barth was concerned about the Church seeing itself as cooperating with God, to bring about good, whether, it was the building up of the Kingdom, the Proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, or the care of the poor and refugees. Remember, much of Barth's work was written following each of the World Wars, which saw the largest displacement of people and the greatest cost of human life in human history. There was a tendency, and in some cases, this view remains the case, that in some parts of the larger Church, God is seen as somehow unable or unwilling to directly act. This means that God is perceived as using the Church as an instrument. In the minds of some the Church is seen as the sole instrument of bringing about the kingdom and caring and nurturing people and all creation. This focus on God's mediated work is evident in what is probably the most often quoted Biblical text, which is in fact not in the Bible, "God helps those who help themselves."

Ecclesial mediation at a level was also a major concern of Martin Luther, John Calvin and some of the other Protestant Reformers. Karl Barth who was a Pastor, teacher and Theologian in the Swiss Reformed Church (part of the same family of denominations as the so called Reformed traditions such the Presbyterian Church or the United Church of Christ in this country) saw this Reformation concern as continuing to be relevant in the Twentieth Century, though the specifics of that concern five centuries ago were perhaps a bit different. In the Reformation period, salvation, the treasury of merits that were perceived as earned by Christ were thought to be able to be dispensed by the penitential system, by one attending Masses, or entering into Holy Orders (Becoming monastics, priests or nuns). This was the most obvious type of ecclesial mediation to which the Reformers objected. This type of ecclesial mediation meant that the Church was seen by the faithful to be mediating the grace of God.

By the twentieth Century, the way the Church was perceived by Barth and some others raised great concerns. The Church in many quarters came to be seen as an agency with God. The Church's mediation of grace was a bit different than in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century however. Barth had lived through two World Wars and had seen the devastation wrought by the warring madness of European States. In those decades sadly, the Christian Faith in some cases was used as justification for carrying out horrific acts. In World War I, Barth witnessed the German Nation justifying the invasion of neutral Belgium and seeking to overrun its long-time foe France, as a Christian duty of every German to support the Emperor, Kaiser Wilhelm II.

German Dirigible pilots justified the bombing of London, as part of a German's Christian duty to God and Country. The helium filled airships, some as big as 2000 feet long, flew over the cities of Liege, Antwerp and Paris dropping incendiary bombs on a scale never imaginable at the time. On the night of January 19, 1915, the zeppelins struck Great Britain for the first time, dropping bombs on the coastal towns of Great Yarmouth and King's Lynn. Civilian populations were now to be targeted from the air, marking the beginning of modern warfare. German zeppelin corps commander Peter Strasser who saw the act as honoring God and the Kaiser justified the act at the time by saying, "Nowadays there is no such animal as a non-combatant. . . modern warfare is total warfare." (Christopher Klein, "London's World War I, Zeppelin Terror" from *History Stories*, History.com, June 2, 2014 <https://www.history.com/news/londons-world-war-i-zeppelin-terror>, accessed: April 30, 2018)

Total war, once conceived by William Sherman as the only effective strategy for achieving what his commander, Ulysses S. Grant regarded as bringing the enemy to "Unconditional Surrender" was now being carried out from the air. Total war against civilian populations could be carried out with impunity without a combatant setting foot on enemy soil. The destruction wreaked upon the City of Aleppo in Syria by the Assad regime, is but the latest

manifestation of air war attacks on civilians begun on January 19, 1915 by German airships. The idea that war against civilians can be justified as a sort of “Justifiable War” is still alive and well in the minds of many Americans in what is increasingly seen as a form of American Patriotism and an American form of Christianity. This type of thinking became a major concern of Barth, especially before his death in 1968. At the same time, he became so cautious over the Church’s notion of being able to mediate God’s work that before his death, Barth increasingly showed a great deal of apprehension over even using the term sacrament. The term “sacrament,” historically for over 1600 years has referred to those signs that are the means of grace given by God to the Church. Again, Barth was Swiss and came out of the Reformed Swiss Church that was part of the legacy of the Reformer John Calvin. The Reformed Traditions, for the record regard both Holy Baptism and the Lord’s Supper as sacraments or the means of grace which Christ had instituted and commanded that the Church practice.

Martin Luther who began his reforming work in Wittenberg Germany before John Calvin began his work in Geneva, counted Holy Baptism, the Sacrament of the Altar, and the Sacrament of Penance as Sacraments. Since the thirteenth century, based largely upon the work of St. Thomas Aquinas, the Roman Catholic Church has officially spoken of there being Seven Sacraments. Luther had rejected four as not having the command of Christ or containing the promise of salvation connected with them. The four rejected by Luther were: Confirmation, Holy Orders, Holy Matrimony, and what has been officially been called Last Rites in Roman Catholic Church’s Doctrine since the 1960’s. Though most of the Churches of the Oriental Orthodox, Eastern Orthodox, and Eastern Catholic rites do not use precisely the same terms or even use the teaching of St. Thomas Aquinas to explain the theological significance of the Sacraments, none the less, the Churches of the East do regard there to be seven sacraments.

As I have said there is no doubt that a major concern for Luther and many of the reformers was an overly mediated view of the whole treasury of merits system espoused by the Medieval Roman Catholic Church. Yet all but more radical Reformers held to the teaching that Christ had instated Sacraments for the Church as the means of grace. Among the more radical groups and Reformers who entirely rejected Sacraments, preferring to speak of Ordinances that referred to those things that were signs commanded by Christ were groups like the Anabaptists (predecessors of modern Free Church groups and Baptists) or followers of Menno Simons (founder of the Mennonites) and Jakob Ammann (founder of the Amish). In the middle of the 1600's a new group would arise that would reject any notion of prescribed prayers, sacraments or even ordinances. The Society of Friends, commonly known as Quakers, espoused and remain committed today to its members being guided by the Holy Spirit who leads its members to passivism and to speak as led by the Spirit.

By the early part of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, two Anglican clergy who were brothers would call upon the Anglican faithful in mill villages and towns across Great Britain to a spiritual revival. They would become friends with a Lutheran nobleman who had been ordained as a Lutheran Pastor in Germany. The nobleman had invited a highly persecuted group of Hussites to seek haven at his German estate in Saxony that he called Herrnhut (God's watch). The nobleman was consecrated as a Bishop by the Hussites (also known by the name referring to the region around Prague from which the group originated, namely the Moravians). Many of the Moravians made their way with the nobleman named Nicolas Ludwig Count von Zinzendorf to Pennsylvania where they founded a new settlement called Bethlehem. The group later sent a contingent south along the Appalachian highlands to a spot, at the headwaters of the Yadkin River in the Carolina Colony. These became the villages of Bethania (German form of Bethany), Bethabara

(house of passage), and Salem (peace). Today we know the separate villages all as a part of the city of Winston-Salem.

The two Anglican brothers that had been inspired by Zinzendorf became well known for their method of spiritual practices and Christian education. They become known therefore by their critics as Methodists. The name stuck. Like those who had become known a Lutheran in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the names often by which denominations become known are the names given by their opponents and critics. While John Wesley came to Savannah to serve the Anglican Church in the New World, he nor his brother Charles ever intend to plant a new denomination on this contentment. Two of their followers Francis Asbury and Thomas Coke were sent by John Wesley to the United States after the War for Independence and they began service as the first co-superintendents of what was then the Methodist Episcopal Church in the US. My own mother like many of your extended family members were brought up in this denomination. The break with the British Crown began to make it difficult for Anglicans to establish an American Anglican Church in the US. What became the Episcopal Church in the US, had as its first presiding Bishop William White, who received his consecration as a Bishop by three Bishops of the Scottish Anglican Church in 1789. This was the denomination of my family until I was eight years old.

Among Episcopalians, Lutherans, Moravians, the various Methodist Traditions, and the various Reformed Traditions there is agreement that there are at least two sacraments, namely Holy Baptism and Holy Communion. With the latter Sacrament, many denominations, including Lutherans, use several different terms within the same denomination. Barth for his part restricted his use of the term “sacrament” to speak only of Christ himself. Christ is a sacrament or sign of God because in the incarnation Christ is God’s unmediated presence in the world. Barth was more comfortable in using the term “sacrament” when referring Christ.

Since Barth had become so jaded by Two World Wars and the Church's inability to avoid such a horrific set of conflicts, he also became horrified in the early sixties with the way in which former colonial territories of Europe countries were becoming embroiled in conflicts of their own. These conflicts in South East Asia, the Indian subcontinent, Africa, and the Middle East were often fanned by the disastrous and arbitrary borders drawn by the United States and European nations of the Soviet and Western bloc nations. Barth had also despaired at the way in which the Church had Baptized so many throughout the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries wholesale. This was a sentiment which he shared with his friend and colleague, the Lutheran Theologian, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who had been executed by the Nazis in 1945. In fact, Barth reminded his readers that Adolf Hitler and Joseph Stalin were "Baptized under the same sign," as was the man who would become Pope Pius XII. Pope Pius who died in 1958, during his time as a Cardinal had at one point served as Secretary of the Department of Extraordinary Ecclesiastical Affairs, prior to his elevation to the Papacy. In that role he had negotiated with Benito Mussolini's fascist government in Italy to ensure that the government of Mussolini would protect the historic Papal territories within Italy. The agreement led to the establishment of what remains the world's smallest country in territorial size. The Vatican, in the heart of Rome, remains today an independent state born of Cardinal Eugenio Maria Giuseppe Giovanni Pacelli's carefully crafted agreement with Mussolini. Later Pacelli served as Papal Nuncio to Germany and negotiated with Hitler's government to protect Church lands in Germany. Today there remains a great deal of concern among both Protestant and Roman Catholic theologians over the role and complacency of Pope Pius XII with respect to the atrocities, war crimes, and the military aggression of the Axis Powers in World War II.

At the death of Pius XII, a new Italian Cardinal, Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli was elevated to the Papacy, taking the name John XXIII. The new Pope soon after ascending to the See of Peter called for a new Ecumenical Council. What was unprecedented is that Churches of the East who had not been at a Council with Western Bishops since 787 when the Second Council of Nicaea had met. Protestant observers were also invited. Present for the Council in the Sistine Chapel were many Protestants including Dr. George Lindbeck and Karl Barth. George Lindbeck was a Lutheran Professor from Yale that taught many of my teachers including the late Dr. Margaret O' Gara and Dr. Joe Mangina, Dr. Ephraim Radner, Dr. David Yeago, and Dr. Michael Root. Margaret had been my advisor. She died while I was writing my dissertation. Before Margaret's death, however, we had jointly agreed that Dr. Bill Kervin should become my *doktorfather* (Doctor Father in German, that is one who directs the dissertation work). George Lindbeck, Karl Barth, the other Protestant observers witnessed an extraordinary thing take place in the Sistine Chapel as the Roman Catholic bishops and Cardinals debated and discussed specific matters before the Church. I often reflected upon this work with Dr. O'Gara and later with Dr. Kervin.

In a system that had often seen itself as needing to mediate God's grace, often from the top down, now Bishops began to speak of the Baptized people of God gathered for worship around Word and Table as the Church in the proper sense. At the heart of this new understanding, the Roman Catholic Church was rewriting canon law to speak of the Church herself as made up of the Baptized. Thus, the Church was a Sacrament and sign to the world, with Christ as the primary sacrament. This meant that all the other sacraments, no matter the number, were given to the Church by Christ who was the primary sacrament of God sent into the world by the Father through the Holy Spirit. The Medieval Roman Catholic Church had often spoken of the Church as being made up of the Bishops with the Papacy as the Vicar of

Christ. Now the ecclesiology was reversed. The Church was being reinterpreted as the Baptized people of God in Christ. This for Barth became an important development. Christ is God's Sacrament through his sending, and thus the whole world is changed in the Christ event. This is to say, the whole world is changed by the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, who continues to change our world forever. For Barth, the Church needed to share the news that God was at work; to be the messenger, not the mediator and dispenser of God's grace. God is always the agent. The slogan, "God's work, our hands," would have been abhorrent to Barth. Instead, we are to be the Church living and showing in our words and actions that God has and is acting.

### *Next Month*

Next month I will explore how Nineteenth and early Twentieth Century Philosophy would affect Western Theology in such a way, that Barth felt compelled to offer a correction, and how in many ways Barth is extremely relevant in our present century as we are still in need of correcting many of the missteps which Barth addressed in his lifetime.

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "C. Fessenden Shaw". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and a long, sweeping underline.



### WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE MEETING

Scheduled as needed. Notices will be included in your weekly bulletin and via your email.



**CHOIR PRACTICE** will be held each Wednesday at 6 pm during the month of May until May 16. We will take the summer off and resume back sometime in August. Please pray and consider joining us then.



**GOLDEN AGERS** ~ Come celebrate with us. What's a better way to celebrate then to meet with our friends and share a meal together **at Amazing Grace on Thursday, May 10 at 11:30 am**. Invite others to attend with you. We ask that everyone bring a dish or two to share.



### KNITTING & CROCHETING MINISTRY meets each

**Monday at 2 pm**, no experience necessary. Working on projects for our church as well as for outside our congregation. Bring your needles, hooks and yarn and join us. We will meet in "Fox Den" in the Peeler Bldg. Call Karen Shaw with any questions at 828-328-8665.



**QUILTERS meets each Wednesday at 4 pm**. We need your help in putting together some quilts. Please come and join us in the Quilters Room located in the Peeler Building.



These dates are open for placing flowers on the altar during 2018: *June 10, August 12, August 26, Sept. 2, Sept. 30, October 14, November 11, November 25, December 2, Dec. 9, Dec. 16*

Please feel free to contact church office at 322-5002.

**COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD ~ Check it out!** Please stop by and see what's going on in your area. This bulletin board is located across from the church office. Lots of important information and events that you can take advantage of.



**Our food drive for CCM is an ongoing service project.** Please keep bringing items for the needy. Food supplies are running low and the need is great. Place in the BLUE collection bin in hallway.

### **WEST HICKORY/WESTMONT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETING**

The West Hickory/Westmont Neighborhood Association will meet **Thursday, May 10 at 6 pm** to discuss topics of interest and community concerns. Residents, business owners, and commercial property owners in the West Hickory/Westmont neighborhood of the City of Hickory are encouraged to attend. For questions about the West Hickory/Westmont Neighborhood Association, please contact City of Hickory Transportation Planning Manager and Neighborhood Liaison John Marshall at (828) 323-7534 or via email at [jmarshall@hickorync.gov](mailto:jmarshall@hickorync.gov).

### **TRINITY VILLAGE – Lutheroad Day Camp – June 18-22**

This is our 4<sup>th</sup> year in partnering with Lutheridge in hosting a camp at Trinity Village for children ages 5-12. Would you please prayerfully consider this exciting opportunity held right here in Catawba County with the purpose of the day camp to help children grow in faith and to experience the opportunity to develop relationships with our residents. **The cost is only \$110 for the week. If you would like to sponsor a child, see Carol in the church office. Deadline is May 27.**

Also if you know of an child that would benefit from this day camp please pick up a registration form in the narthex, fill out and mail with a deposit to the address found in the pamphlet.



God has asked that we study his word and especially bring the little children unto Him and to bring them up in the word of God.

Sunday School is not just for kids.  
***Getting into God's Word is awesome!***

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES** ~ We encourage everyone to find a class to attend and grow together in God's Word.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL Classes

Held each Sunday morning at 9:30 am.

We encourage everyone to find a class to attend and grow together in God's Word.

**Ladies & Men's Class** ~ meets in the Margaret Pauline Deaton SS Classroom

**Children's Class** ~ meets in the Peeler Bldg – 2<sup>nd</sup> room on right



### **For ages from Birth to 3rd Grade**

Children's Church for age's birth to 3rd grade.

Children's Church will follow the Children's Time message which is held in sanctuary until communion.

Our "Little Faith Builders" leaders are very excited to start this ministry and will be available to assist in taking your child over to Children's Church.



**OPPORTUNITIES ~ Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us every day.**

**THE SPIRIT'S HAND** will continue to move the patients to the chapel. Need volunteers each third Sunday of each month (**May 20**) to help move residents at Trinity Ridge to and from Sunday Worship. Helpers need to be there by 3:45 pm; chapel begins at 4:30 pm. We have been asked to recruit at least one more helper. Keep up the faith and prayers!

**EVANGELISM/SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE** ~ Our May meeting will be held on **Sunday, May 20 after the late worship service**. Please consider joining this most important Committee, as it reaches out into the community and spreads Bethany's mission to **BE THE CHURCH!!!!**

Thank you.

*Beth Brittain & Linda Lutz, Co-chairs*

**FROM THE EVANGELISM/SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE:**

Thanks to Nancy Brittain, Cindy Elder, Cindy Johnson and Linda Lutz who volunteered (were BEING the Church) at the Hickory Soup Kitchen in March as Bethany's representatives. We are now taking names for **May 15, 2018**. If you are available on to spend a two hour time period at the Soup Kitchen between 7 am and 1 pm, please let Linda Lutz know.

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTRY** provides to our shut-in members with means of visits and communion. Our shut-in members are very important to us and they love the visits.

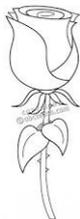
If you wish to go with Roger and Gene to visit our shut-in members please contact Roger at 310-7120 so they can plan with you a date and time. We would love more people being involved in this ministry with our shut-in's. It's very rewarding!

**MONTH OF MAY**

**Meeting at Bethany this month:**

**Group Mary** – Meeting on **Monday, May 7 at 6 pm.**  
Patsy Nikbakht, Chair

**Group Ruth** – Will be meeting this month at our WELCA General Meeting & Luncheon at noon on **Sunday, May 6.**  
Becky Buchanan, Chair



**WELCA will be honoring our ladies on May 13 with a rose in honor of Mother's Day.**

**A Christian Woman**

God created the rose in the likeness of a woman.  
The rose represents beauty.  
The stem represents strength.  
The petals are soft as skin,  
the fragrance pure and sweet.  
The leaves represent arms outstretched,  
always loving, always giving.  
Each time you look at this rose, remember...  
God made you special.

**SAVING TABS FROM CANS**~ Group Mary is now collecting tabs from drink cans for Ronald McDonald House service project. Every tab means money to help. A collection basket has been placed near the CCM food bin for your convenience in the hallway. Please start saving and bring each Sunday. Thanks, Patsy



## 2018 DOWNTOWN HICKORY FARMER'S MARKET

Wednesdays: 10 am – 2 pm

Saturdays: 8 am – 1 pm

Find Your Farmer - local Farmers with fresh Produce, Meats, Eggs, Cheeses, Sauces, Rice, Honey, Preserves, Pickles, Pasta, Baked Goods, Fudge, Cut Flowers, Transplants, Potted Plants, Herbs, Shrubs, Tapenades, Artisan Crafts, Music & More!

**If you enjoyed the meal you just ate, thank a farmer!**

**COUNCIL MEETING ~ Tuesday, May 8 at 7:00 pm.**

**SPECIAL NOTE TO COUNCIL MEMBERS:** Please check your mailbox weekly to see if you need to sign off on purchase orders and if by chance other important items might have been placed in your mailbox during the week that needs your immediate attention. *Make sure your council reports are turned in to the office one week prior to that month's council meeting so packets can be ready to be picked up and read prior to the meeting.*

**STEPHEN MINISTRIES CORNER:** On April 9, six member of Bethany began their training for Stephen Ministries. They are: Beth Brittain, Melonie Harmon, Tommie Johnson, Linda Lutz, Cindy Johnson and Gene Rector. They have committed to meet from April 9 until Aug. 27 for 2 1/2 hours each week. Please keep these members and their leader in your prayers. We will meet each Monday in the library until training is complete. Thanks for all who signed up, *Roger Webb*

**DEAR MEMBERS....YOU'VE GOT MAIL ~** Do you check your mailbox each Sunday? Hopefully the answer is "yes." Don't want you to miss out if something important has been placed there. Thanks from your friendly mail carrier.

# BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

## May Birthdays

5/1	Tina Hart
5/4	Elaine Johnson
5/12	Jake Sisk
5/13	Jason Watson
5/14	Gene Rector
5/18	Nike Reese
5/19	Ray Kanipe
5/20	Marie McCray
5/20	Calvin Mull
5/26	Bill Buchanan
5/26	Mark Sisk

*This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.  
Psalm 118:24*

## May Anniversaries

5/3 Max & Cindy Johnson

*“May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you.” 1 Thessalonians 3:12*

*(Please call the church office with additions or corrections to this list)*



## OFFICE CLOSED - May 28

**MEMORIAL DAY** ~ Memorial Day should remind us that freedom is always under challenge and that freedom is never free. Freedom is important enough to live for, and precious enough to die for. Let us not forget those men and women who have served our great nation during times of peace and conflict.

**WEDNESDAYS TOGETHER WRAP-UP...** Another year of fun, food, fellowship and learning on Wednesday evenings concluded April 25<sup>th</sup>. The ministry done throughout the year was truly the work of called and gifted individuals powered by the Holy Spirit. We will take the summer off and resume back in September. "Thank You" to the cooks, to the serving & clean-up crews, those that made desserts, to Pastor Shaw for holding our Wednesday Mid-Week Service with Communion, and to anyone else who shared in making this ministry happen. God's Blessings!

**WEDNESDAY MID-WEEK SERVICE** ~ we will still be meeting weekly on Wednesday evenings at 5:15 pm for our Mid-Week Service with Communion. The only change is that we will be meeting in the Van Dyke Chapel (located in the Peeler Bldg., last door on the right) instead of the Parish Center. Please continue to be in the Lord's house and word each Wednesday evening. Please note the 1 exception listed below!

**EAGLE COURT OF HONOR CEREMONY...** please note that on **Wednesday – May 16 will start at 5 pm in our Outdoor Chapel**. We have the honor and pleasure of bestowing the rank of Eagle Scout to a member of this congregation, Jordan Pendry in the outdoor chapel which was his Eagle Project. This is a great moment worthy of celebration. Please join us.

There will be a reception honoring our new Eagle Scout immediately following the ceremony in the Parish Center.

**ASCENSION OF OUR LORD SERVICE – Thursday, May 10 at 7:30 pm**  
On Ascension Day, Jesus is taken to heaven, but not without promises and action plans for those who remain. Please join us for this wonderful service.

## **FOSTER A CHILD. CHANGE A LIFE**

**Foster Care Sunday – May 20, 2018**

*“Whoever receives one child in My name, receives Me”*

*Matthew 18:5*

You can make a difference in a child's life by becoming a foster parent. Family Builders' staff will provide you with training and support. We also provide funding to help offset the child's living expenses and medical needs not covered by Medicaid. Won't you open your heart and home to Catawba County's children in need of a safe and loving temporary home?

Currently there are almost 300 children in the foster care in Catawba County. There are only 60 licensed foster care families in the county. More than 30 children are waiting to be adopted. If one family in each church agreed to become a foster family, there would be no shortage of foster families.

Attend one of our free, monthly meetings to find out more! Information meetings held: 2nd Tuesday of each month, 6 pm at the Family Services Center. Family Services Center, 3050 11th Ave Dr SE, Hickory. Contact Megan Burns at 828-695-4553 or the following email: [mburns@catawbacountync.gov](mailto:mburns@catawbacountync.gov) or [fostercatawba.com](http://fostercatawba.com)

**RACHEL'S DAY – May 6** – sponsored by WELCA ladies ~women boldly standing for children. You will see our WELCA ladies wearing a blue ribbon (a symbol of hope) on that Sunday and Tammy Locke will be sharing some information concerning supporting children facing violence.

### **What is Rachel's Day?**

In 1994, one woman urged her congregation, Bethel Lutheran Church on the west side of Chicago, to support children facing violence. They began by clearing a vacant lot and turning it into a garden—Rachel's Garden. It became a place where folks—mostly mothers—could come to mourn children killed by gun violence in the past year. They also planted a white cross and flowers in remembrance of these young ones. Two years later, the Metro Chicago Synodical Women's Organization brought a memorial to the Third Triennial Convention (1996) of Women of the ELCA to broaden awareness of the violence children face and actions to address it. The convention passed the memorial, resolving “That ELCA women encourage their congregations to recognize the first Sunday in May each year as Rachel's Day, based on Jeremiah 31:15–17 wherein Rachel grieved for her children, to mourn the loss of our children and to renounce the forces of evil and fear that plague our nation.”

## WELCOME OUR NEW DIRECTOR OF WORSHIP & MUSIC ~

Please join us in welcoming Myra Long as our new Director of Worship & Music Ministries on Sunday, May 5.

Myra and her husband, Rev. Terrell Long live in Granite Falls and they have two married daughters, Leah Marie Propst and Miriam Beth Smith. Terrell is a retired ELCA Pastor and Myra has experiences as an Organist, Choir Director, Hand Bell/Choir Chime Director/ Praise Team Leader, Keyboardist, and Retired Nurse. Myra has over 40 years of experience in the Worship and Music Ministries at various churches.

Myra grew up in Richfield, NC and was organist for her home church, New Bethel Lutheran (1970-1978). We are so excited to have Myra and Terrell join us here at Bethany on our journey together in worshipping our Lord and Savior through worship and music.

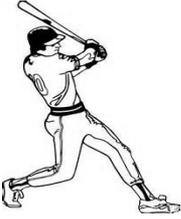


### WEAR RED!

**The festival of Pentecost is being celebrated on May 20.** This is traditionally viewed as the “birthday of the Church.” We will read the powerful and exciting story of the pouring out of the Holy Spirit on the apostles. We will be reminded that every ministry in the Church is guided and powered by the Spirit of God active in and through believers like us. The color for this festival is **red** – a color that reminds us of the tongues of fire which appeared above the heads of the first believers. Everyone is encouraged to **wear red** on Pentecost as a visible reminder that the Holy Spirit is still present and still powers the ministry of Christ.

**SPECIAL THANKS** to those that volunteered in the church office while I was on vacation. Words cannot express how grateful I am to have you in my life.

*Dedicated hearts like yours  
are not so easy to find.  
It takes a special person to be  
so generous and kind.  
Carol*



### **CRAWDAD'S ~ Special Game's**

Join us for a great day at the Crawdad Stadium for a day of baseball and lunch.

**Cost is \$5 per senior which includes your ticket to the game and free lunch.** What a great deal!

Tuesday – May 15      10:30 am

Wednesday – June 6    10:30 am

Tuesday – June 26      noon

Monday – August 13    noon

NOTE: If you are interested in attending any of these games, please let the church office know so that we can go as a group for these games.



### **Lutheran Community Meal Packing Event**

On Sunday, April 29 we joined five congregations at Holy Trinity Lutheran in Hickory to help pack meals to feed our hungry neighbors in Catawba County. Costs of these meals were only .25¢ per meal. There were 15, 000 meal packages (6 servings per package) filled within 2 hours.... and all will remain in Catawba County.

We are so proud of those who were representing Bethany Lutheran: Linda Lutz, Tommie Johnson, Patsy Nikbakht, Pastor and Karen Shaw, Cindy Johnson and Barbara Benfield.

## *The Prayers of Intercession*

WE PRAY FOR ALL PEOPLE IN THEIR DAILY LIFE AND WORK;  
FOR OUR FAMILIES, FRIENDS, AND NEIGHBORS, AND FOR  
THOSE WHO ARE ALONE.

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SHUT-IN:

Gene & Lucy Alexander • Lucy Frye • Mary Ellen Glass • Ruby McCray •  
Lucille Marshall • Calvin Mull • Frances Reinhardt • Ray Ritchie •  
Virginia Whisnant • Martha Witherspoon

WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED OF HEALING, ESPECIALLY:  
MEMBERS OF BETHANY

Gene Alexander • Helen Barger • Bill Buchanan • Alex Casari •  
Pam Connelly • Brenda & Richard Fox • Lucy Frye • Melonie Harmon •  
Theda Isenhour • Max Johnson • Kathleen Plemons • Zachary Poovey •  
Gene Rector • Nancy Seagle • Glenn & Novella Shoaf • Ray & Sherry  
Stilwell • Roger Webb • Virginia Whisnant

FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Tom Barger • Arthur Brittain • Randy Cline • Pat & Richard Correll •  
Butch Dooley • Tony Frye • Cathy Gibson • Alice Godbey •  
Ernestine Harmon • Jessie Harmon • Martha Hartley • Debbie Hayes •  
Jane Herman • Gabbie Hodges • Curtis Kiziah • Rader Kiziah •  
Dickie Locke • Mary Norris • Leon & Rozelle Owen • Ricky Powell •  
Vernice Punch • Sam Richards • Lisa Robinson • C.P. Shaw Sr. •  
Maude Shaw • Rev. George Simmons • Erin Sipe • Dot Sisk •  
Ethel Smith • Jerry & Libby Stanley • Joyce Warlick • George Watson •  
Dave Zinkler



- ✓ Family of Rita Busbee
- ✓ Family of Gary Sanders
- ✓ Family of Charles Bradshaw
- ✓ Family of Charles "Bud" Lail
- ✓ Family of Ralph Hartley

April 2018  
 S M T W T F S  
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7  
 8 9 10 11 12 13 14  
 15 16 17 18 19 20 21  
 22 23 24 25 26 27 28  
 29 30

# May 2018

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

June 2018  
 S M T W T F S  
 1 2  
 3 4 5 6 7 8 9  
 10 11 12 13 14 15 16  
 17 18 19 20 21 22 23  
 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 4:00p Quilters 5:15p Mid-Week Service 6:00p Choir	3	4	5
6 8:30a Early Worship 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Late Worship 12:00p WELCA General Mtg & Luncheon	7 2:00p Knitting/Crocheting 6:00p Group Mary 6:30p - 9:00 pm Stephen Ministry Training	8 7:00p Council	9 4:00p Quilters 5:15p Mid-Week Service 6:00p Choir	10 11:30a Golden Agers at Amazing Grace 6:00p Westmont/West Hickory Assoc. Mtg 7:30p Ascension of Our Lord Service	11	12 <i>Long View May Day Festival (10 am - 9:30pm)</i>
13 <i>MOTHER'S DAY</i> 7:30a LMIM Breakfast Meeting 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Late Worship	14 2:00p Knitting/Crocheting 6:30p - 9:00 pm Stephen Ministry Training	15 <i>Hickory Soup Kitchen Volunteers</i> 6:00p Hosting Catawba Conference Meeting	16 4:00p Quilters 5:00p Mid-Week Service - Eagle Scout Presentation 6:00p Choir	17	18	19
20 <i>DAY OF PENTECOST</i> 8:30a Early Worship 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Late Worship 12:00p Evang/Social Ministry Mtg 3:45p Spirit's Hand-Trinity Ridge	21 2:00p Knitting/Crocheting 6:30p - 9:00 pm Stephen Ministry Training	22	23	24	25	26
<b>Pastor Shaw - Holden Beach Chapel</b>						
27 8:30a Early Worship 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Late Worship	28 <i>MEMORIAL DAY</i> <i>Office Closed</i> 6:30p - 9:00 pm Stephen Ministry Training	29	30 4:00p Quilters 5:15p Mid-Week Service	31		
<b>Pastor Shaw - ...</b>						



# MAY 2018 RESPONSIBILITIES



RESPONSIBILITY	May 6	May 13	May 20	May 27
<b>Assisting Minister(8:30)</b>	Tommie Johnson	<b>MOTHER'S DAY</b>	Tammy Locke	Tammy Locke
<b>Assisting Minister(10:30)</b>	Cindy Elder	Linda Lutz	Patsy Nikbakht	Denise Powell
<b>Children's Church(10:30)</b>	Denise Powell	Denise Powell	Tammy Locke	Tammy Locke
<b>Communion Assist.(10:30)</b>	Jordan Pendry	Wynda Howerton	Roger Webb	Cindy Elder
<b>Crucifer (10:30)</b>	Gene Rector	Haley Sabey	Gene Rector	Jordan Pendry
<b>Sound Board</b>	Ken Harmon	David Elder	Ken Harmon	David Elder
<b>Greeter (8:30)</b>	Tammy Locke	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx	Tommie Johnson	Jackie Childers
<b>Greeter (10:30)</b>	Roger Webb	Melonie Harmon	Cindy Johnson	Mary Helton
<b>Bell Ringer (8:30)</b>	Tammy Locke	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx	Marcus Johnson	Nathan Childers
<b>Bell Ringer (10:30)</b>	Larry Powell	Larry Powell	Larry Powell	Larry Powell
<b>Altar Flowers</b>	Nancy Seagle	Roger Webb	Theda Isenhour	Pam Norris
<b>Care Givers</b>	Novella Shoaf Gene Rector	Cindy & David Elder Nancy Brittain	Ken & Melonie Harmon Nancy Seagle	Cindy Johnson Mary Emma Smith
<b>Teller Duty</b>	Robbie Mozeley	Cindy & David Elder	Terri & Jackie Childers	Melonie & Ken Harmon
<b>Ushers (10:30)</b>	Melonie Harmon's Team			
<b>Sacristan's</b>	Melonie & Ken Harmon, Larry & Denise Powell			

**NOTE: If you are unable to fill your assignment, please contact another person to serve in your place.**



## **PARISH DIRECTORY**

### **ALL BAPTIZED CHRISTIANS, MINISTERS**

The Rev. Dr. Timothy Smith, BISHOP

The Rev. Dr. C. Pierson Shaw, PASTOR

Carol Alley, SECRETARY

Myra Long, DIRECTOR OF WORSHIP & MUSIC

Linda Lutz, CONGREGATION COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Robbie Mozeley, CONG. COUNCIL VICE-PRESIDENT

Melonie Harmon, CONG. COUNCIL SECRETARY

Terri Childers, CONGREGATION COUNCIL TREASURER

CHURCH PHONE: (828) 322-5002

CHURCH FAX: (828) 322-5005

E-MAIL : secretarybethanylc@gmail.com

Visit us on the Web: [www.bethanyhickory.org](http://www.bethanyhickory.org)

PASTOR PIERSON SHAW: (828) 328-8665 (home)

(828) 238-9065 (cell)

EMAIL: [pastor@bethanyhickory.org](mailto:pastor@bethanyhickory.org)

Personal email: [shawpierson@yahoo.com](mailto:shawpierson@yahoo.com)

### **OFFICE HOURS:**

**Monday – Friday 8:30 am – 4:00 pm.**

### **BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

#### **Purpose Statement**

“Gathered to worship, sent out to serve, and continually enlightened by the Word.”

#### **Mission Statement**

As Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church we are:  
“devoting ourselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship,  
to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church  
1644 Main Ave. Dr. NW  
Hickory, NC 28601

