

Milton's Good News

April- "At a Glance"

Looking back in April, Bethany gave Easter Baskets out at HandUp Food Bank, an Easter Egg Hunt was done at Brown Park with St. Andrew's. Holy week began, starting off with a Last Supper Meal on Thursday, a Good Friday Service, and Easter Sunrise and Traditional & Contemporary Easter Services.

Also at the beginning of this month a Community Dinner was held at Christ Lutheran.

-Cheri Buss

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"A devotion from the Pastor's desk..."

Walking in Christ: part 3

2 Corinthians 5:16-17 Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him in this way no longer. Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

When we enter into a relationship with Christ we are fundamentally transformed. Our transformation is visible, tangible. People who have experienced the power of God in their life are noticeably different. They create a stir, and cause those who know them to question what has gotten into them. Think of Ebenezer Scrooge at the end of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. Scrooge is an entirely different person after his conversion experience that night. As Christians, Christ is our ghost of CHRISTmas past, present and future. He is more than willing and knowledgeable to point out our mistakes of the past, the mistakes we are currently making and what will happen to us if we do not change our ways. Luckily, like the dream in a Christmas Carol, He also gives us the opportunity to change and to alter our future destination, the fiery grave, for a much better destination, eternity in the kingdom of heaven.

As we celebrated Easter this past month, perhaps you heard the underlying theme throughout the sermons, new life. If you are not living into a new life, now is the time to make some changes. Christianity is not a spectator sport, it is a hands-on, active involvement, full contact, completely immersive sport. If you aren't walking with Christ, are you in the game? If you aren't transformed by the power of Christ than you aren't walking with Christ. If people cannot see a visible difference in how you live life before and after Christ, and a difference from the people around you than you aren't transformed. We must let the old things pass away. We must leave them behind if we are to move forward with Christ as a new creation. This is the path to salvation. This is the way that Christ provides. If you don't follow Him through that gate than you will be left outside the walls where there is much gnashing of teeth. Stop being a Scrooge and begin to work for the betterment of the Tiny Tims of the world. Let Christ transform your heart and put your hands to work, His work in the world.

Special points of interest:

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Traditional Worship Team Report

The following is the work of the Traditional Worship Team which met on Tuesday, April 4th. Here are May's songs, Scriptures, and sermon titles.

May 7th – Lord of the Dance (261); Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us (381); You Satisfy the Hungry Heart (629); God Be with You Until We Meet Again (672); *John 10:1-10*, "Hearing Voices"; **Communion**

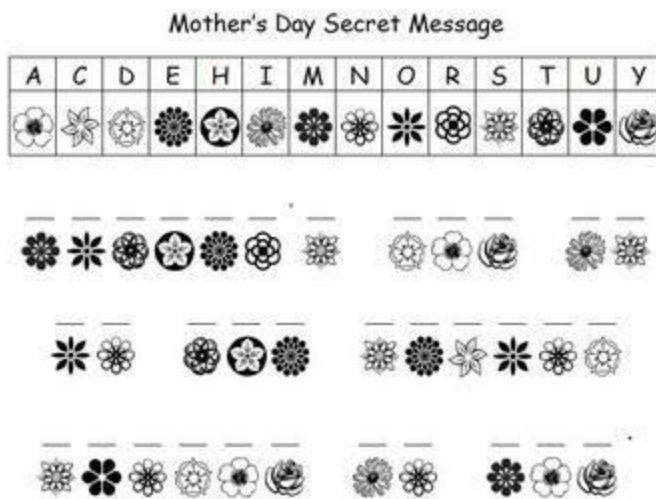
May 14th – Ode to Mothers (to the tune of 89); Amazing Mothers (to the tune of 378); Honoring Christian Mothers (to the tune of 575); His Eye Is on the Sparrow (2147); *Psalms 31*; *John 14:1-14*, "Parents And Children"

May 21st – **Blended Service** - Because He Lives (364); Spirit of the Living God (393); Breathe (insert); Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (384); *Psalms 66*, *John 14:15-21*, "Advocating Spirit"

May 25th – **Ascension Day** – Christ the Lord Is Risen Today (302); I'll Fly Away (2282); *Luke 24:44-53*, "Rising To The Occasion"

May 28th – Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise (103); Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee (89); O Jesus, I Have Promised (396); A Charge to Keep I Have (413); *Psalms 68*, *John 17:1-11*, "Passing The Torch"

Sunday, May 14th – Happy Mother's Day!



To all the women out there who gave birth, nurtured, and adopted God's children, bless you and have a wonderful Mother's Day!

Contemporary Worship Report

Check out the sermons titles, scriptures, and songs for May listed below. We hope to see you'll join us for a wonderful time of worship and fellowship!

May 7th – Ever Be; Holy is the Lord; Worthy, Worthy; All the Poor and Powerless; Jesus We Love You; *Acts 2:32-37*, "The Church"

May 14th - Cornerstone; God With Us; Holy Ground; Good, Good Father; Hungry; *1 Peter 2:2-10*; "Feeding the Children"

May 21st – I Surrender; Creation Sings; Give Me a Song; Jesus Messiah; I Can't Believe; *Acts 17:22-31*; "Holy Heritage"

May 28th – I Will Follow; Called Me Higher; Spirit Speaks; Head to the Heart; Oceans; *Acts 1:6-14*; "What Are You Standing Around For?"

Trustees' Report

The Trustees would like to thank the congregation for their patience through this lengthy renovation process. We're heading down the home stretch.

As I write this, the new handicapped accessible restroom in the Elm Street Lounge/Chapel is usable and only needs a few finishing touches before it's complete. The rest of the Elm Street Lounge/Chapel is currently receiving a fresh coat of paint. During our last meeting, we approved a plan from Atlantic Equipment Specialists to equip the new kitchen. The furnishings and equipment includes a microwave oven, countertop convection oven, a two door commercial refrigerator, a single door commercial freezer, a prep counter and island, a three bowl sink and wire storage racks. Because everything needed to be ordered, we anticipate it will be six to eight weeks until completion. The remaining projects in the church are the replacement of an electrical panel that is outdated and potentially unsafe and new stair treads and flooring inside the Center Street entrance.

The refurbishing of the first floor of the Parish House is coming along nicely. The walls have new wallboard over the old plaster and a fresh coat of paint. New ceiling and lighting has been installed. After many years of having to go to the church to use the restroom facilities, there will be a working restroom again. When the rooms to the left of the entrance are completed the current office will be moved into another room to allow the current office to be refurbished.

Submitted by Jamie Aurand

Vacation Bible School.....



Bethany UMC and Christ Evan Lutheran Church are joining partners for this years VBS.

This years Vacation Bible School theme is "Hero Central: Discover Your Strength in God!", which will be held at Christ Evan Lutheran Church, 1125 Mahoning St, Milton PA.

Date/Time: June 19th through June 23rd from 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm. Dinner will be at 5:30 pm and VBS 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm.

Hero Central is designed to teach children 5 exciting lessons to help you discover your strength in God.

The Scriptures that we will cover are 1 Samuel 16:1-12; 1 Samuel 25; Luke 2:41-52, Matthew 4:23-5:12, and Acts 2:1-41.

Register your child and as a volunteer online at www.bethanyumc-miltonpa.org (Under VBS tab) or call the church office at 570-742-9796.

Watch for more details on how you can help out with this years Vacation Bible School.

Missions/Outreach Committee...

Milton Panther Packs Program (New Mission: Monthly)

Bethany UMC Mission Committee and St Andrew's UMC will be looking to expand the Milton Panther Packs Program to help provide weekend food items for elementary students in need in the Milton Area School District.

Bethany UMC will be in charge of providing 120 Fruit Cups, which equals ten donations of a 12 pack of fruit cup for each month.

Please bring in your (12 pack) of Fruit Cup and place in the box located in the back of the sanctuary.

Milton Community Dinner (Christ Evan Lutheran)

There will be a Community Hot Dog Giveaway for the Bicentennial Parade Day on a **Saturday, June 17th at 11:00 am**. Location: Here at Bethany UMC, Front Street. [Watch for more details](#).

Community Dinners are between Bethany UMC, Christ Evan. Lutheran, Trinity Evan. Lutheran, United in Christ Lutheran, and New Hope Ministry Center HandUp Foundation to feed low income people in need.

Community Planning Meeting will be held on **Thursday, May 11th at 6:30 pm** at Christ Evan Lutheran.

“Sharing the Table”



(Sponsored by Mission/Outreach Ministries) “Sharing the Table” 2017 Schedule

“**Sharing the Table**” is a way you can help those in need every month by bringing in canned goods and non-perishable food items for the local food bank.

The first Sunday of the every month during Communion Service we will be collecting food.

Next Food Collection Communion Dates: May 7th & 14th / June 4th / July 2nd / August 6th

Lay Leader's Report

Crossroads of Life, the UMC-sponsored central Illinois Prison Faith Community with which I've recently become involved, recently invited me to join their board, and I accepted. The board makes decisions about the directions, projects and funding guidelines by which the ministry functions to bring faith-based care and support to men and women behind bars in the area's state correctional facilities. The board meets almost entirely by e-mail on an ad hoc basis, depending on issues at hand. I have already voted twice for them, both times on questions of Crossroads' internal financial arrangements. I'll continue to support this ministry, both financially and from an advisory standpoint, as it has gotten off the ground and is beginning to fly according to the fondest hopes of its visionary leaders. It's another great success story, brought to us by God, who makes all things possible and writes the book on things like this.

Plans were finalized that I conduct the full Traditional Sunday morning worship services on April 23 and June 25, in the first instance to substitute for the Pastor during his vacation and in the second to be inter-transitional pulpit supply while he departs for his new appointment in Towanda.

Soup and The Word 2017 ended beautifully on April 12 with a fine homily by Cynthia Dallas-Kirk of St. Paul's AME Church. Pastor Damien and I also attended the event on March 26, when Kingdom Kidz performed. During the Kidz' show, one of the puppets broke out with the Aaronic Benediction from the Book of Numbers – in the original Hebrew. Now that was a surprise that put me back in my chair about seven inches, because I've only ever heard it live in that language once before, during a 2014 college lecture by a Hungarian Jewish archaeologist. Never from a puppet at a local ecumenical noon-hour service.

Events Happening in the Area

[Please see the bulletin board in the back of the sanctuary for more details on these events]

Remembrance Service – Sunday, April 30 at 2:00 pm- St John's United Church of Christ, 1050 Buffalo Rd, Lewisburg. Hospice of Evangelical invites you, your family and friends to celebrate the lives of loved ones who died between February 1, 2016 – January 31, 2017.

The Joe Murray Band – Country Gospel Music- Sunday, May 21, 2017, at 6:30 pm at Zion Lutheran Church, Turbotville PA. Freewill Offering

Week of Prayer (Annual Conference)

The week of May 7th through the 13th Bethany congregation is to pray for the Annual Conference & Denomination for the decisions with moving forward.

Thank You Notes to Bethany....

Susquehanna Conference, The United Methodist Church, wants to Thank You – Bethany United Methodist Church for giving 100% for Shares of Ministry in 2016. By this support you enable the Denomination and the Susquehanna Conference to present the Gospel and minister to the needs of people in the name of Jesus Christ.

-Bishop Jeremiah Park & Andra Haverstock, Treasurer

To the Congregation: Many thanks for the beautiful Hyacinth that you gave me this Easter. Your thoughtfulness was greatly appreciated.

-Sarah Heimbach

Bicentennial Parade Day

Mark your calendars on June 17th for Milton's Bicentennial Parade Day, where Bethany UMC and Community Churches will be giving out free hot dogs during the parade starting at 11:00 am. Watch for more details.

Ad Board

As mentioned above, Bethany will host a hot dog giveaway to take place in front of the church during the June 17 Milton Bicentennial Parade. The Board has approved this approach to serving the community in lieu of having a joint church Community Picnic Lunch and Worship Service at Brown Avenue Park on June 11 (the cancellation of which was forced by the unavailability of a park pavilion). The parade-time giveaway, however, will still be conducted by a team of folks from the various churches that normally partner with us as Community Dinner sponsors, and all of our "coalition" churches will chip in to supply physical assistance and support the food. We had considered giving away French fries, also, but the Board declined to accept that idea because of the envisioned labor intensity and the logistics of it.

The Board approved a two-week solicitation of non-perishable foods to be brought in to Bethany in the first two weeks of May in connection with the Milton Bicentennial food drive. That's tantamount to extending our routinely-scheduled May 7 "Share the Table" Sunday to include May 14, such that the combined collection can be taken to the food bank all at once. This one-time "doubling of the effort" will be announced orally during the April 23 and April 30 Traditional services, and it will appear in our service bulletins as appropriate.

PSPRC has many things on its plate with regard to its purview of Bethany's human resources. Two of our paid Contemporary service employees will soon be leaving us to take on new ventures, and there are many facets of the impending transition from Pastor Brooks to Pastor McNeal that affect church plans and late June / early July timing. Plans are being consummated to fill the paid positions and to ensure a seamless pastoral changeover.

Announcements

Dates to Remember:

- May 2nd – 6:30 pm – Traditional Worship Team @ Parsonage**
- May 3rd – 7:00 pm – Trustees**
- May 4th – 6th – Annual Conference @ Hershey**
- May 5th – 6:00 pm- Contemporary Worship Team Meeting**
- May 7th – 13th – Bethany week of Prayer for Annual Conference & Denomination**
- May 7th – 10:30 am – “Sharing the Table” Food donations / Communion**
- May 7th – 3:00 pm – Rockwell Communion**
- May 7th – 6:30 pm – Contemporary Worship Service / Communion**
- May 9th – 7:00 pm – PSPRC**
- May 11th – 6:30 pm – Planning Mtg for Community Dinner @ Christ Evan Lutheran**
- May 14th - (Happy Mother's Day) & Bicentennial Food Drive “Sharing the Table”**
- May 16th – 6:30 pm – Finance Committee**
- May 16th – 7:00 pm – Ad Board**
- May 22nd – 4:45 pm - Community Harvest Dinner @ St Andrew's**
- May 23rd – 25th – Pastor away for training @ Millerstown PA**
- May 25th – 7:30 pm – Ascension Service @ Parsonage**
- May 28th (Both Services) – Gideon Presentation**
- June 17th – 11:00 am – Bicentennial Parade Day (Hot Dog Giveaway)**
- ...June 19th – 23rd - 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm - VBS “Hero Central” @ Christ Evan Lutheran**

Rockwell Bible Study: 9:00 am every Thursday @ Rockwell.

Praise Band Practice: 7:00 pm every Friday.

Sunday School: 9:00 am every Sunday morning.

Traditional Worship Service: 10:30 am every Sunday morning.

Contemporary Worship Service: 6:00 pm every Sunday evening.

BETHANY UMC

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Sunday Worship:

Sunday School: 9:00 am
Traditional Service: 10:30 am
Contemporary Service: 6:00 pm

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Upper Rooms Available

May/June



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