

# Lamplighter

"Be still, then, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth."

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. —Psalm 46: 10-11

On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther (monk, priest and professor of Bible studies at Wittenberg University in Germany) posted 95 Theses, or statements, against the sale of indulgences to a church door. He action was intended to provoke debate among the scholars at the university over the church's practice of selling indulgences. With the help of a rather new invention, the printing press, the 95 Theses were copied and spread far and wide sparking the movement we call the Protestant Reformation.

On the anniversary of the Reformation, many Protestants remember the reformers, especially Martin Luther, John Calvin, Huldrych Zwingli, John Wycliffe, Jan Huss, and others who wanted to return the church's attention to the grace of God in Jesus Christ, crucified and risen for the sake of the world, for the forgiveness for sins, healing and eternal life. The reformers urged people to trust, to believe that we can't earn and can't pay for God's grace. Because God's grace in Jesus Christ is freely given. God's forgiveness, mercy, salvation and eternal life—these are God's free gifts of grace for you and for any and for all who come to believe. This is the nature of grace —being given a gift that one doesn't deserve or earn or work for. That is the nature of God's grace in Jesus Christ. The Scriptures on Reformation Sunday highlights this:



#### Jeremiah 31:31-34

I will write my law in their hearts, says the Lord

#### Psalm 46

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. (Ps. 46:7)

#### Romans 3:19-28

Justified by God's grace as a gift

#### John 8:31-36

Jesus says, "Continue in my word and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

John 8 proclaims that it is *God in Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit* who sets us free from sin, death and evil, so that, we may act as God's people of grace in the world. We humbly acknowledge with Romans 3, that we do not earn righteousness before God by any works, actions, words or deeds, no matter how good. Rather, we receive righteousness before God only through Christ's sacrifice on the cross as a ransom for many, as a ransom for you. Therefore, the cross orients our faith, our life towards God and the cross of Christ re-orients our works, actions, words and deeds towards those whom God is oriented—the poor, the hungry, the thirsty, the forgotten, the outcast, the suffering, the disenfranchised, the least.

Jeremiah 31 proclaims that the covenant of God's grace in Jesus Christ is not written by human hands on stone tablets or pieces of paper, rather. *God writes* the unbreakable, everlasting covenant of God's grace on human hearts, on your heart. God's covenant of love and grace is inscribed on our very being. We are God's. With Psalm 46, we give thanks because God is ever our refuge and our strength in times of trial, trouble and sin. God frees us to be still and to know that God is with us. Which is all to say that, remembering the anniversary of the Reformation is not about pride, but about humility. It is a day to return to the Lord, be still and know God's grace in Jesus Christ is our stronghold. This is the grace and truth of God, that knowing, frees us to love our neighbor as God loves our neighbor, as God loves us.

With you in Christ, Pastor Kara



# JOIN US FOR OUR NEW COFFEE AND CONVERSATION TIME!! EVERY SUNDAY 9 AM. BRING YOUR OWN CUP (TO LEAVE HERE). WE WILL PROVIDE THE REST!

# NEW AT SALEM: Senior Stretch Exercise Program



Do you feel like you need to loosen up?

Lois Bowman is leading a low impact exercise class **every**Wednesday 9:30 - 10:30
am in the social hall of the church. Join us as we use

elastic bands and dumbbells for exercises. (Bring your own if you have them.)



Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, November 17th in **Newhouse Hall.** There will be an abbreviated Worship service a Potluck lunch, and the annual meeting.

Please bring a dish to share!



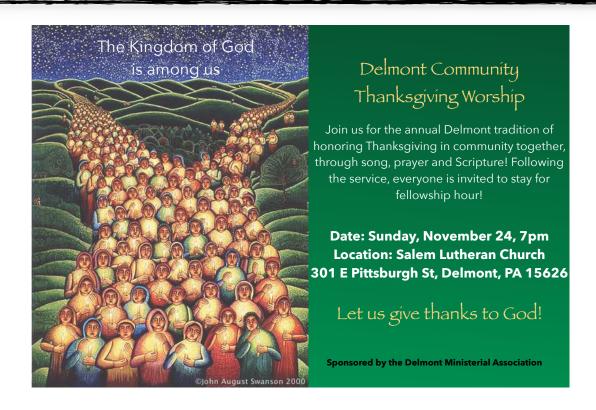


On All Saints Sunday, November 3, we remembered these children of God who now rest from their labors and have entered into the eternal joy and rest of God, won through the death and resurrection of Christ Jesus. Please hold their families in your prayers.

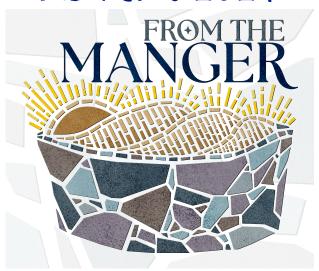
Roberta Schlotter
Anne Thompson
Helen Colclasser
William Fong
Robert Piper
Pastor Frederick Heitzenroder
Mary Elizabeth"Liz" Blatney
Cory DeFrances
Merle Neumann
Jay Anderson
Betty Anderson
Marge Fagert
Lorraine Sarver
Carol Bolen
Edward Wilson



13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. 15 For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. 16 For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words. - 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.



# ADVENT 2024



First Sunday of the Month,
Salem Youth will sit together for worship!

ENJOY FELLOWSHIP HOUR
TOGETHER AFTER SERVICE
WITH OUR CONGREGATION

Youth Group will meet on
the first Sunday every

the first Sunday every month from 11-11:45am

\*time may change based on activity planned!\*

WE ARE SENT to serve our neighbor and steward creation!

# Operation Christmas Child Boxes are Here

Tangible Wypression of God's immense love for the child. For many, it is their first gift ever!

Delivered by our local church partners, shoebox gifts provide an opportunity to present the Gospel to boys and girls in a clear, child-friendly way.

Pick up your box in the church social hall. Boxes must be **RETURNED & BLESSING ON NOVEMBER**10, 2024!!

## Pilgrimage Team news....

Together with St. John Baptist de La Salle Church we are sponsoring a Fresh Express distribution through the Westmoreland County Food Bank. The distribution will be held on **November 11th from** 

### 3:15 - 5pm at St. John Church.

Fresh Express is an outdoor, supplemental food program that provides people with easy access to wholesome and nutritious foods. Without this program, many perishable food items would be thrown out due to lack of refrigeration and storage space at not only the Food Bank but also it's pantries. Because of this program approximately 700,000 pounds of food per year makes it to people's tables. We will need at least 15 volunteers from Salem, please look for the sign-up sheet in the social room or contact Lori Harr at 724-468-6676.



Also, The Delmont Pilgrimage is Saturday, December 7th and Sunday, December 8th. There will be many opportunities to help out at Salem, please consider volunteering. Information and sign-ups to follow soon! Thank you.



# The Delmont Christmas Pilgrimage needs your help this holiday season!

When: 3-hour shifts on Saturday, December 7 (4:30-9:30 PM) & Sunday, December 8 (1:30-7:30 PM).



#### Volunteer opportunities include:

- Speaking & non-speaking Actors to portray Christmas-story characters in our live, walk-through nativity.
- Bus Guides to ride on shuttle buses, greet guests, answer questions, & sing Christmas carols.
- Path Guides to lead visitors on the outdoor live nativity walkthrough at Shields Farm in Delmont.
- Help is also needed with costume prep, baking cookies, assisting those in wheelchairs, & more.

#### I want to help. How do I volunteer?

 Scan the QR code to submit your contact information online. We will follow up with you!

#### I want to learn more before I commit.

➤ That's okay too! Please scan the QR code. enter your inquiry & info, & we will follow up!

Call (724) 454-1535 with questions.

www.delmontpilgrimage.com

## **PILGRIMAGE TEAM @ SALEM REQUESTING VOLUNTEERS**

The Pilgrimage team is asking for volunteers. We always have a great time together & promise you will, too! Please consider helping in anyway you can.

- \*Decorating on Saturday, November 30th at 10am & lunch will be provided!
- \*Kitchen help both Saturday and Sunday, December 7th & 8th.
- \*Dining room help both days, December 7th & 8th.
- \*Bus greeters both days, December 7th
- \* Donations of cookies, soft drinks, &

Thank you in advance, we are looking forward to working together! Please contact Lori Harr at 724-468-6676 or 724-787-6220 to volunteer or if you have any questions.



Salem will be celebrating our 175th Anniversary, as a congregation, in September 2025.

The first meeting of the 175th Anniversary Team will be held in the social hall Wednesday November 13 @ 7 pm.





### Office of the Bishop

Dear Friends,

1014 Perry Hwy, Suite 200 Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Kurt F. Kusserow, Bishop

412-367-8222 kurt.kusserow@swpasynod.org 1014 Perry Hwy, Suite 200 Pittsburgh, PA 15237

I have found the experience of the sermon "post-game analysis" so universal that I'm sure we have all shared in it from time to time. You have given your pastors an encouraging word on your way out the door, or pressed for more understanding, or maybe even challenged them the way we do with people we trust. Our pastors also participate in the sermon "post-game analysis" on a regular basis, perhaps around the dinner table at home; I know I do.

But only once in my ministry has one of my sermons been followed immediately by someone I respect boldly asking me, "So what are you willing to do about it?" It is a challenge that I have taken so seriously that it compels me to ask for your help in financially supporting the Bethel-Trinity Community Development Corporation, on behalf of our siblings in Christ of the Bethel AME Church.

As I stood in the pulpit of Bethel AME on June 16 of this year, I spoke about Zacchaeus. I had been invited to participate in a celebratory Juneteenth worship service, following Bethel's long and hard-won battle for restoration ever since the congregation was displaced by the Urban Redevelopment Authority to build the Civic Arena in the 1950's. "It's that experience of living between a truth that is declared and the impact of that truth making a difference in our lives that I'd like to dwell on with you," I said about the holiday of Juneteenth on that morning. "What I see in the story Zacchaeus is a story of systemic change... to the extent that his life was changed by Jesus' visit, the whole system of injustice was dismantled in equal measure. If Zacchaeus learned to see himself as part of the same family as those he habitually defrauded—all of them equally children of Abraham—then a new system of mutual respect was being built."

I had the honor of sharing the pulpit with AME Bishop Errenous E. McCloud Jr., from whom my "post-game" challenge came. He shared with me that Bethel AME's recent victory to recover some of their land is really just the first step in a much longer battle for restorative justice. Their time of need for allyship is not over, but the need has taken a new shape. They are living between a truth that is declared and the impact of that truth making a difference, and our synod has been asked for help.

Bethel-Trinity CDC is the newly formed organization out of Bethel AME that will be confronting the systemic racial inequities in the Hill District neighborhood and beyond by developing, managing, and operating real estate projects for the betterment of the community: low and moderate-income housing, intergenerational housing, revitalization of the Hill District neighborhoods, preschool and primary education, social and human

services to individuals and families, economic development programs, individual employment, and youth services.

If taking all that on sounds like a big job, imagine giving this job description to your own local pastor or waking up to discover it has suddenly appeared on your letter of call! Who among us would even know where to begin? It's no exaggeration to say this is the exact position Pastor Dale Snyder finds himself in today, and why I so admire Bishop McCloud for exercising his influence to support this pastor under his care by asking me how I am willing to help. Bethel—Trinity CDC is embarking on a pre-development process to evaluate options and identify the experts and consultants needed to find their way forward for the community they love. It should come as no surprise to any of us that consultants and experts come at a considerable cost, precisely because they are so critical for success in this kind of work.

I am asking you, the individuals and congregations of our synod, to give to our siblings at Bethel-Trinity CDC in this pivotal moment.

Fundraising is easy when it comes with a story that tugs on our heart strings or we can see the face of someone vulnerable in need. It's a tougher ask when the need is structural and strategic, though the impact is much further reaching. So let me offer a challenge in the spirit of friendly competition (we are Pittsburghers, after all!) On the day of the Juneteenth service, one local congregation gave Bethel-Trinity CDC a gift of \$25,000 to begin this phase of work; surely our congregations combined can match what a single congregation was able to give!

I pray that we can all see ourselves as part of the same family—all of us equally children of Abraham—and that building a solid foundation for the future of the Hill District brings salvation to our house as well. And I pray that if you should hear Bethel's story shared from your own pulpit, your whole congregation would be compelled to ask, "So what are we willing to do about it?"

With you in Christ,

Bishop Kurt F. Kusserow

Online donations can be made at <u>swpasynod.org/bethel</u> and additional information about engaging your congregation can be found there as well.

Checks made payable to "SWPA Synod" can be mailed to: Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod Attn: Bethel Appeal

1014 Perry Hwy, Suite 200 Pittsburgh, PA 15237



On Sunday October 6th we celebrated the baptism of Thomas Virgil McAdoo son of Matthew & Kaylee McAdoo.
Grandson of Bill & Amy Fong.
Let us welcome him into the body of Christ and the mission we share.



On Sunday October 20th we celebrated the baptism of Justin Dennis Kilpatrick, Jr. son of Dennis & Desiree Kilpatrick. Let us welcome him into the body of Christ and the mission we share.



The Bishop Election Discernment Team has provided resources to help our synod proactively prepare for our 2025 election. At **swpasynod.org/ bishop2025** you can find important dates, information about the process, FAQ, and even monthly prayers to share with your congregation.

#### **November Prayer for Bishop Election**

Almighty God, source of all knowledge and mercy, surround us with peace and guide us to trust in those who have answered the call to serve on the Bishop Election and Discernment teams. As we enter a time of thanksgiving, may we lift in prayer Bishop Kusserow, his assistants, and the synod staff for their faithful leadership. We also give thanks for those who are discerning their possible call to the role of bishop. Guide your servants to know their gifts and hear your voice, following faithfully where you lead the way. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

#### **Bishop Election Informational Meetings**

Saturday, November 9: 9:30 - 10:30 AM Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church (2500 Brandt School Road, Wexford, PA, 15090)

-OR-

Saturday, November 16: 9:30 - 10:30 AM Our Redeemer Lutheran Church (105 Gateshead Drive, McMurray, PA, 15317)

This time of prayer, questions, and discussion focused on the bishop election is especially geared for Synod Assembly voting members, but all are invited to join.

#### 2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Salem Lutheran will print offering envelopes in house. You will have the flexibility to customize your envelopes to fill your giving schedule. Please complete the order form and return ASAP.

# 2025 GIVING ENVELOPE ORDER FORM

Name	
Envelope Number	
	ure your order will be
Initial Offering	\$5.00
Weekly Envelopes (52)	
Monthly Envelopes (12)	
Monthly Development (12	2)
Lenten Offering (Enter Amount)	
Maundy Thursday	
Good Friday	
Thanksgiving Offering	
Advent Offering	
Christmas Offering	

#### For personal Devotion and Study in the month of November

For the next 6 months, we will include in the Lamplighter a part of Luther's Small Catechism for your personal devotion, study, and use. For, it is always a good idea to return to the basics of our faith. Martin Luther was known to read the entire Small Catechism every day as part of his prayer life and practice. This is amazing because he wrote it!! He wrote in his preface to the Large Catechism these words of exhortation, "Therefore, I once again implore all Christians, especially pastors and preachers, not to try to be doctors prematurely and to imagine they know everything. ... Let all Christians exercise themselves in the Catechism daily, and constantly put it into practice, guarding themselves with the greatest care and diligence against the poisonous infection of such security and vanity."

Luther certainly did not mince words, but was direct and sincere in his belief that all Christians daily read and teach, learn and grow, wonder and ponder upon the basics of faith. He believed a spiritual discipline and exercise of the heart, mind and spirit using the Small Catechism could only benefit Christians and deepen their faithfulness to God and love to neighbor. So, you are invited into a spiritual discipline of the Small Catechism. Maybe like Luther, you would like to reads the whole catechism daily. Or maybe it would be easier and more doable to focus on a part of the Catechism for a month. Either way, I hope returning to these basics of faith will bear much good fruit in your relationship with God and with others. - Pastor Kara

#### **Small Catechism - THE LORD'S PRAYER**

#### Introduction

Our Father in heaven.

What is this? or What does this mean?

With these words God wants to attract us, so that we come to believe he is truly our Father and we are truly his children, in order that we may ask him boldly and with complete confidence, just as loving children ask their loving father.

#### **The First Petition**

Hallowed be your name.

What is this? or What does this mean?

It is true that God's name is holy in itself, but we ask in this prayer that it may also become holy in and among us.

How does this come about?

Whenever the word of God is taught clearly and purely and we, as God's children, also live holy lives according to it. To this end help us, dear Father in heaven! However, whoever teaches and lives otherwise than the word of God teaches, dishonors the name of God among us. Preserve us from this, heavenly Father!

#### **The Second Petition**

Your kingdom come.

What is this? or What does this mean?

In fact, God's kingdom comes on its own without our prayer, but we ask in this prayer that it may also come to us.

How does this come about?

Whenever our heavenly Father gives us his Holy Spirit, so that through the Holy Spirit's grace we believe God's holy word and live godly lives here in time and hereafter in eternity.

#### The Third Petition

Your will be done on earth as in heaven.

What is this? or What does this mean?

In fact, God's good and gracious will comes about without our prayer, but we ask in this prayer that it may also come about in and among us.

How does this come about?

Whenever God breaks and hinders every evil scheme and will—as are present in the will of the devil, the world, and our flesh—that would not allow us to hallow God's name and would prevent the coming of his kingdom, and instead whenever God strengthens us and keeps us steadfast in his word and in faith until the end of our lives. This is God's gracious and good will.

#### The Fourth Petition

Give us today our daily bread.

What is this? or What does this mean?

In fact, God gives daily bread without our prayer, even to all evil people, but we ask in this prayer that God cause us to recognize what our daily bread is and to receive it with thanksgiving.

What then does "daily bread" mean?

Everything included in the necessities and nourishment for our bodies, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, farm, fields, livestock, money, property, an upright spouse, upright children, upright members of the household, upright and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, decency, honor, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

#### **The Fifth Petition**

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

What is this? or What does this mean?

We ask in this prayer that our heavenly Father would not regard our sins nor deny these petitions on their account, for we are worthy of nothing for which we ask, nor have we earned it. Instead we ask that God would give us all things by grace, for we daily sin much and indeed deserve only punishment. So, on the other hand, we, too, truly want to forgive heartily and to do good gladly to those who sin against us.

#### **The Sixth Petition**

Save us from the time of trial.

What is this? or What does this mean?

It is true that God tempts no one, but we ask in this prayer that God would preserve and keep us, so that the devil, the world, and our flesh may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great and shameful sins, and that, although we may be attacked by them, we may finally prevail and gain the victory.

#### **The Seventh Petition**

And deliver us from evil.

What is this? or What does this mean?

We ask in this prayer, as in a summary, that our Father in heaven may deliver us from all kinds of evil–affecting body or soul, property or reputation–and at last, when our final hour comes, may grant us a blessed end and take us by grace from this valley of tears to himself in heaven.

#### **Conclusion**

[For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.] Amen.

What is this? or What does this mean?

That I should be certain that such petitions are acceptable to and heard by our Father in heaven, for he himself commanded us to pray like this and has promised to hear us. "Amen, amen" means "Yes, yes, it is going to come about just like this."

# You can also download the Small Catechism on your Android or Mac devices. Go to the website below and search the "Help" tab for directions.

https://catechism.augsburgfortress.org/

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#### We pray, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers.

Please keep these people in prayer and send them a card to let them know their church family is thinking of them.

Continued Care:
Susan Franke
Mae Jobe
Cheryl Whitling
Joe Shaffer
Ed Mikesell
Gloria Wellhofer
Bob Thompson
RR Schmitt
George Jobe
Helen Sparkenbaugh

Charlotte Bush
Healing & Recovery:

Simbi Muzora
Addison Altman
Dani Herman
Mark Piper
Jim McPeake
Randy Barker

Susan Baker
Cathy Piper
Ronna Yeager
Kristin Buckwalter
Mason Hredzak
Terry Zeek
Lori Harr
Rick Cipullo
Nate Doty
McKenzie Wildery
Gracy & Elora Yonko
Rebecca Piper
Lois Grudowski

Mike Hoch Local Cancer Patient Franklin Piper Bonnie Kuhel Donna Carney

Dennis

James Oswald Nancy Hunter Amanda Floy Karen Brandt Suzanne Zeek Judy Norris Jack Susick Kaylee McAdoo Christopher Merritt

Christopher Merrit Jim Nagel Carol Buckwalter Ginny Hayes Sherry McQuaide Kim Hixon Lilly

Cheryl Adamik Christine Duff Sympathy to the family of:

Ed Wilson Lorraine Sarver Betty Anderson Merle Neumann Marvin Staggers Ed Gall Enola Erdley John Cain

Military or Foreign Service:

Michael & Chris Broker

Dr. Paul Oliver

\*\* Please Note! Privacy laws prevent hospitals from automatically notifying churches of member's admissions. Please notify Pastor Kara at 304-668-9890 of hospitalizations or call the church office.

#### We Celebrate!

## Happy Birthday

- 1 Edward Mikesell
- 1 Albert (Butch) Vaia
- 2 Austin Thompson
- 3 Christopher Labik, Jr.
- 4 Doug Rosensteel
- 12 Keegan McIntyre
- 15 Henry Paulich
- 17 Michael Sullivan
- 18 Timothy Cipullo
- 18 Bill Fong
- 20 Abigail (Gillis) Slater
- 21 Michele McNerney
- 24 Roger Zimmerman
- 27 Rick Lasser
- 28 Ian Lichok
- 29 Chad Fong
- 29 Regis Farrell

# Happy Anniversary

- Daniel & Kelly (Yeager)
   Bumbalough
- 22 Brian & Lisa McGill
- 29 Paul & Tracy Baker

#### Worship & Faith Formation

- Sunday Worship on Zoom & In Person @ 9:30 am

#### Committee Meetings in November

Property, Saturday November 2 @ 9 am Council, Thursday November 4 @ 7 pm Social Ministry, Wednesday, November 6 @ 7 pm Worship & Music, Thursday November 7 @ 11 am 175th Team Wednesday November 13 @ 7 pm Council, Thursday November 14 @ 7 pm Faith Formation, Wednesday November 20 @ 6pm Steering, Thursday November 21 @ 7 pm

# Council Highlights October 10, 2024

- Mutual ministry presented a motion for wage recommendation for Pastor and all staff and the proposed 2025 Budget. This will be in the annual report and be presented to the congregation at the Annual meeting with abbreviated worship & pot luck lunch, on November 17th in Newhouse hall.
- 175th anniversary team is being formed. First Aid Training is being organized.
- Cassidy Avers is doing youth Sundays the first Sunday of each month.
- Social Ministry/WELCA hosting Roast Beef dinner November 2, help is needed. Social Ministry will be providing gifts to ARK for Christmas.
- Decorating in Newhouse hall for Pilgrimage is Saturday November 30 @ 10am with lunch provided.

Dear Reader, if you would prefer to receive the revived monthly Lamplighter by email, please contact the church office. One bonus of receiving it electronically is that you can see it in color! Another is you can easily click on and follow any of the embedded links! Take care!!

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