

Bethel Lutheran Church – Making Christ known!

90 Bryn Mawr Avenue

Auburn, MA 01501

BethelAuburn.org – Auburn Campus of Grace Ministries, A NES Yoke

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WORCESTER, MA



Lutheran Inter Parish Youth



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

NEWSLETTER May 2017

TIME SENSITIVE

SUNDAY HOLY COMMUNION 8:00 AM (Lay Lead) & 10:15AM

WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYER W/HOLY COMMUNION 5:30 PM

PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

*Our lives are formed by Word and
Sacrament, and we gather as the beloved
children of God around the means of grace
where our lives are in Christ.*

Pastor's Corner

OPTIONAL

It used to be that when you went into a new car dealer that the order sheet for your new vehicle set out the basic car with many sections where you could select "options" to make the wheels your very own; color, radio type, suspension package, motor and transmission, interior upholstery and colors, wheel/tire combinations, the choices used to be lengthy. Nowadays, the choices are more limited, but there are still "options" besides the basic vehicle itself (which in our age have many of what used to be "options" included.)

When you go to a conference or seminar you usually encounter "options" for picking a meal or snack, unless you want to run out on your own to an eatery nearby.

When we rent a vehicle, the agency will provide "options" for insurance, GPS, fuel waiver (come back with whatever level of gas is in the tank), etc. We can pick whatever we're comfortable with.

When it comes to life, we have been told God has given us the "option" to choose the life we want to live; referred to as free-will. In other words, God doesn't impose God-self upon humanity like some dictatorship. God, however, offers us a pathway through this life and into the next where the travelling is smoother, more joyful and hope-filled: faith is the vehicle through which we come to know Grace and Mercy that are God as we are able to open ourselves up to the leading of the Spirit, and not us blindly and stubbornly trying to "go it alone" in life.

It used to be the case, at least up and until the last couple of decades, that a life of faith was centered in and about the parish one called home: people tried to make it to worship at least once a week, brought kids to Sunday School and youth programs, encouraged each other for serving in the church in worship (acolytes, readers, choir people, ushers, greeters, as sacristans (altar guild work),

etc.), in becoming members of various teams (committees), volunteering in outreach (social ministry) programs and local walks for charities, plugging into ecumenical efforts (inter-denominational work), and other offerings like church sports teams (basketball and bowling leagues).

The community of faith has always been a place where members can become as family as each of us gets to know the other, and have the ability to be aware, present and supportive for others as need arises, when the encounters are frequent and long-term. When attendance is scattered (as in sports incursions, and other diversions eroding engagement) it:

- a) makes it difficult to many-times recognize need and the ability to respond with grace,
- b) makes it difficult for the Word in preaching to Spirit-lead the whole in directions God may be working to move the congregation and world,
- c) compromises cohesive development for the faith and future of our young people,
- d) and it increases the possibility for faith commitments of time, talent and monetary support to fall short of parish need.

As leaning into faith with regular church connection has moved towards the "optional" on many people's life-lists, so too, parishes' ability to support the extended family of faith has become strained and not as effective as when greater numbers of members made the effort to have church not become "optional": We are only as strong as we permit our faith-engagement to make us as communities of Jesus' WAY within the local expression of church as part of the universal expression globally.

When our ability to lean into faith communally is strengthened, so too is effectiveness of the Spirit to lead change and encouragement within families, neighborhoods, communities and the world: a more intentional leaning into faith globally would have the net effect of stemming the tide of warring, terrorism,

bullying, racial prejudice and the spread of anti-Grace oriented ideology.

May the witness and reality of God's intention to love us in spite of ourselves, manifested in Christ's ministry and sacrifice, humble and bring us to the acknowledgement that we each need Grace and Mercy increasingly in our lives over the "options" worldly endeavors can offer that have no eternal effect on our spiritual life, yet can also lead one away from the truth that is God and the hope God has for us in following the path to hopefulness and peace, through Jesus' WAY.

In our Savior's name ✚

Pastor Andrew

LIPY-CM MISSION TRIP



What an awesome time! Thirty-seven of us departed Monday, April 17th for the 12th Annual LIPY-CM Mission Trip, this year to Gettysburg, PA.

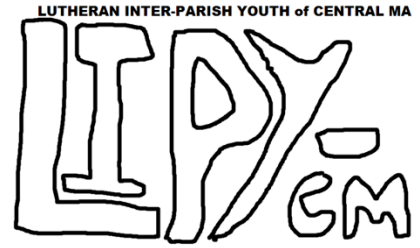
We stayed at Camp Nawakwa in Biglerville, part of the Lutheran Camping Association and travelled to our five worksites each day from this hub. The youth and chaperones selected how they wished to be Christ's hands and feet at work from one of the following:

- 1) Cross Keys Community in New Oxford, PA: Helping in the nursing home section with patients.
- 2) Central PA Food Bank in Harrisburg, PA: Sorting and kitting product for the food insecure.
- 3) Gettysburg Food Pantry in Gettysburg: Sorting and stocking food product and serving clients.
- 4) Gettysburg Social Circles in Gettysburg: Cleaning and resetting the meeting environments for the evening programs.
- 5) Camp Nawakwa: Readying the camp for the summer program.

Monday-Wednesday we participated in evening devotions after dinner. Tuesday night we had fun with bowling offsite. Thursday afternoon we visited the U.S. Parks Service Museum at Gettysburg and attended the movie and tour in the Cyclorama exhibit. Then we moved to The Lutheran Seminary at Gettysburg and attended the Seminary Ridge Museum. From there we enjoyed a meal at Pickett's Buffet, did a driving tour through the battlefields, and headed over to the seminary chapel for worship and Eucharist. Once back to the camp, we ended with our week's Highs/Lows.

Thank you for all the prayers and well-wishes for the trip, and your support through the financial fundraisers! We are now focused ahead to next year's trip, to Philadelphia; stayed tuned for more info in coming months ☺ Look for more pictures from the trip on the youth boards in the coming days!







Clothing Shed



In consultation with Social Ministry and approval of Council we will soon see a clothing shed from St. Pauly Textile on the Bryn Mawr side of the building by the cut thru sidewalk.

This shed will bring in used clothing and shoes that will be picked up and sorted for distribution thru St. Pauly stores, much like Salvation Army but at a much more reduced rate. If our community finds people in need of clothing and shoes we have first refusal on all donations. Bethel will receive a check each month bases on the number of pounds of donations we receive. St. Pauly has taken care of all permit responsibility and any and all unwanted drop-off will be removed by them.

PRAYER LIST

Members names are underlined: Bold face are newly added as of 4/25/2017

Mary Ardan, Helen Armstrong, Phil Becker, Guy Bouckaert, Karen Carlson, Lynn Sherwin Crystoff, Fred Cashman, Jane Connelly, Cory Fenton, Fenby Family, Liesl Voosen Fields, Judy Garneau, Terrance Harris, Harold Johnson, Donald Kosciusko, Avis Landgren, Jean Latti, Bill Lewis, Don & Lola Lofman, Sal Luco, Bob Marshalkowsk, Matthews Family, Mac McIlvaine, Jane Moir, Alice Nobert, Jessica Shea, Betty Stough, Steve Trilligan, Jane Umphrey, Kay Venning, Linda Vernon, Tim & Tammy Roscoe

Hospitalized or other Health Care Facilities

Life Care: Carolyn Dumais

Millbury Health: Delores Bengtsson, Harold Johnson

Lincoln Hill Manor, Spencer: Dot Reid

Sterling Village Nursing & Rehab: Frances Gadde

The Overlook (Masonic Home): Audrey Sturdevant

Parson Hills: Waldo Pierce

MAY 9TH MEN'S GROUP DINNER

And Women too!

This month the Men's Group invites all the men and women of the congregation to join them for a dinner. Please sign up in the Narthex. The meal will be stuffed Chicken Breast, mashed potatoes, vegetable, dessert and beverages.



BETHEL BOOKIES

Next meeting: Monday May 15th (note change of day) at 2pm in the Chapel. We will be discussing "The Wisdom of the 23rd Psalm" by Rabbi Harold Kushner.



June meeting: Friday June 16th trip to the Isles of Shoals, N.H. location of "The Weight of Water" by Anita Shreve. Leave Auburn @ 8am, return 5pm.

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

If your Anniversary is missing please let us know - 832-3427. Thank You!

Steven & Helen Trilligan 05/11/74
 Linda & William Kropp 05/13/78
 Jeremy & Julie Baril 05/14/11
 Lisa & Roy Ferreira 05/30/87



To Benefit Our Music Staff's Trip to Minnesota for the 2017 Biennial Music Conference of the Association for Lutheran Church Musicians

When: Saturday, May 6, 2017

Time: 5:30pm-7:00pm

Where: Voosen Hall

Cost: Free Will Offering

Special Appeal UPDATE 2

Greetings,

Greg and I are so grateful and thankful for all of your support and generosity in our fundraising efforts to attend the 2017 Biennial Conference of the Association for Lutheran Church Musicians in July. **We have raised \$1,549.00 so far**, including \$1,011.00 from the Pancake Breakfast alone! This brings us over half way to our goal of \$2,500.00 (an adjustment from previous announcements). Again, we express our sincere thanks.

In addition to the Pancake Breakfast we held in March, we will also hold a Spaghetti Supper as our second major fundraiser (please see the separate announcement for details!

When you make a donation, please mark that it is for the "music conference" so we can keep track.

For information on the Association for Lutheran Church Musicians or the conference, please visit www.alcm.com.

Thank you and God's Peace,
Adam Hanks
Bell Choir Director



Dismas House

The following Fridays we will be serving and joining in meal with the folks at Dismas. Call church office and leave your name if you are interested in joining us for any of these dates.

Fri. May 26th

Fri. June 23rd

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES



We are making a list of all 2017 college and high school graduates and their future schools or other plans. Please call the Church Office at 508-832-3427 or email BethelAuburn@verizon.net!

CALUMET THIS SUMMER

Each year the Men's Group awards a scholarship to any Bethel youth attending a regular summer session at Camp Calumet. So that we may do proper planning, please contact the church office at 508-832-3427 or bethelauburn@verizon.net to let us know name of child and what week/s they will attend.



EASTER FLOWERS 2017

In Loving Memory of:

Parent by Diana & Jay Stolberg
Parent by Leanne & Thom Carraher
Loved Ones by Judy Sampson
Husband Tom by Ruth Thompson

To the Glory of God given by:

Ruth Thompson
Judy Sampson

In Honor of:

Children by Diana & Jay Stolberg
Bethel Musicians by Lois Toepfner



COUNCIL CONNECTION

Welcome to the wonderful month of May!!
Hopefully the true beginning of Spring!!

Well, the beautiful, spiritual Easter Sunday has been celebrated! I hope everyone had a special happy holiday.

Nancy and I have been away, out west in Colorado and Utah. We had the great joy of celebrating Easter Sunday service in Vail Colorado!! The Vail Church (also called the Vail Chapel) turns out to be a very special, and perhaps unique, house of worship. The town of Vail, in 1968, offered a parcel of land to the religious communities of the town. There was one proviso --- there would be one church building to be shared by all denominations!! Well, as you can imagine, the initial reaction was surprise and uncertainty, to say the least. There was also some complete initial rejection of the idea. But, after some discussion, the church leaders agreed!! The church was built. We can share pictures when we return. Sooo, the Vail Church serves Episcopal, Methodist, Lutheran, Roman Catholic, southern Baptist and Jewish congregations. Each has their own Minister, Priest, Rabbi. The church has been in operation for nearly 50 years!! And, from my discussions, they actually do more that tolerate each other --- they actually like each other!! Talk about welcoming and inclusivity! Our Lutheran service was similar to ours at Bethel and very special. It was an eye-opening experience for us!

On May 9th at 6 PM, our next combined Men's and Women's Dinner will be held. All are welcome. Please sign up in the narthex. Dinner will be stuffed chicken breast, with mashed potatoes, vegetable and dessert. Beverages will also be available. Cost is \$12 and the proceeds will go to Calumet scholarships and other worthy causes. This will be our 4th dinner. They have all been joyous events. Come join us!

Lastly, to this month, we are discussing the idea of putting together a list of trades, skills and interests of our members. More on this soon!

Prayerfully
Grover Gentry
Congregation Council President



NEW SANCTUARY SPEAKERS

In an effort to improve speech recognition during worship the existing loud speakers are being replaced with Bose 251 product.

This new technology uses a panaray format which places the drivers on multiple vectors in order to disburse sound into the room. Simply put this should mean clearer voice being heard and expanded way within the sanctuary.



Thank You!

Dear Bethel Family,

Thank you all very much for the cards and good wishes at the celebration of my 80th birthday. I'm blessed to have been part of this wonderful church for so many years.

Thanks you and may God bless you all.

John Kallio

LIPY-CM FORSBERG DANCE > MAY 5TH



This opportunity for people with disabilities, and their family and friends, in coming together in a non-threatening environment is once again scheduled at Zion-Worcester.

One of our young people in the program developed this event in working with the David Forsberg program of what was Lutheran Social Services, and each year since we have their full support and see their clients, and those from Seven Hills Foundation and others, crowd our space for an evening of great food, socializing and dance.

The dance takes place from 6-8PM with set-up beginning at 4:30PM (let PA know if you can help), food is catered through Palma's Bakery off of Grafton Street in Worcester, and there is NO COST to attend!

Come on down and share your evening with some great folks and make their lives a bit brighter!



**SWEDISH PANCAKE
BREAKFAST at Zion
MAY 7TH, 2017**

**PROCEEDS to ELCA WORLD HUNGER
90% of World Hunger monies go
DIRECTLY to help those who are in need!**

Please call either church office to sign-up.



MAY 2017

Michael Gagnon	05/03
Nancy Nims-Gentry	05/04
Bruce Bergman	05/05
Louis Gaspar	05/10
Lee Fenby	05/10
Alexis Hagberg	05/12
Russell Harris	05/19
David Naugle	05/19
Anita Haynes	05/21
Grover Gentry	05/28

HOMELESS CARE KITS

As we travel around the city and surrounding towns, most all of us encounter those struggling with homelessness and joblessness asking for assistance at many traffic islands.



Below is a listing of items recommended that we will be asking our community to donate throughout the year.

Socks, gloves, granola bars, vitamin enhanced water/sports drinks, combs, large Ziploc storage bags, blank 4" x 6" card stock, gum, soap, lotion, nail clippers, hand sanitizer, trail mix, toothbrushes, toothpaste

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Reaching out to a world in need

“We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” Romans 6:4. In this Easter season, we are reminded of our transformation from darkness into the light, from death into life in Jesus Christ. We are born into a new life which frees us to live in relationship with our Creator and to serve one another out of hearts of gratitude, and not under obligation. Our service turns to joy.

Kindness Tree: The Social Ministry team wishes to thank the members of our congregation for their generous donations of gifts from the kindness tree. This is an ongoing ministry and there will be new tags placed on the tree as new needs arise within our church and the local community. We encourage you to continue in your support by taking new tags as they are placed on the tree. To date, we have received items and gifts cards for Dismas, IHN, Homeless kits, Health Ministry, and Fellowship. There will be new tags added for the AYFS summer program, IHN, Worcester Fellowship (outdoor ministry) and other local ministries.

AYFS Food: Thank you for your food donations for the AYFS Food Pantry. There is always a need for non-perishable food items to help replenish the food supply. This is one of several ways that AYFS reaches out to families in need in our local community.

ELCA Good Gifts: This year, as part of our Lenten journey, the Social Ministry Team made coin boxes available for the collection of money for ELCA Good Gifts. We collected the coin boxes on April 23rd. With the help of the Sunday School children, we will be making our selections for purchases through the Good Gifts Program. This collaborative effort will bring the children into our Social Ministry outreach, teaching them stewardship of the gifts that God has endowed and how we might participate in building better communities, and reaching out to a world in need.

Walk for Homeless: On Sunday May 21st, our Social Ministry Team will be supporting The Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance Walk for the Homeless. This annual event helps raise money and awareness, bringing hope to individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. A pledge sheet has been posted in the Narthex along with a sign-up sheet for people would like to walk. This 3.1-mile walk begins at

Elm Park in Worcester at 2:00. Registration begins at 1:00. Please consider walking or being a sponsor. For more information, please speak with a member of our Social Ministry Team.

Dismas Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) You are invited to support the work of the Dismas Family Farm by purchasing a share of the harvest. By purchasing a share, you help support the residents of the program assisting in their recovery and integration back into our society. Dismas Family Farm CSA costs \$500 which breaks down to \$25 /week for 20 weeks. Each week, from mid-June through mid-October, participants in this program may pick up their fresh vegetables at a convenient location in Worcester and Westborough, or at the farm in Oakham. For more information on purchasing a share, please contact Jen Burt, Farm Steward at jenburt@dismashouse.org or call the farm at (508) 882 0000. The Social Ministry Team will be purchasing a share to be donated to a local shelter or food pantry to be announced later.

Worcester Fellowship: On June 25th, Bethel will be providing lunches for Worcester Fellowship. We have received seed money from Thrivent for lunches. We will be assembling the lunches on that Sunday before worship and delivering to the Worcester Common around noontime. We are looking for volunteers to help assemble the lunches and/or deliver the bagged lunches following worship.

Interfaith Hospitality: Coming up in July, Bethel and Zion will be sponsoring the Interfaith Hospitality home on June Street the week of July 2-9. As we get closer to the week, there will be a sign up for overnight as well as early evening volunteers.

The Social Ministry Team meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 6:00. All are welcome to join us at any meeting or through one of the many ministries we support. For more information please speak with a member of our team.

If you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as noonday. Isaiah 58:10 (ESV)

May 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i> 3:00PM Girl Scouts Juniors 5:00PM AA 5:30PM Girl Scouts Daises 6:30PM Confirmation-Bethel 7:00PM OA	<i>2</i> 5:00PM AA 6:00PM Girl Scouts Brownies	<i>3</i> 5:00PM AA 5:30PM Worship 6:00PM Preschool I/C Social 7:30PM Akanon	<i>4</i> 5:00PM AA 5:45PM Bell Choir 6:30PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30PM AA	<i>5</i> 5:00PM AA 6:00PM Crochet Group	<i>6</i> 11:00PM AA 5:30PM Spaghetti Super
<i>7 Fourth Sunday of Easter</i> 8:00AM Worship-Bethel 8:45AM Worship-Zion 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship-Bethel 11:30AM Adult Forum	<i>8</i> 3:00PM Girl Scouts Juniors 5:00PM AA 5:30PM Girl Scouts Daises 6:30PM Council 7:00PM OA	<i>9</i> 5:00PM AA 5:30PM Boy Scouts Bears 6:00PM Men's Group/DOLs	<i>10</i> 3:30PM Girl Scouts Brownies 5:00PM AA 5:30PM Worship 7:30PM Akanon	<i>11</i> 5:00PM AA 5:45PM Bell Choir 6:30PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30PM AA	<i>12</i> 5:00PM AA 6:00PM Crochet Group	<i>13</i> 11:00PM AA
<i>14 Fifth Sunday of Easter</i> 8:00AM Worship-Bethel 8:45AM Worship-Zion 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship-Bethel 11:30AM Adult Forum	<i>15</i> 3:00PM Girl Scouts Juniors 5:00PM AA 5:30PM Girl Scouts Daises 6:30PM Confirmation-Zion 7:00PM OA	<i>16</i> 5:00PM AA 5:30PM Social Ministry Mtg 6:00PM Girl Scouts Brownies	<i>17</i> 5:00PM AA 5:30PM Worship 7:30PM Akanon	<i>18</i> 5:00PM AA 5:45PM Bell Choir 6:30PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30PM AA	<i>19</i> 5:00PM AA 6:00PM Crochet Group	<i>20</i> 11:00PM AA
<i>21 Sixth Sunday of Easter</i> 8:00AM Worship-Bethel 8:45AM Worship-Zion 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship-Bethel 11:30AM Adult Forum	<i>22</i> 3:00PM Girl Scouts Juniors 5:00PM AA 5:30PM Girl Scouts Daises 7:00PM OA	<i>23</i> 5:00PM AA 5:30PM Boy Scouts Bears	<i>24</i> 3:30PM Girl Scouts Brownies 5:00PM AA 5:30PM Worship 7:30PM Akanon	<i>25</i> 5:00PM AA 5:45PM Bell Choir 6:30PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30PM AA	<i>26</i> 5:00PM AA 6:00PM Crochet Group	<i>27</i> 11:00PM AA
<i>28 Seventh Sun. of Easter</i> 8:00AM Worship-Bethel 8:45AM Worship-Zion 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship-Bethel 11:30AM Adult Forum	<i>29</i> 3:00PM Girl Scouts Juniors 5:00PM AA 5:30PM Girl Scouts Daises 7:00PM OA	<i>30</i> 5:00PM AA 5:30PM Girl Scouts Brownies	<i>31</i> 5:00PM AA 5:30PM Worship 7:30PM Akanon			

Congregation Council

EXECUTIVE TEAM: President - Grover Gentry Vice President – Roberta Briggs Secretary – Cate Spanos
Christina Nelson, Betsy Baird, Bev Sampson, Phil Becker

Yoke Council

Co Presidents Grover Gentry (Bethel) & David Valleli (Zion) **Secretary** – Bill McGovern (Zion) Cate Spanos (Bethel)
Betsy Baird (Bethel)

Functional Units

Social Ministry – Marie Sturdevant & Judy Sampson
Sunday School – Pam Sutton
Property Team – Dave Sutton, Chair
Finance Team – Lisa Ferreira, Chair
Altar Guild – Leanne Carraher, Chair
Worship & Music Committee – Joan Parker, Chair

Staff

Pastor – The Rev. Andrew Borden pastor_andrew.b@verizon.net
Parish Administrator – Ann Spinner bethelauburn@verizon.net
Lois Toeppner, ELCA Deacon, Interim Music Director Loistoepner@gmail.com
Preschool Director – Bev Sampson 508-832-9411 Bethel_preschool_auburn@outlook.com