

BETHANY NEWS

Bethany English Lutheran Church

15460 Triskett Road
Cleveland, OH 44111-3022
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Robert Ferro, Pastor
Jason Aquila, Organist
Jesse Lange, Choir Director
Melissa Todd, Director of Christian Education
and Youth Ministries & Church Secretary
Sarah Todd, Financial Secretary

**Sunday Morning Worship
8:30am & 11:00am
Sunday School 9:45am**

**Summer Worship Begins May 26th
One Service
10:00am**

**Livestream
bethanyenglish.org**

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BELIEVE! ENGAGE! LEARN! CARE!

PASTOR'S PAGE

Happy Anniversary

And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one...so that they may have my joy made complete among themselves. John 17:11, 13b

On June 2 we will celebrate the ten-year Anniversary of the “marriage” of St. Thomas and Bethany English Lutheran Church. On that day we will be joined by Pastors Susanne Carter and Ken Jones for a Festival worship Service at 10am followed by a Reception in the Assembly Hall.

The past ten years have truly seen two congregations becoming one. The original merger of Bethany and St. Thomas made sense given our shared past. St. Thomas’ predecessor, Teusch Lutheran, had purchased Bethany’s original building at 89th and Willard and over the years there had been many points of contact between the two congregations. In addition, the two congregations were also a good “fit” given our similar worship styles and congregational cultures. But despite these things in our favor, congregational mergers are always risky proposals and often do not yield to a true melding of two becoming one.

One of the hallmarks of the merger of Bethany and St. Thomas was the excellent working relationship between Pastors Carter, Jones, and I. Pastor Carter continued to lead the monthly German language worship service for six years and visit several homebound members from St. Thomas until the pandemic and declining attendance brought it to a close and Pastors Carter and Jones covered ministerial duties when I took a three-month sabbatical during the summer of 2015.

In addition to pastoral leadership, members from both churches are active in the life of the congregation with several former St. Thomas members serving on the Church Council, Endowment Committee, Altar Guild, and Choir. Although some St. Thomas members never made the leap to Bethany, for the most part, the majority did and continue to be a vital part of our congregation.

The framed stained-glass windows and large gold cross in the Welcoming Room and the Communion table and trays in the Sanctuary are just some of the physical reminders brought over from St. Thomas that adorn our building and worship space. The yearly church picnic held at Lena Park is one St. Thomas tradition that I am glad to see continued.

In the May 2014 Bethany News, preceding the merger, I wrote, “But more than physical artifacts and praising God ‘auf Deutsch’, the greatest gift will be the joining together of faithful brothers and sisters in Christ. At the Last Supper Jesus prayed that his disciples ‘may be one’ so that the world might come to believe in Him. This is also His prayer for us that ‘they may be one ... so that they may have my joy made complete among themselves.’” I can truly say that God has answered that prayer over these past ten years and I believe that God will continue to answer that prayer for many years to come.

I hope to see you on June 2 as we joyously celebrate this wonderful milestone in the life of our congregation.

In His Love,

Pastor Ferro

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Summer Worship Schedule

May 26, 2024 – One Service 10:00am

We will begin our summer worship schedule on Sunday, May 26th. We will have one service at 10:00am!

Pentecost Geraniums

Last Day to Order – Sunday, May 5th

Bethany's Altar Guild is taking orders for Pentecost Geraniums. You may use the order form included In this Newsletter. Please drop it in the offering box on Sunday morning, or mail it to the church office.

Rainbow Ringers

Mother's Day – May 12th at 11:00am

Attention Sunday School Parents – the Rainbow Ringers will be playing on May 12th, at the 11:00am Worship Service.

Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, May 12th – between worship services

Join us between worship services on Sunday, May 12th for a pancake and sausage breakfast. All are welcome, a free will donation will be collected.

Sunday School

Last Day – May 19th

Thank you to Sarah Todd and Sue Chamot for teaching Sunday School this year. And thank you to the parents and grandparents who faithfully brought their children and grandchildren to Sunday School this year.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Ecclesiastes

The Wednesday Morning Bible Study has begun to look at the book of Ecclesiastes: The Teacher. This is one of the Old Testament Wisdom books. It is said that this book was written by Solomon when he was an older man looking back on the meaning of his life. All are invited to join us from 10:00am to 11:30am on Wednesday mornings in the Assembly Hall for a time of lively discussion and fellowship. Come and find out how much fun it can be to study the Bible.

Children's Church

Beginning June 9th

We will have Children's church during the summer months. The children will be dismissed from church before the readings and will go to the nursery for a short lesson, craft, and playtime. They will be brought back to church in time to receive a blessing at communion. We will not have an attended nursery during the summer months.

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

Spring Cluster Meeting – May 18th

The WELCA will be having their spring cluster meeting on Saturday, May 18th at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Hinckley, Ohio beginning at 8:30 am. Our featured speaker is known nationally for her presentation on Virtuous Women of the Civil War. More information to come soon.

Lake Erie Crushers Game

Friday, June 28th 7:00pm

Join us as we cheer on the Lake Erie Crushers take on the Washington Wildthings at Mercy Health Stadium (2009 Baseball Blvd, Avon, OH). There will be fireworks after the game. Tickets are \$14.00. Sign up by June 14th.

ANNOUNCEMENTS**Vacation Bible School****July 8- 12**

Mark your calendars now for the most fun week at Bethany! This year's theme will be Loaves and Fishes! Each day we will learn about a different Bible story from the Bread of Life, to learning how to fish for people! We need a lot of help to make VBS a success every year. Contact Melissa if you are able to volunteer. bethanyenglish@sbcglobal.net or 216-941-7880

Community Collections**Socks**

Socks are the number one requested clothing item at Homeless Shelters. Bethany is working with the Community West Socks+ program to collect new socks to be donated to local homeless shelters. You will find the donation box in the Welcoming Room.

Non-Perishable Food Donations

Bethany continually collects nonperishable food items which are donated to local food pantries. The last time the food was delivered, the shelter director mentioned they especially need rice and canned fruit. Of course, all donations of food and hygiene items are needed and deeply appreciated.

Pierstorf College Fund

The Pierstorf College Fund was established in 1994 and is a one-of-a-kind Lutheran financial aid program for all Lutheran students pursuing a higher education who live in Ohio. We have awarded over \$13 million in loans to more than 4,000 students since 1994. First time borrowers may be new or returning college students. We do not ask for family income information. The pastor of the applicant is their sole reference.

For more information, please visit www.Pierstorf.org to complete the online application. Applications are open from April 15 through June 30, 2024. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for further updates.

Thank you

Dear friends and family at Bethany,

Thank you to all the people who helped my family and I as well as the Altar Guild for doing a wonderful job when I became ill over Easter weekend. Thank you for your prayers and cards and good wishes. You are a blessing to all of us, and we are grateful for all of you.

Linda Ferro

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Easter Breakfast by donating egg bakes and pastries. Thank you especially to Norma Wise and Christine Roppelt for helping set up on Saturday; Audrey Geobl, Rachel Sadlon, and Judy Zangmeister for helping service and clean up on Sunday; and the Moranos for donating all the beverages.

Melissa Todd

In Our Prayers

May God's loving and healing hand continue to bless and keep all who call upon Him, especially: Laura Berchack, Fred Scheuerman, Sue Burdick, Linda Ferro, Sue Burdick, Adrienne and Mae Felger, Sean Raabe, Glenn Petranek, David Kahelin, David Hellein, Bridgette Tomblin. John Muraco, George Flamik, Jr., Matt Jaevack, Joanie Sadlon

Welcome to the Lord's Family!

On Sunday April 14, we were blessed to welcome four children to the Lord's Family through the sacrament of Holy Baptism. **Jordan Michael Lee Papp** was born on February 8, 2013. His baptismal sponsors are Judi Hockey and Bret Beal.

Charles Joshua Hockey was born on June 7, 2021 to Randy and Jessica Hockey. His baptismal sponsors are Jeremy and Casey Kocel. **Bonnie Jane Hockey** was born on May 10, 2023 to Randy and Jessica Hockey. Her baptismal sponsors are Phillip and Jennifer Hockey. **Millie Elizabeth Hockey** was born on April 29, 2021 to Jesse and Christine Hockey. Her baptismal sponsors are Mike and Noel Opsitnick.

May Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3 7:00pm NA	4
5 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School Choir 11:00am Worship 1:00pm Hall Rented	6	7	8 10:00am Bible Study	9 1:00pm Quilters	10 7:00pm NA	11
12 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School Choir Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast 11:00am Worship	13	14 7:00pm Committee Meetings	15 10:00am Bible Study	16 1:00pm Quilters 7:00pm Worship and Music	17 7:00pm NA	18
19 Pentecost 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School Choir 11:00am Worship Fegler Baptism	20	21 7:00pm Council Meeting	22 10:00am Bible Study	23 1:00pm Quilters	24 7:00pm NA	25
26 10:00am Worship	27 Memorial Day Office Closed	28	29 10:00am Bible Study	30 1:00pm Quilters	31 7:00pm NA	

June

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 NEO Synod Assembly
2 10:00am Worship Reception for 10 th Anniversary of Bethany and St Thomas Merger	3	4	5	6 1:00pm Quilters	7	8
9 10:00am Worship	10	11 7:00pm Committee Meetings	12	13 1:00pm Quilters	14	15
16 10:00am Worship	17	18 7:00pm Council Meeting	19	20 1:00pm Quilters	21	22
23 10:00am Worship	24	25	26	27 1:00pm Quilters	28 7:00pm Crushers Game	29
30 10:00am Worship						