



The Tower

September 2016

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Dear Church Family,

The young people of the community have returned to school. And of course this is a time for us to remember them and to pray for their safety and education as well as a time to lift up all those that make the education system work: from bus drivers to teachers to principals to janitorial staff.

But it is also a time for us to remember our own education. The old saying comes to mind: You are never too old to learn. As our young people return to school to learn their ABC's or Calculus we are reminded that our own journey of learning about God is never over.

Now is the perfect time for adults (or kids) to start up with Sunday School or Bible Study. Bethel offers two adult Sunday School classes as well as one evening Bible Study in addition to the Bible Study that the Women's Circle does. And it is never too late to join one.

God bless,
Pastor David

As I See It

A congregant recently gave me a prayer concern. He was concerned about the children of the world. There have been several recent news stories about children in danger. Of course the refugee situation is still a major issue, but even closer to home there have been numerous recent cases of abuse or neglect: children being left in hot cars for hours upon hours and that sort of tragic thing.

I share this congregants concern, as I am sure you do as well. Between the return to the school year and the fact that Bonnie, Miriam, and I are expecting a new daughter in November children have been on my mind. Let us all remember to lift up the most vulnerable among us in prayer.



September Worship Schedule

September 4, 2016

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 18:1-11 Philemon 1-21 Luke 14:25-33

September 11, 2016

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Rally Day

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Jeremiah 4:11-28 I Timothy 1:12-17

Luke 15:1-10

September 18, 2016

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1 I Timothy 2:1-7 Luke 16:1-13

September 25, 2016

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 32:1-15 I Timothy 6:6-19 Luke 16:19-31



Communion will be held during the worship service on September 11th, the 2nd Sunday of the month.

Fellowship Following Worship



After church get-togethers: Our gatherings after church continue to provide an opportunity for pleasant conversations among friends and good, light refreshments. Thanks go out to all who have provided the "goodies", as well as their time to prepare the set-ups. Please sign the sheet on the bulletin board in Memorial Hall if you would like to take a turn. September is open for those who would like to help the Congregational Care Committee continue this reception time.

"Share the Bounty" Sunday is September 18th, 2016

Sharing the bounty. Summer is almost over and fall is on the way. Gardens have provided vegetables for our tables for months. Are you tired of them? Want to share? The Worship and Witness Committees are designating Sunday, September 18th as "Share the Bounty" Sunday. Here is your chance to share with others in the community. The Witness Committee will gather the fresh vegetables/fruit you donate and take them to Kingsway. An extra basket will be placed in the vestibule. Don't have a garden? That's OK. Canned goods and other nonperishables will still be collected as usual for Kingsway. The emphasis is on food most needed for nutrition, such as peanut butter, baby formula, complete packaged meals, and canned goods such as tuna, chunky soups, stews, meats, fruits and vegetables. Please share what you can with those in need. Thank you for your generosity!



Rally Day - September 11th, 2016



The Christian Education Committee has been working very hard to come up with ways to have an active Sunday School for children. On Sunday, September 11th, we will be having a Rally Day Breakfast. The breakfast will start at 9:00 am and Sunday School will follow at 9:45 am. If you are not in Sunday School and have children, please bring them to Sunday School. We have two Adult Classes and will be having a Preschool Class, 1-3 Grade Class, 4-5 Grade Class and a 6-12 Grade Class. Pastor David will be having a Confirmation Class for the youth that are 12 years and older who have not taken this class. Our children are the future of this church. Please help us to have an active Sunday School again. We need all ages in this church and we need help from every member. Please prayerfully consider how God will use you. Questions, see or call Peggy Smith (540) 292-0885.

Confirmation Classes Begin September 11th, 2016!

CONFIRMATION CLASS will be starting on Sunday, September 11th, at 9:45 am. If you have a child that is twelve years old or older and would like them to take this class, please see Pastor David.



UPDATE



Bethel's Pictorial Directory

Our Pictorial Directory Committee is very pleased to announce that the directories are here. On Homecoming Sunday, August 28th, they will be available for purchase in Memorial Hall. Each directory package includes the booklet itself and three copies of your photo for \$20.00. Our committee has collected money from a number of you in our congregation. Some want more than one directory, some want several prints from the photo and some want no prints. In order to have prints made we will need a specific count from you. We will get the prints to you as soon as possible, hopefully Homecoming Day for those already ordered. We on the committee are very pleased with the beautiful graphics Penny Lee has created. We know you will find the directory useful and enjoy the candid photos of those in our congregation as well as the portraits. Having a pictorial directory helps us to know each other better and emphasizes our Bethel church family relationships. Community is a powerful thing and helps us grow in our love for each other and our church. Please contact Marty, Jackie or Penny if you would like to request prints of your directory photo.

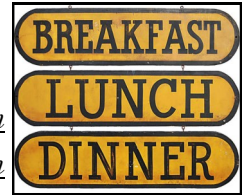
God bless you all,
Marty, Jackie, Barb, Judy, Penny and Bonnie

Financial Report - through July 31st, 2016

Estimated Budget: \$114,018.00
Actual Expenses: \$101,172.00 Actual Receipts: \$88,545.00



Food Booth at The Meating Place



The Witness Committee will be working at The Meating Place Food Booth on Friday, September 30th and Saturday, October 1st. We will be there from 8:00 am until 3:00 pm. If you would like to donate baked goods such as fruit pies, brownies and cookies, please have them at the church by 7:00 pm on Thursday, September 29th. We will serve ham sandwiches, hamburgers, cheeseburgers, hot dogs and tenderloin sandwiches and iced tea. Please come and have breakfast or lunch or take home for your dinner. We always have a very fun time and this is a good way to raise money to support our mission projects. Questions, see or call Peggy Smith at (540) 292-0885.

Presbyterian Women

September 2016 - Emphasis: Christian Education
"Links of Love" - Project



Committed to
nurturing faith,
supporting mission,
working for justice,
and building community.

*The Afternoon Circle will meet at 1:30 pm at the church on September 13th, 2016.

*The Evening Circle will meet at 7:00 pm at the church on September 13th, 2016.

September 4th - PWCT Meeting



As Bethel begins a new year of Sunday School classes, the Presbyterian Women also begin a new year of Circle meetings in September. If you have not attended Circle, please join us for Bible Study, fellowship and food on the second Tuesday of each month. There is an Afternoon Circle that meets at 1:30 pm and an Evening Circle that meets at 7:00 pm. We usually meet at the church but check the bulletin for changes.

Presbyterian Women - Special Emphasis

In September, the Presbyterian Women of Bethel urge you to support the **Links of Love** program. The **Links of Love** is a partnership between the Sunnyside Communities and the Women of the Presbyterian Church. Your Links of Love contributions are a lifeline that provides security and attentive care for those who can no longer provide for themselves. The special offering will be collected during the September Circle Meetings.





SESSION NEWS & NOTES

The Session met on Sunday, August 14th, 2016 with nine Elders and the Moderator, Pastor David, present.

The Deacons reported that 13 trees will be removed at the manse. Their goal is to encourage the growth of grass and to remove those trees which lean toward the manse or are old or diseased. They will bring in a contractor to address several leaks in the church's roof. Also, bats have been roosting in the church's attic and an exterminator will be hired to eliminate them, clean up after them and close their entryways with screens.

Share the Bounty will be held on September 18th. Everyone is encouraged to bring in extra garden produce to share with Kingsway.

Dennis Russell (the pastor of St. John's) and his fiancée, Sarah Swortzel, were given permission to hold their wedding ceremony at Bethel's Chapel on September 24th, 2016.

Committee budget requests are due to the Stewardship & Finance Committee by October 1st, 2016.

An anonymous donor has pledged the funds to cover the installation of air conditioning in the sanctuary and the work should be completed by Homecoming on August 28th.

A Confirmation Class for Bethel's youth will begin on September 11th, 2016. It will be held at 9:45 am each Sunday for six consecutive weeks. Pastor David will teach the class and Irene Elliott will teach his Sunday School Class in his absence.

Rally Day will be held on September 11th, with a potluck breakfast to be shared prior to Sunday School.

Church Office News & Information

DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

The October Tower Deadline will be Thursday, September 15th. Please have all articles and announcements to the Church Office by noon. Articles and announcements for the October Tower can be left in Adrienne's mailbox in Memorial Hall or you can email them to: bethelpc@gmail.com. If you turn in items after the deadline Adrienne cannot guarantee they will be included in the Tower. When writing announcements for the newsletter please keep in mind the 5 W's: Who? What? When? Where? Why?. Please remember that all announcements and information are subject to editing. Thank you!

Please send your announcements for the weekly bulletin to the Church Office by noon each Wednesday. Feel free to email the information to: bethelpc@gmail.com or you can place it in Adrienne's mailbox in Memorial Hall. Please remember that all announcements are subject to editing. Thank you!



Church Office News & Information (continued)



Bethel Congregation and Friends:

Please submit any changes to your address, phone numbers, email, etc. to the Church Office. If we do not have your correct information, you may miss out on Bethel events and news. You can send update information to the Church Office at bethelpc@gmail.com. Thank you!

The Church Office
will be closed on
Monday, September
5th, for Labor
Day.



HAPPY
LABOR
DAY

Church Office Hours



Monday - Thursday
9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Closed Fridays

Flower Schedule September 2016

September 4th - Cathy Hill
September 11th - Margaret Wade
(Communion)
September 18th - Lucy Sproul
September 25th - Libby Smith



Offering Schedule September 2016

Wade Cash
Chris Schooley
Marty Simmers
Dale Thompson



September
Greeters
Betty Heizer
Rosalee Miller



*The grass withereth, the flower fadeth:
but the word of our God shall stand for ever.
Isaiah 40:8*



Nursery Schedule September 2016

September 4th - Joe & Sally Williams
September 11th - Brian & Penny Lee
September 18th - Joyce Davis; Louise Hoy
September 25th - Cindy Almarode;
Barb Gough





Wedding Announcement

The Rev. Dennis Russell (Pastor - St. John's Reformed) and Ms. Sarah Swortzel will be joined in Holy Matrimony on Saturday, September 24th, 2016 at 2:00 pm. The wedding will be at the Bethel Presbyterian Church Outdoor Chapel. There will be a cake reception to follow in the pavilion of the Chapel.

Both Dennis & Sarah invite you to join them as they celebrate their new life together.

Staunton Choral Society

Staunton Choral Society is seeking new members. If you love to sing please join them! There are no auditions and all voices are sought. Rehearsals are on Monday evenings from 7:00 pm until 9:00 pm in the Social Hall of Christ Lutheran Church (2807 N Augusta St, Staunton; enter from the lower level back parking lot). They have begun practicing for the Fall/Christmas season but new members may join through September. For more information please call (540) 248-3607 or check their website at www.stauntonchoralsociety.org.



SPAGHETTI DINNER

Saturday, September 3rd, 2016 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm

at Redeemer Lutheran Church

(951 McKinley Road; Middlebrook, VA 24459)



Donations For:
Augusta County
4H Food Challenge Team Trip
to Nationals in Texas
(Team won first place at



Car Care Clinic at St. John's Reformed Church
Saturday, September 17th 8:30 am until 1:30 pm



This is a free event geared toward pre-drivers and young drivers. Space is limited so register early! The registration deadline is September 5th. Register on St. John's website at www.STJRUCC.org.

Workshops include:
Tire Changing & Safety When Your Car Won't Start General Repair
Helpful Tips When Purchasing A Car

There will also be a Q & A session and door prizes!



Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church Annual Harvest Sale and Supper

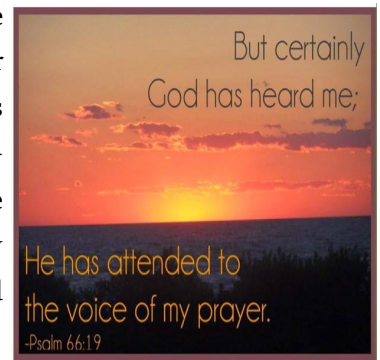
The Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church will be having its annual Harvest Sale and Supper on Saturday, September 10th, 2016, beginning at 4 pm. The Family Style Menu includes: Country Ham, Turkey, Dressing, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Lima Beans, Tomatoes, Pickles, Homemade Rolls, Apple Pie and Cherry Pie, Coffee and Tea. The price is \$15.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children under 10.

There will also be a raffle for a quilt and a raffle for a wooden bench. Tickets are \$1.00 each or \$5.00 for 7 tickets. Please contact Joe or Karen Vecchioli at 540-290-7619 or 540-290-7620 for tickets.

Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church is located off Rt. 252 (Middlebrook Road), South of Staunton on Route 694 (Mt. Tabor Road). Signs will be posted. The church telephone number is 540-885-4738.

PRAYER LIST

Bethel Prayer List Mike Alford (brain cancer; husband of Mary Alford), Mike Almarode (Betty Schooley's brother-in-law), Phil Balsey (friend of Bob & Louise Hoy), Karen Barbour (Tom Barbour's sister-in-law), Mildred Barmore & Family (Bob Barmore's mother - recovering from a fall), Barry Blacka (Joyce Miller's brother), Catherine Bryan (friend of Stephanie Rivers), Dan Burroughs (friend of Laura Barmore), Lorine Caldwell (Dean Caldwell's mother), Alphonse Canning, Ann Christian, Betty Crosby, Jarod Davis & Family (please send cards to home address), Friends & Family of Mary (Williams) Dransfield, Friends & Family of Dale Glover (brother of Christy Glover Pilson), Herbert Hamilton (Kingsway volunteer - possibly has cancer), Danielle Hanger, Frances Humphries (friend of Margaret Wade), Tom Jeffrey (friend of Laura Barmore), Jeannie Jones (diagnosed with breast cancer - Marion Simmers sister), Family of Theodore Jordan (Tim Jordan's father & Mary Kate Law's father-in-law), Bill Kealing (friend of Laura Barmore), Bill Klitzman (nephew of Louise Hoy), Sara Ann Lamb, L. Cpl. Bertram Bruce Lamond (active military), Evelyn LaPorte, David Law, Margaret Liptrap, Meade Loomis (sister of Anne Jones), Michelle Murphy (friend of Kymberlee Schneider), Linda Orebaugh (diagnosed with breast cancer), Christy Glover Pilson (John Pilson's niece), John Pilson, Police, Firemen, and EMS workers & volunteers, Carly Pond (14 year old great niece of John Pilson), Irene Sarnelle (has lung cancer - friend of Linda Tenney), Michael Somers, Charlotte Swortzel, Sarah Twitchell (broke her ankle - had surgery on Thursday), Jerry Utz (on hospice - Cynthia Williams brother), MISSIONARY: Michael and Rachel Weller and Ethiopian friends






Summerlee Mission Trip to
Fayetteville, WV
July 10th - July 15th, 2016

Participants: Marion & Marty Simmers,
Rhonda Johnson, Katie Johnson,
Kathy Swisher, Briana Lawhorne,
Isabelle Bosserman





September 5th - Labor Day
September 11th - Patriot Day
September 22nd - First Day of Fall

