



# the MESSENGER

September 2017

## Sunday, September 10

- **9:00am:** Early Worship with Holy Communion, Choir and Organ
- **10:00am:** Christian Education (Pre-K – 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Confirmation, Adults)
- **11:00am:** Late Worship with Holy Communion, Rejoice! Band



Our Sunday School teachers will also be installed: Allison Dunkerley, Sandy Anthony, Louise Harman, Nancy Maguire, Glen McDonnell, and Nate Webber.

Christian Education classes will be held in the following rooms:

- **Ages 3 to 5:** Room B4
- **Grades 1 – 3:** Room B1
- **Grades 4 – 6:** Room A1
- **Grade 9:** Room A2
- **Adults, or anyone age 13+:** The Lounge, Room A4



At each worship service we will offer a blessing of the backpacks with a special gift for each student.

## Sundays at 10:00am

The 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation is a time for reflection on the rich history of this church, as well as a chance to look forward to what lies ahead. Throughout the fall, the Adult Faith and Life class will study Luther and the Reformation using short videos and discussion resources from the ELC A. We will seek to better understand our Lutheran roots, the foundation of our common heritage with the Roman Catholic Church and continue our journey of understanding the Gospel. All are welcome to join us. We will meet in the lounge, except as noted below.

- **September 10 (Café):** College Student note-writing event
- **October 1 (Café):** Rev. Bill Rex will speak about the Seafarer's Institute



## Seafarers Institute October 1

**Rev. Bill Rex**, a Chaplain for the Port of Philadelphia for Seafarers Church Institute, will be here on October 1 to introduce the needs of his organization as an emphasis for the month of October. He will speak during each worship service that morning and be available to answer questions during Adult Education.



## Disaster Response Information

Fervent prayers continue for our brothers and sisters in Texas and surrounding areas affected by Hurricane Harvey. Lutheran Disaster Response is actively present and responding in the area, and is particularly committed to long-term recovery efforts. The ELCA invites us all to stand by our Gulf Coast neighbors during this time, in prayer and with financial support of relief efforts. Gifts made out to Lutheran Disaster Response designated for "Hurricane Response – United States" will be used 100% for this disaster until the response is complete. Gifts may be placed in the offering plate, online at [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org) or by mail using forms available in the commons.



## Music Ministry Opportunities

- **Adult Choir** Rehearsals every Wednesday at 7:30pm, beginning September 6. Please contact **Director Pat Guth at [patguth611@gmail.com](mailto:patguth611@gmail.com)**.
- **Rejoice!** Rehearsals every Tuesday from 7:30pm to 9:00pm. Please contact **Director Bill Lafty at [BillLafty@gmail.com](mailto:BillLafty@gmail.com)**.
- **Bell Choir** Rehearsals every Wednesday in Room A1/A2 at 6:30pm, beginning September 6. Please contact **Director Pat Guth at [patguth@gmail.com](mailto:patguth@gmail.com)**.



**Would you like to designate flowers for the altar 2017?** Pick a Sunday and let us know the wording for the bulletin. Simply find a green colored form called "Altar Flowers for 2017" on the kiosk (located between the glass doors). Fill it out, and submit it in the offering plate with a check for \$35. Call the church office if you have any questions.

## God's Caring Stitchers



I want to give Thrivent Financial a big thank you! Thrivent Financial is a non-profit organization that provides financial products and services. It also provides support to charitable organizations, schools, congregations, and individuals in need. Over the years it has provided \$182.7M to organizations and activities that aim to strength families and communities.

We were thrilled when Thrivent thought our group worthy of a \$250 grant at the end of 2016.

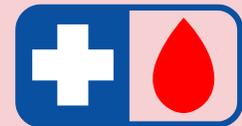


With this donation, we bought yarn and created many items that will be displayed around the altar for a blessing in December 2017. These items will be given to several charitable organizations in our area.

Please join our creative group on Friday afternoons on September 8, 15, 22 and 29 at 1:00pm in Room A1/A2. All are welcome. Questions, contact **Cindy Sundstrom** at [csrafter1@verizon.net](mailto:csrafter1@verizon.net) or **215-493-2484**.

## Reformation 500

Pastor Dan has selected resource materials that relate to Martin Luther and the upcoming 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation (October 29, 2017). Look over the items on the table in the Commons. One side has resources you may take and keep; the other side has commemorative artifacts for display purposes only. Pay special attention to the Reformation commemorative medallions on loan to us from Ruth Bartels-Griffin.



**GIVE**  
*Blood*

**Red Cross Blood Drive**  
**Tuesday, December 5, 2017**

## From the Financial Secretary

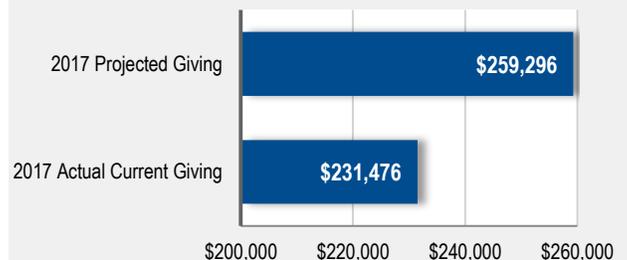


We hope you are back to church feeling refreshed and rejuvenated from your summer fun. Because we are not paying the second pastor's salary, the decrease in summer giving was easier to handle, however, giving is now only at 89% of what we need to achieve a balanced budget.

Church Council plans to put any savings toward paying down our mortgage. This is important because our interest payment will balloon in the years ahead. Statements of giving will be in church mailboxes in the next few weeks. Please take a minute to look at them and compare your current level of giving with what you pledged. Please contact me at [plevenberg77@verizon.net](mailto:plevenberg77@verizon.net) or **215 860-0136** if you have any questions.

*Patti Levenberg, Financial Secretary*

## Envelope Giving through August 2017



- **From ELCA World Hunger**

*"Thank you for your gift of \$1705.00. With this gift you are providing education and advocacy, water and sanitation, livestock and agriculture, health care and microloans. We appreciate your continuing support and wish you many blessings on your ministry." Director, Rev. Daniel Rift [This check represents the amount of money that individual members of God's Love donated specifically for World Hunger during the second quarter of 2017.]*

- **The Emergency Relief Association of Lower Bucks County**

*"Thank you for your generous gift of 785 pounds of food during the quarter ended 6-30-17."*



## E-mail Prayer Chain



A small group of people are part of this vital ministry of lifting up prayers for those who are in need. Just provide the name of a specific family member or friend and a few details about his/her situation. Send this information in an email to **Sarah** at [scwheeler@starlinx.com](mailto:scwheeler@starlinx.com) or the church office.  
*Sarah Wheeler, Coordinator*

## Worship Volunteer Opportunities

- **Projectionists:** needed to show the slides from the computer in the loft at the **11:00am service**. High school youth or adults are welcome.
- **Liturgists:** needed at **both services** to read (or sing) portions of the service from the altar.



Volunteers serve on a rotating basis when it fits their schedules. For more information, contact the church office at [gods\\_love@verizon.net](mailto:gods_love@verizon.net)

Through the end of August we have received **\$9,158** in pledges and gifts from our kitchen fund appeal. The kitchen renovations finished with a deficit of almost **\$14,000**. We would like to have all pledges and gifts made by the end of October so we can move forward with other projects.



If we have to make up the balance from our savings in pastoral salary, it will decrease any amounts available to pay down the mortgage at the end of the year. **\$4,900 is still needed.** It's not too late to make a gift to the fund!



Community Family Fun Day...scheduled for Saturday, September 30 has unfortunately been cancelled. Our coordinator has had personal issues that require her complete focus. We appreciate your understanding.

## Senior Saints' Lunch

Monday, September 18 at Noon

Where can you get a hot lunch for only \$6? Come to church on **Monday, September 18** at Noon. Our seniors (ages 65+) will meet in Fellowship Hall to enjoy delicious food prepared by our chef, Amy Carr and her volunteers. Please call the church office if you are new to the group and would like to attend.

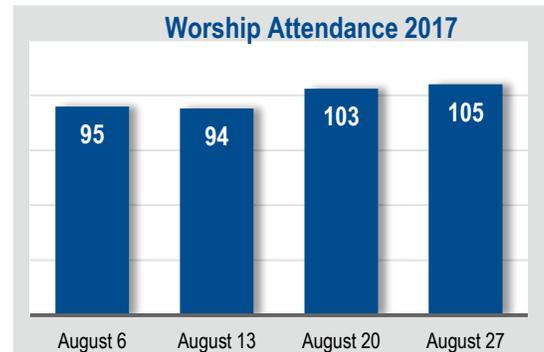
*Chef Amy Carr*



## Recent Deployment in Middle East

On August 17, one of our members emailed the church to say...

"I was deploying to Iraq, but it turns out I'll be spending most of my time in Kuwait. If I'm lucky, I'll get to take a few trips up to Baghdad where most of my unit is (no, I'm not being facetious). I've been here for almost two weeks and will be here through March or April of 2018. Things have been going well for me and I'm staying busy with work as always. I appreciate you [the church] reaching out. I hope all is going well with God's Love. Please give my best to everyone!" *[Major] Matt Smoose*



## Basic Literacy Tutor Volunteer Opportunity



Vita Education Services is looking for volunteers to become Basic Literacy tutors. The 10-hour tutor training will be held on Saturdays from 10am to 4pm on September 9 and 16 at Pennswood Village in Newtown. Tutors are needed to work with small groups of adult learners in Lower Bucks County. To register, please call 215-345-8322 or visit [www.vitaeducation.org](http://www.vitaeducation.org).

If you'd like other details, you might seek out **John Slipka** at 215-579-7486, a member of God's Love who serves as a tutor for Vita.



- **September 10:** Rally Day and Blessing Backpacks
- **October 1:** Pet Blessing
- **October 29:** Reformation and Confirmation—one service at 10:00am



## September Collections

During the month of September, the ongoing non-perishable food collection will benefit **The Homeless Shelter of Lower Bucks County in Levittown**. Please put your items in the collection box in the Commons.

Our highlighted outreach for September is a collection for the Pet Ministry to support our furry friends in need.

Requested items include:

- Pet food
- Gently used cotton towels/t-shirts/blankets
- Pet toys
- Cleaning products

Please see the poster in the Service Ministry corner for a complete list and important details. Place your donations in the basket by **September 24**. Here are the local shelters that will benefit from our collection and where you can volunteer:

- The Women's Humane Society in Bensalem
- Bucks County SPCA in Lahaska
- Cats Bridge to Rescue in Trevoise

Please contact **Diana Pazicky at dpazicky@aol.com** for any questions you may have.



## Pray for Worship Leaders

- September 3: John Shultz
- September 10: Bob Loven
- September 17: Andy Senft
- September 24: Todd & Carol Stranahan



- September 5: Janet & Ruth
- September 11: Eileen & Joyce
- September 18: Fran, Kathy, & Ruth
- September 25: Ed & Nancy

SEPTEMBER 2017						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>3</b> Worship 9:30am <b>No Sunday School</b>	<b>4</b> <b>Labor Day</b> Office Closed	<b>5</b> Counters 9:30am  Rejoice! 7:30pm	<b>6</b>  Bell Choir 6:30pm Adult Choir 7:30pm	<b>7</b> <b>Preschool</b> <b>Classes Begin</b>	<b>8</b> Knit & Crochet 1pm	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> Worship 9 & 11am SundaySchool 10am 9 <sup>th</sup> Graders 10am Adult Ed 10am	<b>11</b> Counters 9:30am	<b>12</b>  Rejoice! 7:30pm	<b>13</b>  Bell Choir 6:30pm Adult Choir 7:30pm	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Knit & Crochet 1pm	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> Worship 9 & 11am SundaySchool 10am 9 <sup>th</sup> Graders 10am Adult Ed 10am	<b>18</b> Counters 9:30am Sr. Saints Luncheon Noon	<b>19</b>  Rejoice! 7:30pm	<b>20</b>  Bell Choir 6:30pm Adult Choir 7:30pm	<b>21</b>  Church Council 7pm	<b>22</b> Knit & Crochet 1pm	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> Worship 9 & 11am SundaySchool 10am 9 <sup>th</sup> Graders 10am Adult Ed 10am	<b>25</b> Counters 9:30am	<b>26</b>  Rejoice! 7:30pm	<b>27</b>  Bell Choir 6:30pm Adult Choir 7:30pm	<b>28</b> G/L Book Club 7pm	<b>29</b> Knit & Crochet 1pm	<b>30</b>



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