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2515 Austin Highway  
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## The Church Chat

Volume 54-4,17  
May, 2017

This newsletter is published monthly, except for January, for members and friends of Beitel Memorial Lutheran Church. Articles and information for the CHAT need to be submitted to Arlene in the Church Office by the 15th of the month.



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*Easter Greetings to all of you!*

*Liturgically we are now in the time after Easter. It is a time for a lot of reflection. For instance.....suppose you had just said goodbye to someone you love. I mean really loved. If so, you would know the feeling of the disciples after Jesus' death. Those disciples were left in a state of total chaos. All along, Jesus had tried to make them see that his presence among them was only temporary. He had given them clues about his destiny with such words as, "You will seek me and you will not find me", and, "Where I am you cannot come." Even with these words, the disciples had Jesus pictured wrongly. Those men felt that if they followed Jesus, they were sure to be on the winning team. They expected Jesus to defeat any who dared oppose him. They just did not get it! The answer, of course, was "No". Mary learned, as we must learn, that not even the grave could enslave Jesus. He arose. Our task is to explore the results of the resurrection. Following are a few of the results of the resurrection for you to think about.*

*A result of the resurrection is "The Giving Of Truth to the Confused." Although confused, Mary and Thomas sought the truth. Having done so, they found what they searched for. You and I should join in the search of truth. As we study the scriptures we can see the truth. It is this truth that stands in the resurrection. That the resurrection is God's victory over our own confusion is certain. It was Jesus who said, "You will know the truth and the truth will make you free". He never promised "snap-of-the-finger" answers. He did assure that we will find the truth in our confusion. The resurrection is the promise of that fact.*

*A result of the resurrection is "Giving of Peace to the Frightened." No better word could have been spoken to that frightened group of disciples than, "Peace be with you." Huddled in a room behind closed doors sat the disciples. Fright was the prevailing atmosphere in that room. At any moment the Roman soldiers might come to take them to court. Already one betrayer had been found in their group. Any knock at the door brought trembles. And then Jesus came and stood in their midst. His presence with that group was like that of a parent with a frightened child. His very presence brought peace and security. "Peace be with you," said Jesus. Let us be whole and complete because of his resurrection.*

*Finally, a result of the resurrection is "The Assigning of a Task to the Church." Jesus' words sound strange to us: "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven". Our role in the forgiveness of sins is to tell people that this gift awaits them, and to tell them where to find it. We do not give the gift of forgiveness ourselves. We just point the way to it. Carrying on this work of forgiveness is doing the same work which Jesus himself did. You can have a vital part in it. Carry out that task with the full assurance that God is guiding and empowering you.*

*Some modern critics of Christianity have charged that the resurrection was only a decoy to cover up a miserable failure on the part of Jesus. But the New Testament writers did not picture this. It was no trick or mistake. In my reading I came across the following...."One of life's ironies is that when it gets dark enough you can see the stars. The resurrection was a star which shone brightly in the darkness evoked by the crucifixion."*

*Now that we are past Easter, may we not forget that the grave could not hold Jesus. He arose, and the resurrection brings great results to all who believe. The truth, the peace, the power, and the task which Jesus gives us is no small offer. It is my prayer that we accept these today and live as if Jesus is yet alive. May we all find new ways to show that Christ is alive in our hearts and lives! Alleluia!*

*Pastor Ron*

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL  
JUNE 5-9**



**Hear Ye...**

**Hear Ye !!!**

**VBS 2017**

Come one, come all to our **Mighty Fortress!** VBS will be held on June 5-9 from 5:00 - 8:00, including a light supper from 5:15 to 5:50.

Come for the fellowship of the meal and stay for the adventure of the Bible Stories.

For questions and/or to volunteer, please contact Louise Duran at either [Lduran99@yahoo.com](mailto:Lduran99@yahoo.com) or leave a message at (210)289-3552.

**COMMITTEE NEWS**

**EVANGELISM**

We have had numerous visitors through the Easter holiday; many friends and family. We hope they were inspired and that they will return to worship at Beitel. If your visitors do not have a church home, please encourage them to come back and see what Beitel has to offer!

The evangelism committee is working on a plan to draw members through online advertising and communication.

**LAY MINISTRY**

This month we are working on updating the roster for the church. We also delivered some meals and gave rides to a couple of doctor appointments.

**PROPERTY**

We had Spring work day on April 8. With 16 people attending, we were able to get lots of yard work done. We planted flowers, spread mulch, pulled weeds, raked and bagged leaves, and trimmed bushes. Thanks again to all who helped or donated.

The roofer is still working on the gutters and will then start on the Fellowship Hall. The doorbell that was not working has been repaired.

**WORSHIP AND MUSIC**

We were excited to have 136 people attend worship on Easter morning! Pastor Ron and the Worship and Music Committee worked together to revamp this year's Holy Week services. We have received positive feedback from many of our members and are already discussing ways to enhance them for next year.



President	Barbara Bilderback
Vice-President	Alfreda Pennington
Secretary	Sue Stewart
Treasurer	Sissie Mirhashemi
Education	Louise Duran
Evangelism	Stan Zimmerman
Fellowship	Alfreda Pennington
Lay Ministry	Wanda Landwehr
Property/Facilities	Ron Dietel
Publicity	Wanda Landwehr
Stewardship	Wanda Landwehr
Worship & Music	Barbara Bilderback

Feel free to contact any of these individuals if you have any questions.



### Dr. Charles Pelphrey's 100 Birthday

Dr. Charles Pelphrey celebrated his 100th birthday on April 16, Easter Sunday by attending worship. We greeted him with singing Happy Birthday to him. He had a party at home on April 8. Dr. Pelphrey is known for a lifetime of commitment to Pathology in Texas. He was the first qualified pathologist in Travis County, and is known for pioneering in the field of pathology in the region. During his 70 years of service in Travis County, he introduced several innovative procedures in pathology, including the first Pap smears and breast pathology procedures offered in the region. He played an instrumental role in bringing the vital Salk Polio Vaccine to Central Texas. He is noted with establishing the first blood bank in the area and for creating life-saving methods to treat babies with blood incompatibilities. He was the developer and owner of Clinical Pathology Laboratories, an Austin-based company that grew to become the largest privately owned clinical laboratory in the United States. He has been honored with a Lady Bird Johnson Humanitarian Award for his many accomplishments and his invaluable contributions to Travis County.

## PRAYER LINK PROCEDURES

Our Prayer Link is continuously running. If you have a prayer that you would like to have added to the link, please contact the church office. Be sure that the person you want on the link is in agreement to having their name placed in our prayers, or we can pray for them anonymously.

## AGAPE NEEDS

AGAPE MINISTRY is in real need of some items for their ministry. If you can help out, please bring these items to the narthex and place in the baskets marked for AGAPE. They are needing bar soap, toilet paper, and new underwear for men and women. More details are available on the flyer attached to



## GOD SQUAD

May 14 & 25

All youth will be dismissed after the sermon to attend a youth-oriented lesson on the Gospel from the worship service.

## MEDICAL EQUIPMENT LENDING ROOM

Lay Ministry has a "lending room" available to all members that consists of health care items such as wheelchairs, walkers, canes, and many more items. These are available for free. Contact Arlene in the office to borrow whatever you may need for however long as you may need it. We also take donations for these items if you no longer have need of these items.



**CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!**

We are looking forward to recognizing our graduates from High School, College, and Technical Schools. However, we first need to know who they are.

If you know of anyone graduating this May or maybe has graduated from a higher learning center since last May, please call the church office by May 15 with their information. We plan on recognizing them in worship.

*Mother—Daughter—Friend  
Banquet*

*May 12 6:30 PM*

*Fellowship Hall*

**COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**

The Church Council met April 24, 2017. These were items discussed:  
Lenten Services and Holy Week went really well. We received a lot of positive feedback from our members regarding the Holy Week Services.  
Roof repairs have been completed and work is being done on the gutters at this time.  
Sixteen people participated in the Spring Workday on April 8. We pulled weeds, trimmed bushes and laid mulch. Thanks to everyone who helped or gave donations.  
VBS plans are progressing. Louise is planning a fund raiser so be on the lookout!  
The Secretary and Treasurer’s reports were both presented, reviewed and approved.



This year’s Mother-Daughter–Friend Banquet will be “Sunshine on a Stem”. Bring your favorite salad and your mother, daughter, friend and enjoy an evening of fun. Wear your sunniest outfit!

A sign-up sheet is available in the narthex. Please sign-up by May 10 so that enough tables will be set for everyone. For more information, please contact Pam Hickey or Olga Burdine.

**Revisiting the Church Constitution. . .**

Church  
Constitution



In May of 2016 we approved a new Constitution according to guidelines issued by the ELCA. We are sharing some of those points with you over the following months. Last month we listed the criteria for membership. This month we are reviewing the guidelines to conclude membership.

- \*C8.05.** Membership in this congregation shall be terminated by any of the following:
  - A. death;
  - B. resignation;
  - C. transfer or release;
  - D. disciplinary action in accordance with ELCA constitutional provision 20.40. and the accompanying bylaws; or
  - E. at the conclusion of each calendar year the Congregation Council shall review the attendance records for the past year. Those confirmed members who do not meet the criteria for voting membership described in C8.02.c. of the constitution of this congregation shall be identified and referred to the pastor. The pastor, aided by an appropriate standing committee, will make every effort to restore all such individuals to active membership. If, after one additional year, such efforts fail, the inactive member(s) will be dropped from the membership roster. Such dropped former members will however remain a pastoral concern of this congregation as long as they remain in the geographic area of the congregation and are unaffiliated with another congregation.



- 1 Snow Eisenhauer
- 3 Taylor Baumann
- 5 Robert Simon
- 7 Jeffrey Krieger, II
- 9 Michelle Sorrell
- 11 James Timm
- 14 Sophia Salazar
- 16 Joanne Benson
- 17 Roland Earp
- 18 Beverly Pape
- 19 Yvonne Rennspies
- 20 Glada Munt
- 22 Miwa Stowers
- 26 Gloria Cardenas-Rodriguez
- 26 Barbara Gerhart
- 26 Alicia Simon
- 27 Jamie Freimarck
- 27 Maureen Krieger
- 28 Nolan Sorrell
- 30 Justin Krusinsky



- 8 Mike & Sissie Mirhashemi
- 17 Nathan & Deborah Reeh
- 21 Kevin & Hilary Windecker
- 29 Sam & Tiffany Duran



**VERNON BUCHHORN**

- Rose Ackermann
- Kyle, Gail, Cole & Christy Brady
- Brian & Amie Buchhorn
- Iona Buchhorn
- Roger & Betty Buchhorn
- Walter & Shirley Buchhorn
- Olga Burdine
- Pete & Judy Burggraaf
- Alice & Anna Culpepper
- Arlen & Kathie Fehner
- Barbara Gerhart
- Harry & Joan Geyer
- Richard & Nancy Gyer
- Joe & Vaughnell Gray
- Lee & Audrey Hahn
- Steve & Mary Ann Heitkamp
- Barbara & Harold Henk
- Doug & Connie Hermes
- Dennis & Pam Hickey
- Robbie & Gerald Johnson
- Helen Kethan
- Christy Kurtze
- Art & Lenora Mahan
- Dick & Linda McCasland
- Lawrence & Joycelynn Onken
- Jim Nakamura
- Gilbert & Mary Louise Pargmann
- Frank & Alfreda Pennington
- Tom & May Ann Riley
- Don & Shelvy Schneider
- Leroy & Alva Schulmeier
- Bill & Dianna Sgturm
- June Stinbring
- Valero Renewals Fuels
- Janice Williams & Ryan Williams Family'
- Young at Heart

**CAROLYN LUETGER**

- Marvin & Darleen Lange
- Jim & Arlene Witzel

April 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						



**WORSHIP**  
 10:30 AM  
**HOLY COMMUNION**  
 1ST & 4TH  
 SUNDAYS  
  
**SUNDAY**  
**SCHOOL**  
 9:00 AM

June 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1	2 Journey Bible Study 6:30 PM	3	4 WELCA 10 AM  AMC 6:30 PM	5 Pastor's Day Off  Meals On Wheels 10:30 AM	6 Synod Assembly
7 Synod Assembly	8	9	10 Choir 7 PM	11 WELCA 10 AM  AMC 6:30 PM	12 Pastor's Day Off  10:30 AM Mother/ Daughter Banquet	13
14 Mother's Day	15	16	17	18 WELCA 10 AM  AMC 6:30 PM	19 Pastor's Day Off  Meals On Wheels	20
21 Confirmation Retreat	22 Council 6:45 PM	23 Young at Heart 9:30 AM	24 Choir 7 PM	25 WELCA 10 AM  AMC 6:30 PM	26 Pastor's Day Off  Meals On Wheels	27
28	29 Memorial Day  OFFICE CLOSED	30	31			

# MAY 2017

**ALTAR GUILD:** Louise Duran, Christy Kurtze

**ACOLYTES:** Austin Lange, Kirstyn Urias

**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:** Ronnie Dietel, Alfreda Pennington, Sue Stewart

## SUNDAY, MAY 7 (HOLY COMMUNION)

Worship Asst: Barbara Bilderback  
Lector: Amanda Mirhashemi  
Greeters: Barbara Gerhart  
Ushers: Steve Prewitt, Don Gerhart  
Nathan Reeh, Harold Schulmeier  
Organ: Arlene Witzel  
Sound: Dennis Hickey  
Media: Harold Richter

## SUNDAY, MAY 14

Worship Asst: Ronnie Dietel  
Lector: Louise Duran  
Greeters: Rose Ackermann  
Ushers: Dennis Hickey  
Marvin Hillson, Don Russell  
Organist: Ginny Daniels  
Sound: Kevin Windecker  
Media: Kevin & Hilary Windecker  
God Squad: Barbara Bilderback,  
Amanda Mirhashemi

## SUNDAY, MAY 21 (HOLY COMMUNION)

Worship Asst: Vaughnell Gray  
Lector: Verna Fletcher  
Greeters: Jerry & Wanda Landwehr  
Ushers: Steve Prewitt, David Gerhart  
Clinton Hahn  
Organist: Arlene Witzel  
Sound: Jim Witzel  
Media: Harold Richter

## SUNDAY, MAY 28

Worship Asst. Verna Fletcher  
Lector: Alfreda Pennington  
Greeter: Julie Prewitt  
Ushers: Frank Pennington,  
Craig Schraub, Glenn Siebold  
Organist: Ginny Daniels  
Sound: Jim Witzel  
Media: Barbara Bilderback  
God Squad: Barbara Bilderback,  
Amanda Mirhashemi

Altar flowers are available to take home following the worship service. Anyone not able to claim their flowers may contact the church office to designate their disposition. Flowers are purchased by the vase for \$20.00. A chart is on the narthex bulletin board for sign-ups.



Extra arrangements are available for \$40.00 each. Please call to make these arrangements. Thank you for all your lovely donations.

### MAY SCHEDULE

May 7	Sissie Mirhashemi Sissie Mirhashemi
May 14	Alice Culpepper Rose Ackermann
May 21	Christy Kurtze Fran Rabe
May 28	OPEN Don Gerhart