

Ronald A. Windecker, Pastor
210-655-2574
beitellutheran@sbcglobal.net

Beitel Memorial Lutheran Church
2515 Austin Highway
San Antonio, Texas 78218

Volume 54-9,17
October, 2017

The Church Chat

Welcome Pastor Gary and Beckie Bertsch

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.



Inside this issue:

Pastor's Page	1
Reformation	2
Flowers	3
Memorials/B-days	4
Information	5
Calendar	6
Worship Assts.	7
Puzzle	8

Grace to you and Peace,

Just a quick note to introduce myself as your new Transitional Pastor. I'm Gary Bertsch, newly retired Air Force Chaplain. My wife Beckie and I both hail from North Dakota where we grew up on farms. Following High School I enlisted in the Air Force, serving for 4 years (and marrying my sweetheart) before returning home to college and seminary. I served several small rural congregations in North Dakota for almost 7 years before returning to active duty as an Air Force Chaplain. During my career I was fortunate to serve some congregations as an interim pastor as well as pastoring about 12 different military congregations on various bases. Most recently I served as the senior chaplain at Wilford Hall. We have one son Jonathon, newly married last October and his wife Nikki, who live in D.C. I look forward to serving you and getting to know you as we journey together this new path.



In Christ,



**REFORMATION SUNDAY
OCTOBER 29**

October 29 will be a big day in the Lutheran Church as we celebrate 500 years. At Beitel we have plans for a very special service. Communion will be observed, special music is planned and a meal following the service with activities are all part of the planning.

WELCA is planning the meal after worship. Please sign up on the bulletin board so they can plan enough food. They are planning to provide the meat dish and everyone else is asked to bring appropriate side dishes.

“Changes at Beitel: A Biblical Perspective”

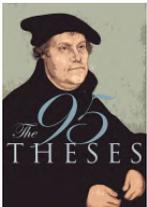
Read Numbers 13:25 -14:4.

This is a key verse for us as we look to the future of the mission of Beitel and her members. In this passage, Moses sent out spies to the promised land to check it out before proceeding. The spies reported a land of milk and honey. They also reported the people were like giants, and sent back a fearful report despite the promises God had given to Moses that it would be THEIR land. The people lamented and cried they would rather go back to slavery in Egypt than face this obstacle, turning their back on God. Well, we know what happened as they eventually did enter the land and claimed it for God.

When we are faced with difficulties and uncertainty it is easier to want to "go back to Egypt." But we have to remember that God is always moving forward toward a new reality. Right now we may feel like the Israelites in the desert, surrounded by giants wanting to go back to the familiar, even though it was in chains of slavery. Scripture has God declaring, "Behold! I make all things new." And so it will be with Beitel if we are faithful. I encourage you to keep the congregation and leaders in prayer. I encourage you not to become heartbroken and fearful, but to remain steadfast in your support. I don't know where this journey will end, but I do know if you are faithful, the fears will be driven away by the working of God within us, and we will see that the giants weren't as big as we feared.

See you in worship,

Pastor Gary



Reformation milestone: celebration and repentance



October 31, 2017, marks the 500th anniversary of the start of the Protestant Reformation, when Martin Luther posted his “95 Theses” on a church door in Germany. This wasn’t an unusual act at the time; Luther was simply welcoming scholarly debate. But his ideas opposing certain teachings and practices of the Roman Catholic Church led to a monumental shift in Christianity.

Along with other reformers, Luther taught that Scripture is the supreme authority for the believer; that salvation comes by grace alone, through faith alone; and that baptism gives all full access to God in Christ (“the priesthood of all believers”), so there’s no need for an intermediary such as a pope, priest or saint.

Initially, the reformers intended not to leave the Catholic Church but to reform it. But those who protested church practices became known as Protestants, and eventually, multiple denominations arose — Lutheranism, Presbyterianism, Anglicanism and others — and did, in fact, separate from the Roman tradition.

Sadly, woven amid the good intentions to rightly teach and live the faith were sins on all sides: Luther hurled insults “with the best of them”; the pope excommunicated him and had other reformers executed; the beliefs and faith of theological opponents were regularly disparaged. As Heinz Josef Algermissen, a present-day Roman Catholic bishop in Germany, states: “In commemorating the Reformation, we cannot just see it as a jubilee, but should also admit our guilt for past errors and repent on both sides for the past 500 years.”

Altar Flowers



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.

OCTOBER SCHEDULE

Oct 1	Kathy Ball Richters
Oct 8	Louise Duran Walden Shelton, Sr.
Oct 15	Rosemarie Ackermann Alice Culpepper
Oct 22	Penningtons, Grays Barbara Bilderback
Oct 29	Alice Culpepper Hattie Gerdes

Congregational Meeting

Our Fall Congregation Meeting to approve the Ministry Investment Plan for 2018 will be held on October 22 following the worship service. We will also be electing council members and representatives for the 2018 Synod Assembly. Please plan to attend this very important meeting.



**Congregational
MEETING**

The Role of a Transitional Pastor

What is a "Transitional Pastor?" In the past that has been called an Interim Pastor. The name pretty much described the duties. What do you do during an interim? The word "interim" means "an intervening time," such as "In the interim, I'll keep my fingers crossed."

And in the past, that pretty much summed up the duties of the Interim Pastor...to keep the wheels rolling until a new pastor could be called. However, the Church came to see that this wasn't adequate for either the congregation nor the "next" pastor. More often than not, the congregation wasn't prepared to welcome him or her because they hadn't worked through the transitional issues well enough, and so the new pastor in reality became an interim pastor and left very quickly as a result.

A congregation has to deal with the loss of their pastor, just as any other loss...children growing up and leaving home, beloved friends moving away, and so on. Just as you had to adjust to a new situation, surroundings, people, a congregation has to do the same. The new pastor probably won't do things like Pastor "Jones" did...good or bad. The new pastor probably will have a different preaching style, personality and leadership focus. A Transitional Pastor is there to help a congregation "transition" from not only pastoral leadership under "Pastor Jones," but also to help the congregation look at their current situation and ministry needs and help direct them to the future.

Sometimes it means change, and as we all know, that can be painful, but it also can mean growth and healing.

So I'm asking each and every one of you to keep your church leadership in prayer to encourage and lift them up during this time of transition. And I'm also asking you to be patient. Remember, no good thing comes easily or quickly, but if we are faithful to Christ and his promises, he will guide this congregation through this transition and into the new possibility God already has set for us.

Pastor Gary



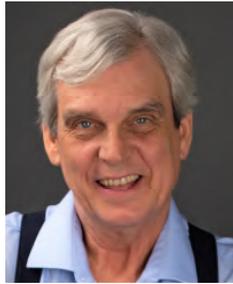
VERNON BUCHHORN
Frank Wyrostik

SHARON NAKAMURA
Rose Ackermann
Vaughnell Gray
Frank & Alfreda Pennington
Steve & Julie Prewitt

JAMES TIMM
Barbara Bilderback
Barbara Gerhart
Dennis & Pam Hickey
Christy Kurtze
Walter Molder
Frank & Alfreda Pennington
Fran Rabe & Family

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Madison Lange
- 2 Kollin Davison
- 2 Clinton Hahn
- 4 Jeff Krieger
- 6 Adrian Peevy
- 7 Louise Duran
- 8 Ruby Bindseil
- 11 Janice Buchhorn
- 11 Christine Magallanez
- 14 Olivia Sanchez
- 14 Pam Stewart
- 15 Amity Salazar
- 19 Sissie Mirhashemi
- 26 Julian Bilderback
- 26 Sue Stewart
- 27 Deborah Windecker
- 28 Alice Culpepper
- 29 Jacob Miller



JAMES RUSSELL TIMM

James Russell Timm was born May 11, 1952 in Bennington, Nebraska, and his soul left this earth on September 14, 2017. He is preceded in death by his mother, Joyce Elaine Cramton, and grandparents, Henrietta (Dutch) and John Fitch. Survivors include his wife of 37 years, Cynthia; brother, John; son, Jeffrey and his wife, Sarah; and granddaughters, Layla and Maren. James was a voracious reader and took pride in serving his family, his church, and his country. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Pledge Sunday **October 8, 2017**

Our Pledge Sunday for 2018 will be on October 8. Stewardship packets were distributed after worship on October 1. If you were unable to attend church that day, they are being mailed to you. Please bring your Commitment Pledges and gifts of time and talents to present to the Lord on the 8th. If you cannot be here, please mail them to the church office as soon as possible so that they may be included in the preparation of next year's budget.



Kyle Richard Davison, Jr.

Kyle and Samantha Davison welcomed their first son on September 12. He weighed 7 lbs 6 oz at birth and was 20-1/4 inches long. Young Kyle is the first grandchild of Ruby and Kelly Davison.

Church Council

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



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	Ronnie Dietel
Publicity	Wanda Landwehr
Stewardship	Wanda Landwehr
Worship & Music	Barbara Bilderback

Thank you to all the members of Beitel Lutheran congregation for all of your prayers during James' illness and passing. Thank you to Pastors Windecker and Bertsch for a wonderful service. Thank you to all the people who provided such a wonderful meal. We greatly appreciate all of this.

The family of James Timm

Thank you to all the volunteers that helped out while Jim and I were on our extended vacation. You were a great help to Barbara and myself.

Arlene Witzel

PRAYER LINK PROCEDURES

The Prayer Link is available to anyone with prayer concerns. 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.

Safety First!

Our neighborhood is changing. When coming to the church at times other than regular business hours, please use the "buddy system."



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.

www.beitellutheransa.org

The current issue of the CHAT is being posted to the webpage. You can download and print all or part of the CHAT anytime you like.

September 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 & 3RD
SUNDAYS

SUNDAY
SCHOOL
9:00 AM



November 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	3	4	5 WELCA 10:00 AM Chorus	6 Meals on Wheels 10:30 AM	7
8 Pledge Sunday	9	10	11	12 AMC 6:30 PM	13 Meals on Wheels 10:30 AM	14
15	16 Council 6:45 PM	17	18	19 WELCA 10:00 AM Chorus	20 Meals on Wheels 10:30 AM	21
22 Congregation Meeting	23	24 Young at Heart 9:30 AM	25	26 WELCA Quilting 10:00 AM Chorus	27 Meals on Wheels 10:30 AM	28
29 500th REFORMATION	30	31 Halloween				

OCTOBER 2017

ALTAR GUILD: Jerry & Wanda Landwehr
Communion Assistants: Louise Duran, Sue Stewart

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1 (HOLY COMMUNION)

Worship Asst: Barbara Bilderback
Lector: Verna Fletcher
Greeter: Barbara Gerhart
Ushers: Steve Prewitt, Don Gerhart,
Nathan Reeh, Harold Schulmeier
Organist: Ginny Daniels
Sound: Dennis Hickey
Media: Harold Richter

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8

Worship Asst:
Lector: Jerry Landwehr
Greeter: Louise Duran
Ushers: Dennis Hickey,
Marvin Hillson, Don Russell
Organist: Arlene Witzel
Sound: Jim Witzel
Media: Harold Richter



Our faithful, hard-working church secretary Arlene Witzel will be retiring at the end of this year. If you are interested in filling this position, or know someone who would be interested, please contact the church office. This is a part-time position. Openings for office volunteers is also available.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15 (HOLY COMMUNION)

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

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

Worship Asst: Amanda Mirhashemi
Lector: Louise Duran
Greeters: Rose Ackermann, Julie Prewitt
Ushers:
Craig Schraub, Glenn Siebold
Organist: Ginny Daniels
Sound: Jim Witzel
Media: Barbara Bilderback

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29

Worship Asst: Pastor Benson
Lector: JoAnne Benson
Greeter: Louise Duran
Ushers: Steve Prewitt, Don Russell
Organist: Arlene Witzel
Sound: Jim Witzel
Media: Barbara Bilderback

SEPTEMBER FINANCIALS

INCOME	\$11,152.33
EXPENSES	16,137.77