BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Serving, accepting, and loving all.

Bulletin July 14, 2024

Daniel P. Smail & Ellen S. Lundie, Pastors Laura M. Henri, Organist and Director of Choirs

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Web Page: <u>www.belc.org</u>

Sunday, July 14, 2024 Lectionary 15, Year B

Introduction

When Amos reports his vision of God judging Israel for its mistreatment of the poor, he becomes a threat to the power of the priests and the king. John the Baptist also speaks truth to power, and Herod has him killed. In Herod's fear that Jesus is John returned from the dead, we may hear hope for the oppressed: all the prophets killed through the ages are alive in Jesus. We are called to witness to justice in company with them, and to proclaim God's saving love.

<u>GATHERING</u> WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,

the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy. **Amen.**

A: Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

(Silence is kept for reflection. The assembly may kneel as able)

A: God, our provider,

Help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share.
We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live.
We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you.
We take offense at your teachings and your ways.
Turn us again to you.
Where else can we turn?

Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. C: Amen.

P: Beloved people of God:
in Jesus, the manna from heaven,
you are fed and nourished.
By Jesus, the worker of miracles,
there is always more than enough.
Through Jesus, + the bread of life,
you are shown God's mercy:
you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.
C: Amen.

GATHERING SONG NO. 807 Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

 Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
 While the hope of endless glory fills my heart with joy and love, teach me ever to adore thee; may I still thy goodness prove.

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer:
"Hither by thy help I've come";
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wand'ring from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be; let that grace now like a fetter bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt.

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.C: And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE





PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray,

O God, from you come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen.**

<u>WORD</u>

FIRST READING: Amos 7:7-15

Amos is not the kind of prophet attached to temples or royal courts. Rather, he is an ordinary farmer from Judah (the southern kingdom) called by God to speak to Israel (the northern kingdom). God's word of judgment through Amos conflicts with the king's court prophet Amaziah, whom Amos encounters at Bethel.

A reading from Amos,

⁷This is what [the Lord GOD] showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. ⁸And the LORD said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said,

"See, I am setting a plumb line

in the midst of my people Israel;

I will never again pass them by;

⁹the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate,

and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste,

and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword."

¹⁰Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, "Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. ¹¹For thus Amos has said,

'Jeroboam shall die by the sword,

and Israel must go into exile

away from his land.""

¹²And Amaziah said to Amos, "O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; ¹³but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom."

¹⁴Then Amos answered Amaziah, "I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, ¹⁵and the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'" A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 85:8-13 (Spoken)

⁸I will listen to what the LORD | God is saying; for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their | hearts to you.

- ⁹Truly, your salvation is very near to ¹ those who fear you, that your glory may dwell ¹ in our land.
- ¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have [|] met together; righteousness and peace have [|] kissed each other.
- ¹¹Faithfulness shall spring up | from the earth, and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.
- ¹²The LORD will indeed | grant prosperity, and our land will | yield its increase.
- ¹³Righteousness shall go be-[|] fore the LORD and shall prepare for [|] God a pathway

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-14

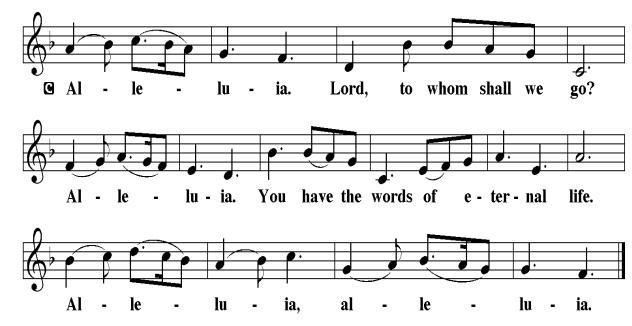
In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.

A reading from Ephesians,

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love.

⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

- A: The word of the Lord.
- C: Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

GOSPEL: Mark 6:14-29

As Jesus and his disciples begin to attract attention, Mark recalls the story of John the Baptist's martyrdom. Like John, Jesus and his disciples will also suffer at the hands of those opposed to the gospel of salvation.

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord

¹⁴King Herod heard of [the disciples' preaching,] for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." ¹⁵But

others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." ¹⁶But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

¹⁷For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. ¹⁸For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." ¹⁹And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, ²⁰for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. ²¹But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. ²²When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." ²³And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom."²⁴She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." ²⁵Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." ²⁶The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. ²⁷Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, ²⁸brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. ²⁹When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON – The Rev. Daniel P. Smail

HYMN OF THE DAY NO. 812 Faith of Our Fathers

1 Faith of our fathers, living still in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword.

Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy whene'er we hear that glorious word.

Refrain

Faith of our fathers, holy faith, we will be true to thee till death.

- 2 The martyrs, chained in prisons dark, were still in heart and conscience free; and blest would be their children's fate if they, like them, should die for thee. *Refrain*
- 3 Faith of our fathers! We will love both friend and foe in all our strife; proclaim thee too, as love knows how,

by saving word and faithful life. *Refrain* Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863, alt.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

One in the communion of saints and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we join our voices in prayer.

A brief silence.

You gather your people into the body of Christ. Where your church is wounded, heal it. Where it is right, strengthen it. Where it is divided, reunite it. In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

From before the foundation of the world, you are God. Revive ecosystems destroyed by human greed. Curb our desire to put wealth ahead of the health of all who call this planet home. In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You establish equity and make justice. Within every nation, tribe, and land, cause laws to be written and customs to be observed that protect the most vulnerable. In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

On the cross your beloved Son endured pain and death. Bring healing to those in need, hope to any in despair, and comfort to the dying; especially those we name within our hearts. (*A moment of silence*...) In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You send your Spirit into this community of faith. Empower our ministries that serve and build up local communities. Nurture our partnerships with other community organizations. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

All peoples praise you, O God. We give you thanks and praise for the lives of our loved ones who now rest in you. In the fullness of time gather us with all your saints in light. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, holy and merciful: into your outstretched arms we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

- P: The peace of Christ be with you always.
- C: And also with you.

MEAL

OFFERING - Offering boxes are located in the narthex and in back of the sanctuary.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

C: Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. Amen.

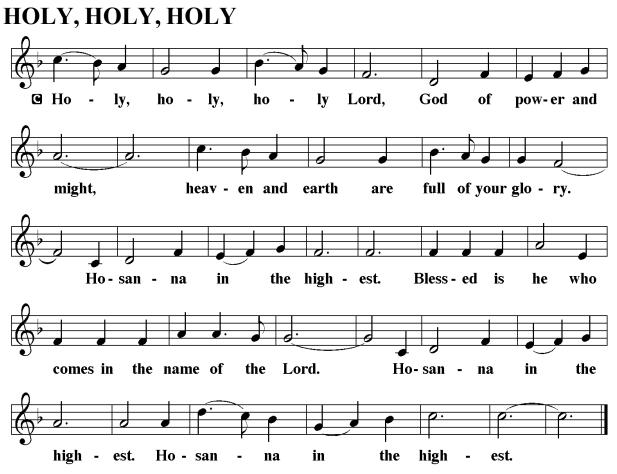
GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

- C: And also with you.
- P: Lift up your hearts.
- **C:** We lift them to the Lord.
- P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God,

our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer,

in the harmonious world of your creation,

the plants and animals,

the seas and stars

were whole and well in your praise.

When sin had scarred the world,

you sent your Son to heal our ills

and to form us again into one.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life. Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

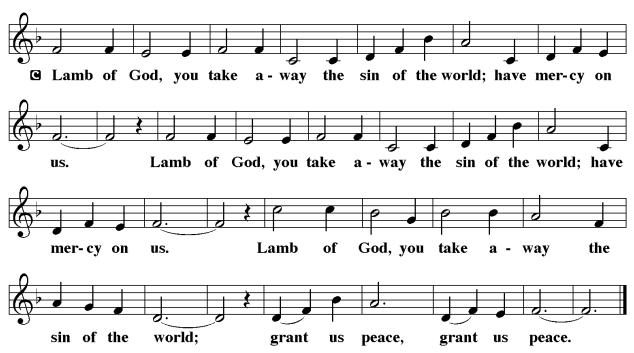
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

COMMUNION Gluten free wafers and grape juice available. Please ask the pastors or communion assistant.



COMMUNION SONG

COMMUNION HYMN NO. 485 I Am the Bread of Life

1 "I am the Bread of life.

You who come to me shall not hunger, and who believe in me shall not thirst. No one can come to me unless the Father beckons."

Refrain "And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up, and I will raise you up on the last day."

- 2 "The bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world, and if you eat of this bread, you shall live forever, you shall live forever." *Refrain*
- 3 "Unless you eat of the flesh of the Son of Man and drink of his blood, and drink of his blood, you shall not have life within you." *Refrain*
- 4 "I am the resurrection, I am the life.If you believe in me, even though you die, you shall live forever." *Refrain*
- 5 Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who have come into the world. *Refrain*

Text: Suzanne Toolan, RSM, b. 1927, based on John 6 Text © 1966, 1970, 1986, 1993 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE #A-733689.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Let us pray.
Jesus, Bread of life,
we have received from your table
more than we could ever ask.
As you have nourished us in this meal,
now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.
In your name we pray.
C: Amen.

<u>SENDING</u> BLESSING

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,

+ be upon you now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING SONG NO. 414 Holy God, We Praise Your Name

- Holy God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we bow before you.
 All on earth your scepter claim, all in heav'n above adore you.
 Infinite your vast domain, everlasting is your reign.
- 2 Hark! The glad celestial hymn angel choirs above are raising; cherubim and seraphim, in unceasing chorus praising, fill the heav'ns with sweet accord: "Holy, holy, holy Lord!"

3 Lo, the apostolic train join your sacred name to hallow; prophets swell the glad refrain, and the white-robed martyrs follow; and from morn to set of sun through the church the song goes on.

4 Holy Father, holy Son, Holy Spirit, three we name you, though in essence only one; undivided God we claim you and, adoring, bend the knee while we own the mystery.
Text: source unknown; tr. Clarence A. Walworth, 1820-1900

DISMISSAL L: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Children's Space

We encourage children to worship in the sanctuary as much as possible. However, we know that some days, a break may be needed. Please stop in the lounge for shorter breaks where there are coloring activities and snacks provided. All children must be accompanied by an adult. The nursery is also available downstairs in Fellowship Hall with the ability to hear the service.

SUMMER STUDY

This summer, meaningful Christian Education continues here at Bethlehem Lutheran, Glenshaw! Pastors Dan and Ellen are facilitating a study centered on Daniel Erlander's seminal work, "Baptized We Live." As we explore the significance of baptism, we are considering what it means to live an inspired life of discipleship, while faithfully fulfilling our baptismal promises with genuine joy. As study sessions continue to be held, the remaining dates are July 24th, and August 7th. Classes are offered at 10:30am and 7:00pm. Mark your calendars now, and please consider joining us for the final two sessions.

What is going on at Bethlehem?! A **Weekly Announcement** can be sent to your email address to ensure that you are up-to-date on the latest happenings, what is planned for the near future, and how you can get connected in ministry and community offerings. If you are interested in this **Weekly Announcement** and have an email, send a note to <u>media@gmail.com</u> and we'll get you started. They are sent every Tuesday at 6 am!



<u>**Thank you</u>** to all our BELC members, volunteer helpers and anyone else who assisted in any and all ways to make our Vacation Bible School another year of Enjoyment for the 40+ kids who attended the week ofJuly 8-12. Without all hands on deck to donate needs items or to give of your time, this event could not have taken place. So kudos!</u>

Everyone is already looking forward to next year!!!



The outdoor blessing box has been getting quite a lot of use this summer. If you are able, try and think of our neighbors in need and pick up an item or two bring it to church and place it in the bin near the glass entrance doors it would be most appreciated..

Here are some of the most desired foods:

Single serve meals	Cereals	Individual: fruit cups, rice, potatoes
Spaghetti sauce	Condiments	Juices
Pasta	Hash	Peanut butter & a box of crackers
Hearty soups	Tuna	Ensure

Fruit and grain bars, pudding or jello cups, individual packs of cookies, pop-tarts or small treats (no chocolate candy-HEAT will melt it) kids who are coming by could stop and grab -- simply because they are hungry and not getting a school lunch over these few months.

NO MEDICATIONS OF ANY KIND

Monthly Special Offering for JULY is: HEARTH

To learn more visit https://hearthpgh.org/



The stained glass & other crafts classes that meet here at BELC on Thursday's from 10:00am/12 noon <u>Have decided they will take a break</u> for the whole month of July as we have vacation bible school and some want to volunteer for that while some others will be traveling. <u>They will start back up on the first Thursday in August which is the 1st</u>

<u>The Week at Bethlehem</u>

Sunday, July 14th	8:00 am Worship & Communion	
k	*9:30am Worship & Communion	
* Live streaming of worship service		
	3:00pm LIFT Pool Party @ Ulrich's Home	
Monday, July 15th	9:00a-2:30p PACC (Fellowship Hall)	
	11a-2p Passage to Recovery (Library)	
Tuesday, July 16th	10:30a AA (Schmid Hall)	
	6:00-8:30pm NA (Schmid Hall)	
Wednesday, July 17th 7:00pm Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall)		
Saturday, July 20th	6:00pm Worship/Comm.	

LIFT Breakfast + Fellowship - Saturday, 8/3/24 @ BELC

Join the LIFT group as we enjoy breakfast and fellowship together on Saturday, August 3rd @ 9 am in Schmid Hall. Please bring a breakfast food to share (think "egg bake", french toast bake, coffee cake, bagels, fruit salad, fruit juice, etc.) Look for the sign-up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board to sign up and note what you will be bringing. Hoping to have a good turn-out! Please feel free to invite a friend.

Come, join us!!!!!



CHURCH DIRECTORY UP-DATES

Please take a moment to look at your August 2023 church directory to see if you have any updated information to submit before we go to print on our 2024 church directory.

Possibly you want to add a cell phone and remove your landline, or your e-mail address changed, or you want your e-mail to be added or possibly you even recently moved. This is important information for the church to have, but we have no way of knowing, if you do not take the time to share it with us.

The deadline for any changes to be turned into the church office is: TODAY, July 14^{th.}

Thanks to all who have already taken the time to address their listing and make necessary changes.

Directory Information Update

Names: Adult
Adult
Child
Child
Child
Address:
Phone No.
Cell-Phone No.
Cell Phone No.
E-mail address



Summer Fellowship Events!

Acrospire Brewing Company

Wed, July 24

6:00-9:00 pm

Please join us for a fun evening at our favorite local brewing company, **Acrospire**!

The committee will provide non-alcoholic beverages and light snacks. Please feel free to bring an appetizer to share if you'd like. Check the sign-up sheet on the board in the Narthex!!!



1702 MT. ROYAL BOULEVARD, GLENSHAW, PA 15116

www.acrospirebrewingco.com

Hartwood Acres Summer Concert Series

MAGIC!

Sun, August 18

6:30-7:30 pm: Arrival/fellowship

7:30 pm: Concert begins

Hartwood Acres Park Amphitheater

4070 Middle Road, Allison Park, PA 15101

Drawing heavy influences from artists such as The Police, Stevie Wonder, and Bob Marley, MAGIC! was formed in 2012 by GRAMMY® Award winning songwriter/producer Nasri (lead vocals), Mark Pelli (guitar), Ben Spivak (bass), and Alex Tanas (drums). MAGIC!'s meteoric rise came shortly after the release of their debut single, "Rude" in 2013.

All concerts are FREE and take place rain or shine at open-air amphitheaters with no covered seating.

Sign up is not required, but will help give us a ballpark count for Acrospire snacks and to look for you at Hartwood Acres.

Hope to see you at these events!



Bethlehem Golf Nights!

Ready for some good times on the links? Great! Everyone from beginners to pros are welcome to join in an evening of fun and fellowship at LakeVue North Golf Course for this summer's series of Bethlehem Golf Nights. Mark your calendars for July 21st, and August 25th. We'll start teeing off between 5:00 and 5:30, feel free to show up a little early for some friendly banter. If you plan to attend on any of these evenings, please RSVP to Pastor Dan (d.smail@belc.org), so we know who to expect. Thanks in advance for participation in this wonderful fellowship opportunity!





Memory Café Dementia Support Group

An Educational Support Group for those Caring for Loved Ones with all forms of Dementia. To serve the Bethlehem Lutheran Church and greater Shaler Community. It is a once-a-month support group that will highlight a different topic or concern for those living with/caring for someone with Dementia. The purpose of this group is to have an educational/open forum where caregivers can come together to ask questions, seek advice, and overall find friendship and a sense of community within this group. For questions, please call Erin McMaster (412)-552-8010

***No meeting will take place here in July.

The next meeting that will be held at BELC will be on Wednesday, August 14^{th.}

Mark your calendar for the next Fellowship Committee Meeting... Monday, August 12th at 7:00pm - in the church lounge. New members are always welcome. Get yours today! While supplies last! A BELC Original!

REFORMATION RAG



Price: \$15

(If you're feeling really generous) \$15.17 *All proceeds benefit this year's production of Bethlehem's Madrigal Dinner

Name:____

Number of Reformation Rags:_____

Total contribution:_____

Thank you in advance for your kind support of our shared ministry!

