



Ghost Town Gazette

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
William Penn, Texas

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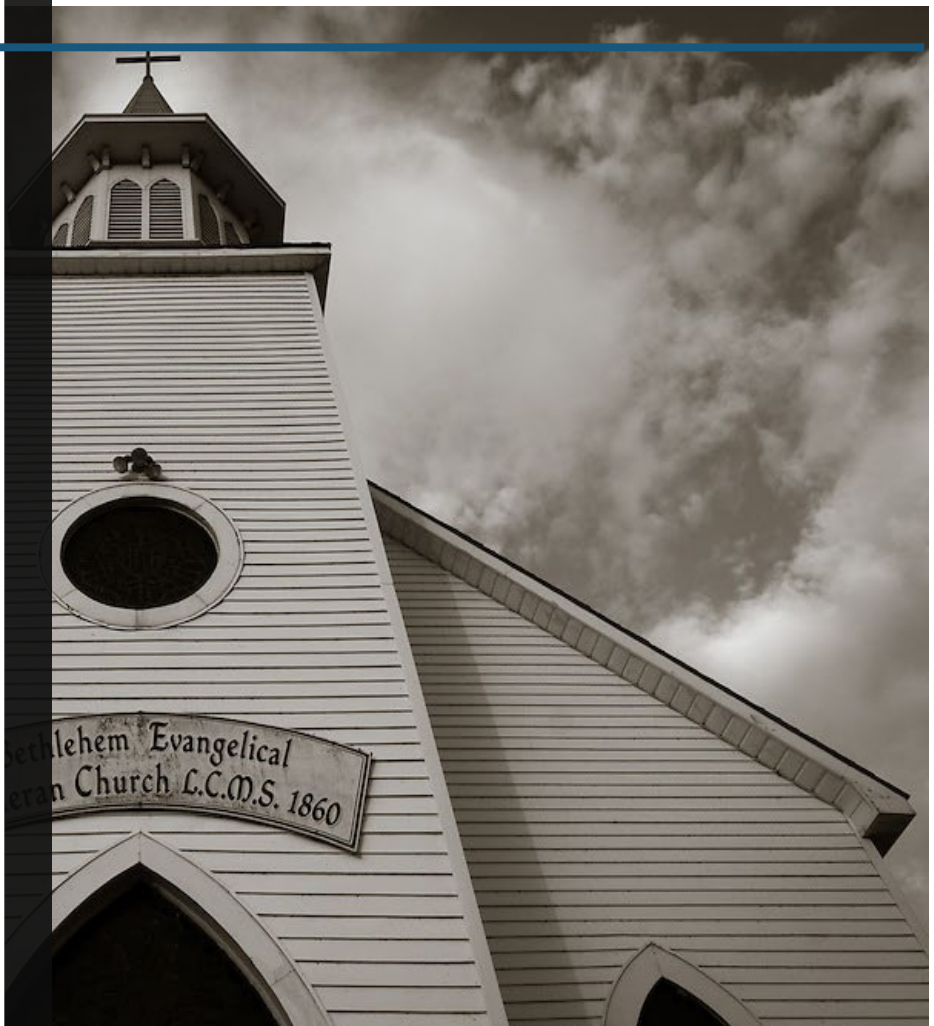
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“I cannot and will not
recant anything, for
to go against
conscience is neither
right nor safe. Here I
stand, I can do no
other, so help me
God. Amen.”

- Martin Luther

FEAR NOT: CHRIST HOLDS HIS PEOPLE

As we enter October, our nation continues to feel the weight of deep political discord and unsettling acts of violence. Fear, anger, and division dominate the headlines, and it can seem as though the world is unraveling. It is easy to grow weary, even to despair. Yet it is in such moments that Christ calls His people to lift their eyes to the cross.

The month of October is also the month of the Reformation. When Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the church door in Wittenberg, he was not trying to win a political argument or gain earthly power. He was pointing the Church back to the heart of our faith: Christ crucified and risen for sinners. The world around him was in turmoil too, political unrest, threats of war, even the threat of death for those who clung to the Gospel. And yet, Luther stood firm on God's Word because it alone delivers true comfort and peace.

So also today, our comfort is not in political victories, cultural wins, or safety from earthly harm. Our hope rests in the crucified and risen Lord Jesus. The cross shows us that God's power is made perfect in weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9). The resurrection assures us that no power of sin, death, or the devil can ultimately prevail.

As citizens, we pray for peace, justice, and wise leaders. But as Christians, we remember that we already belong to a kingdom that cannot be shaken. Christ reigns, even now, and nothing can snatch us from His hand.

This Reformation month, let us take heart. The Word of the Lord endures forever. The Gospel still comforts troubled consciences. And the cross of Christ still shines as the sure and certain sign that God has not abandoned His people, but has redeemed us to be His own.

In Christ's Service and Yours,

Pastor Krieg



“The word of the Lord remains forever. And this word is the good news that was preached to you.”

1 Peter 1:24



Why do we do this in the Divine Service?

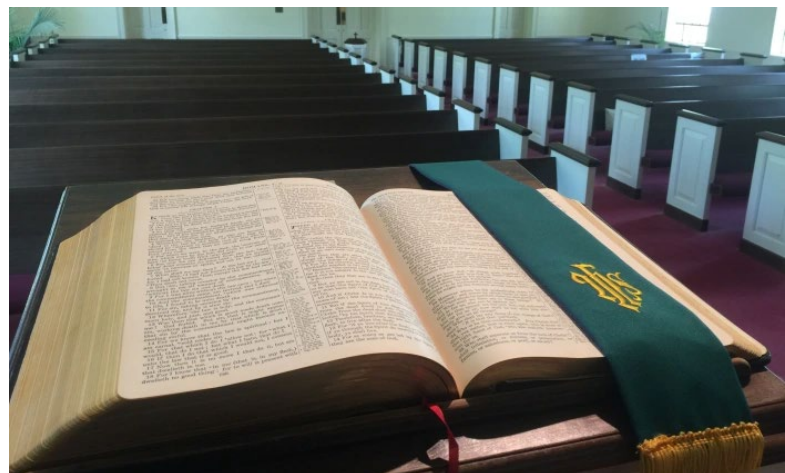
The word "Gradual" comes from a Latin word meaning "step." As you can probably guess from its name, the Gradual is a "stepping stone" from one reading to another. In other words, after we read from God's Word in the Old Testament, we use God's Word in the Gradual to step to God's Word in the Epistle. It was also traditionally read from the chancel step. God gives us His wonderful Word in the Divine Service in so many ways!

THROUGH THE LITURGY: THE GRADUAL

What is the "Gradual"?

You may have noticed that we have reintroduced the Gradual into our worship service, and you may be wondering why and what it is.

The Gradual is the reading or singing of Holy Scripture that takes place between the Old Testament Reading and the Epistle Reading. The Gradual can be a Psalm or another portion of Scripture that is appropriate for the day. The Gradual we use is seasonal, thus allowing for the weekly repetition of the short passage during the different seasons of the church year.



“For where your
treasure is, there
will your heart
be also.”

Luke 12:34



HEROES OF FAITH SPOTLIGHT

Each month, we will highlight one of the many heroes of the Christian faith who have stood firm in the truth of Holy Scripture. We will look at the apostles who knew our Lord Jesus Christ personally, his friends who were witnesses to His miracles, the faithful ancestor of the Old Testament who patiently awaited His first Advent, as well as the many other Godly men and women who have been bold witnesses throughout the years, to the one true faith. We look to them not as people to be worshiped or prayed to but as ordinary sinners, like us, to whom the Holy Spirit gave faith to be extraordinary. They are holy because the blood of Christ forgave their sins. They are holy because the Holy Spirit gave them a living faith in which the love of Christ shone through.

On October 18, the Church celebrates the Festival of St. Luke, Evangelist.

Luke is described as the “beloved physician” in the letter to the Colossians. As a doctor, Luke would have been educated for his day and would have served the people by healing their bodies. Yet, as the Holy Spirit called him, St. Luke became more than a healer of the body, but also of the soul. Luke not only traveled with St. Paul on his journeys, but the Holy Spirit also used him to write a third of the New Testament in his Gospel and in the book of the Acts of the Apostles. Luke faithfully preserved for the church in writing the birth of our Savior in a Bethlehem manger as well as many beloved Biblical canticles, including the Ave Maria, the Magnificat, the Benedictus, and the Nunc Dimittis. For all this and more, we celebrate St. Luke and his joy-filled witness to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



HIGHER THINGS



The theme and venue for next year's Higher Things conference have been announced!

The conference will be based on Romans 6:11: "So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus." Youth League is excited to attend next year's conference in June at Washington University in St. Louis, MO! As more information becomes available, we will let you know.

NEXT MEETING



On Sunday, October 5th, the Youth League will meet for its monthly meeting. We will be discussing the fundraiser and upcoming events.

YOUTH LEAGUE UPDATE

Thank you

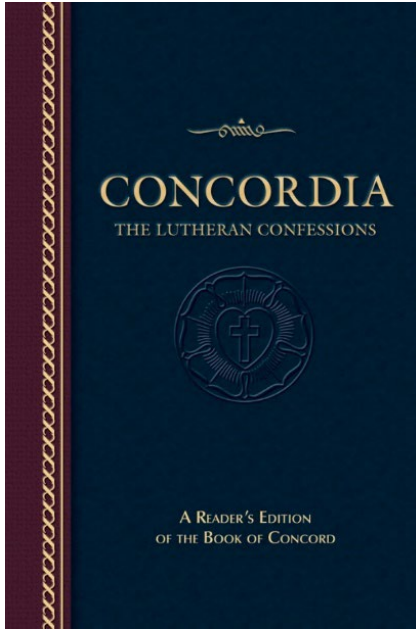
The Youth League would like to extend a heartfelt *thank you* to everyone who supported our recent baked potato fundraiser. Through your generosity, whether by donating supplies, volunteering your time, or purchasing a meal, we raised **\$1,295!**

This fundraiser was a wonderful success, not only in raising funds but also in bringing our church family together around food, fellowship, and service. The proceeds will go toward supporting our youth ministry activities and future service projects, helping our young people grow in faith and share Christ's love in our community.

We are so grateful for the encouragement and support of our congregation. Thank you for making this event possible and for continuing to invest in the lives of our youth.

In Christ,
The Youth League





THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS – ARTICLE XV – CHURCH REGULATIONS

Article XV of the Augsburg Confessions deals with Church ceremonies. In this article, the dangers associated with customs and traditions are discussed when they are abused and made necessary for salvation. At the same time, it is also dangerous to go to the opposite extreme and eliminate any practice or custom (which may be valuable to the spiritual growth of the church) just because it is not spoken of in Scripture.

Concerning Church customs, ACXV reads: “Our churches teach that ceremonies ought to be observed that may be observed without sin. Also, ceremonies and

other practices that are profitable for tranquility and good order in the Church (in particular, holy days, festivals, and the like) ought to be observed. Yet, the people are taught that consciences are not to be burdened as though observing such things was necessary for salvation [Colossians 2:16–17]. They are also taught that human traditions instituted to make atonement with God, to merit grace, and to make satisfaction for sins are opposed to the Gospel and the doctrine of faith. So vows and traditions concerning meats and days, and so forth, instituted to merit grace and to make satisfaction for sins, are useless and contrary to the Gospel.”

ACXV stresses the negative and the positive concerning church customs: “ceremonies ought to be observed that may be observed without sin. Also, ceremonies and other practices that are profitable for tranquility and good order in the Church (in particular, holy days, festivals, and the like) ought to be observed.” Notice the two points, Human customs are to be observed, which 1) may be observed without sin (negative) and 2) which contribute to peace and good order in the church (positive).

The concern of the Lutherans with many of the practices within the Roman Church was that they taught that people could merit the forgiveness of sins through the observance of such customs. Listed as practices which were taught to make satisfaction for sins were: monastic vows (ACXXVII), distinction of foods (ACXXVI), and the practice of fasting on certain days. Such practices do not offer us forgiveness of our sins! Nothing but Christ and His blood alone can offer us forgiveness through faith.

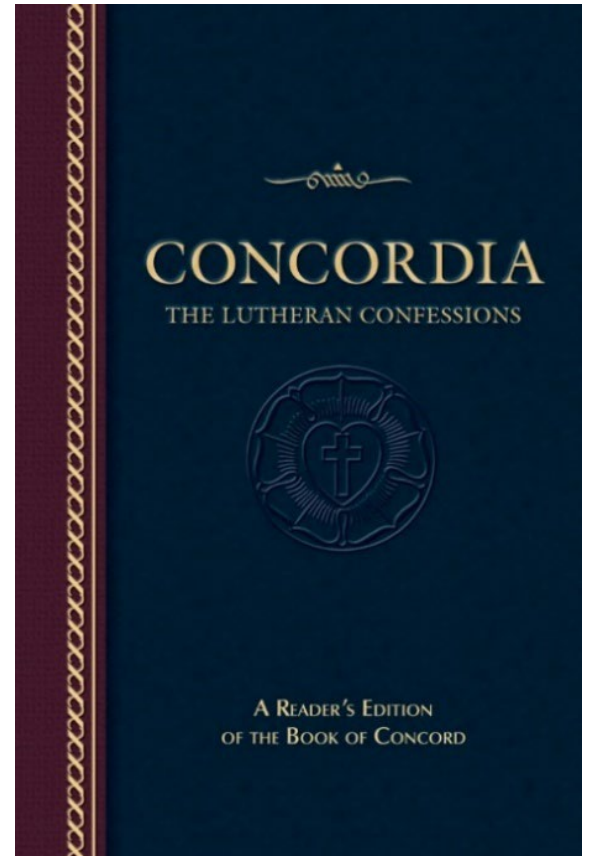
This teaching was completely rejected by the Roman Church. But to teach that we may merit the grace of God through our actions undermines the very foundation of God’s plan of salvation revealed in Scripture.

THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS – ARTICLE XV – CHURCH REGULATIONS

The church has many traditions and customs that are of human origin. For example, the form of our worship is of human arrangement and does not follow a specific order prescribed by God. Similarly, throughout the year, we follow the Church calendar, which helps us focus on specific aspects of Jesus' work and emphasize certain doctrines. Following the Church year calendar in this way is not required by God, but it is beneficial for instruction in the teachings of Scripture. The same is also true for many other human customs practiced in the church.

So how do we determine which human customs are good and which are not? There is no doubt that these decisions should be based on God's Word. If they contradict the Word of God, they should not be used or practiced. For example, when it comes to the structure of our worship service we follow the guidelines set forth in Scripture: *"Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine"* (1 Timothy 4:13); *"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord"* (Colossians 3:16), and *"Let all things be done decently and in order"* (1 Corinthians 14:40).

Because God has given us a great deal of freedom in the customs outlined in the New Testament, there will be differences of opinion from one person to the next at times. As we deal with such situations, it is helpful to keep in mind the words written here by our Lutheran ancestors: *"the people are taught that consciences are not to be burdened as though observing such things was necessary for salvation."* May our customs ever be useful for good order and never become works which merit the forgiveness of sins. Let us continue to focus on Christ crucified in our preaching and through our church customs!



LWML SUNDAY, OCT. 5TH

Celebrate LWML Sunday with us on October 5th. The first Sunday in October is traditionally set aside for the observation of Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) Sunday. Come celebrate here at Bethlehem on Sunday, October 5th.



This year's theme marks the beginning of a four-year cycle that focuses on the LWML Mission Statement: As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others. For LWML Sunday 2025, we focus on Proclaiming Christ.

Everything done as LWML begins with Christ's message of repentance and forgiveness. The Ascension text of "GO" (Luke 24:44–53) is the mission emphasis for LWML Sunday 2025. On Ascension Day, Jesus gave his followers an assignment "that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations." We, as the church of the Lord Jesus Christ, have a responsibility to proclaim the message of Christ, to be that body which proclaims repentance and forgiveness, showing forth the merciful Christ in what we do and say. The LWML continues to support, encourage, and uplift missionaries, and also provides physical support and compassion to all people. It is the proclamation of repentance and forgiveness of sins in Jesus' name that motivates us to do this work. All Glory be to Jesus!

**MAY OUR MITE OFFERINGS BE BLESSED FOR
OUR LORD'S KINGDOM.**

**"Then he said to
them, "These are
my words that I
spoke to you while I
was still with
you, that everything
written about me in
the Law of Moses
and the Prophets
and the Psalms
must be fulfilled."**

Luke 24:44

**“For we hold that one is justified by faith apart
from works of the law.”
Romans 3:28**

REFORMATION CELEBRATION AND NEW MEMBER LUNCHEON

On Sunday, Oct. 26th, we will have a Reformation celebration to commemorate the 508th anniversary of the nailing of the 95 Theses while welcoming all of our new members who have joined Bethlehem since last Reformation Day. You are invited to stay after service for food, fun, and fellowship. There will be games and a movie for the kids, while the adults have the opportunity to catch up and get to know the new members.

COUNCIL & VOTERS MEETING THIS MONTH!

If you are a church council member, mark your calendar for Wednesday, October 8th, at 7 PM for our quarterly church council meeting.

All eligible voters and those who wish to become voters are invited to mark their calendars for Wednesday, October 22nd, at 7:30 PM for our quarterly voter meeting. Watch for the agenda in the bulletin.

LEARN WITH OUR CONFIRMANDS

As you know, Confirmation is in full swing here at Bethlehem. This means our kids are diving headfirst into the Small Catechism and God's holy Word. Memorization is a key component to Confirmation and to being a lifelong learner of Scripture. I ask that you keep our confirmands in your prayers and encourage them in their studies. To that end, I have placed all the memory work they will be learning this month below, and I challenge you to dust off your Small Catechism and relearn alongside them the treasures that we hold so dear. The Small Catechism is not just for the young or those going through Confirmation; it is for us all. When you see them, recite the memory with them, encourage them in their studies, and let them know you support them and are praying for them.

October	Catechism Memorization (Wednesdays)	Scripture Memorization (recited on Sundays)
1-Oct	6 th & 7 th Commandments w/ Meanings	Matthew 19:6
8-Oct	8 th , 9 th , & 10 th Commandments w/ Meanings	Luke 6:37
15-Oct	Close of the Commandments	Philippians 4:11
22-Oct	1 st Article of the Creed w/ Meaning	Genesis 1:1
29-Oct		Galatians 3:26

October 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Vickie Ashorn, Rick Molitor 6 – 7 PM Elders' Meeting	3	4 Amanda Hafer 7:30 – 8:30 AM Men's Club Breakfast, Bible Study, & Meeting
5 Deloris Griffin, Theresa Kettler, Lance Searle 9 – 10 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 10:15 – 11:15 AM Worship w/ Communion 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Youth League Mtg & Bible Study	6 Ryan Gresham	7 7:00 – 7:30 PM LWML Social 7:30 – 8:30 PM LWML Meeting	8 8:30 – 9:30 AM Sonshine 7 – 8 PM Church Council	9 Ryan Gaskamp	10 Don Jaehne, Sr.	11
12 9 – 10 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 10:15 – 11:15 AM Worship	13 Julie Kissel, Doris Kohring	14 Jessica Perez	15	16	17 Lane Janner, Reid Janner, Wyatt Janner, Terry Lueckemeyer	18 Kevin Goessler 8:30 – 9:30 AM Sisters in Christ
19 9 – 10 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 10:15 – 11:15 AM Worship w/ Communion	20	21	22 7:30 – 9 PM Voters' Meeting	23 Kandace Schroeder	24 Karen Gaskamp, Christopher Whittaker	25 Renee Brinkmann, Whitley Crabb
26 Travis Medve 8 – 9 AM Outdoor Amphitheater Worship 9 – 10 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 10:15 – 11:15 AM Worship	27 Hadley Fridye, Allison Jaehne, Charles Meyer	28 Pat Boenker	29 D.J. Jaehne, Jr.	30 Rose Kettler, Amy Schroeder	31 Delwin Gaskamp, Linda Hinze, Lynn Van Eman, Rallin Wellmann Reformation Day	

If you would like information posted in the monthly newsletter, please email the office by the 15th of the month. Thank you.

October 2025

Birthdays

Baptismal Birthdays

Wedding Anniversaries

2 Vickie Ashorn
Rick Molitor

4 Amanda Hafer

5 Deloris Griffin
Theresa Kettler
Lance Searle

6 Ryan Gresham

9 Ryan Gaskamp

10 Don Jaehne Sr

13 Doris Kohring

14 Jessica M. Perez

17 Lane Janner
Reid Janner
Wyatt Janner
Terry Lueckemeyer

18 Kevin Goessler

23 Kandace Schroeder

24 Karen Gaskamp
Christopher Whittaker

25 Renee Brinkmann
Whitley Crabb

26 Travis Medve

27 Hadley Fridye
Allison Jaehne
Charles Meyer

28 Pat Boenker

29 D.J. Jaehne Jr

30 Amelia Kettler
Amy L. Schroeder

31 Delwin Gaskamp
Linda Hinze
Lynn Van Eman
Rallin Wellmann

2 Dusty Baichtal
Connor Gresham

3 Karlton Klussmann

6 Elijah Kettler

6 Shirley Klussmann

7 Roy Schwartz
Chris Smitherman

9 Heidi Nowicki

11 Chris Landeck

12 Billie Weidemann

14 Stanley Haferkamp
Nolan Schroeder

16 Tricia Boggan
Kelly Krieg

18 Doug Schroeder

24 Tanner Schroeder

26 Craig Kankel
Lathel Norris

27 Sheryl Schroeder

29 Lance Searle

31 Lorena Schroeder

Allen & Linda Hinze
Oct 30, 1971

Chris & Carin Landeck
Oct 1, 1986

Ken & Andrea Holle
Oct 1, 1994

Ryan & Cheri Janner
Oct 9, 1999

Brian & Heather Ashorn
Oct 23, 1999

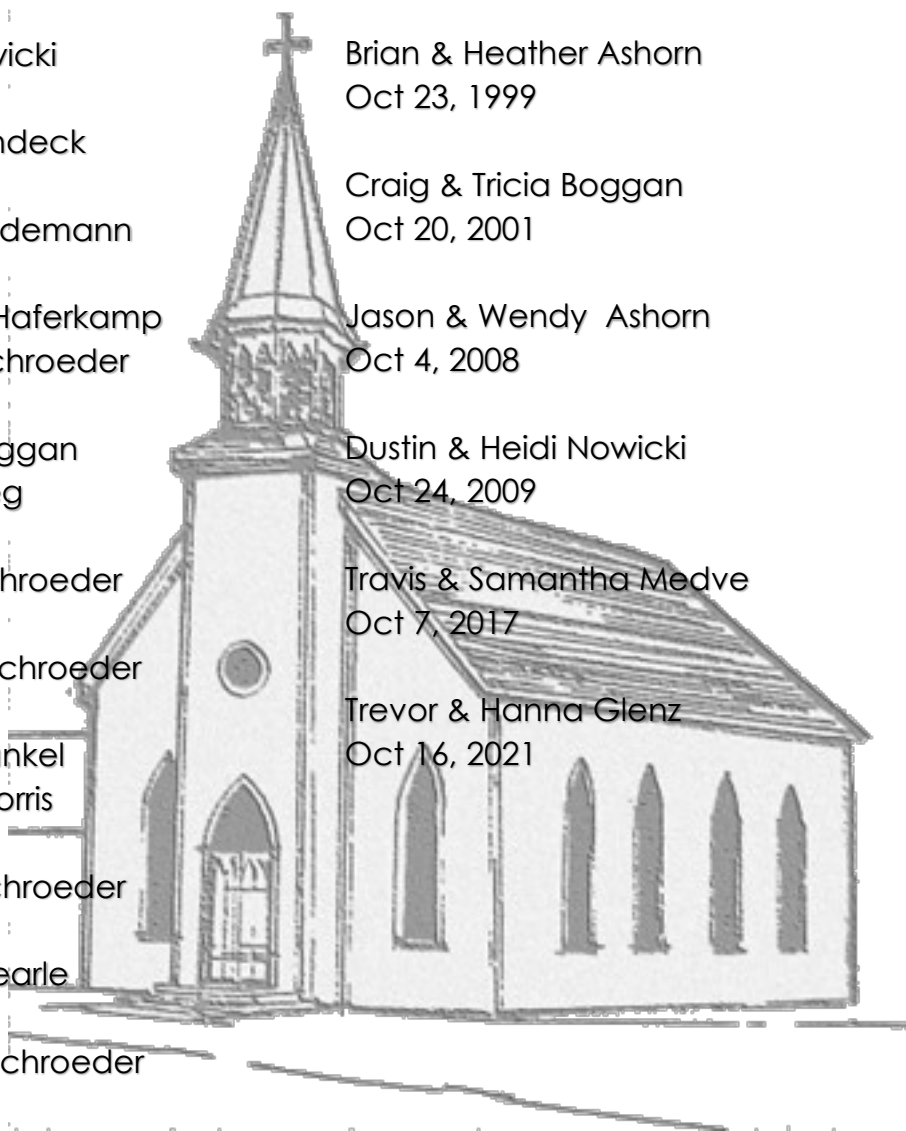
Craig & Tricia Boggan
Oct 20, 2001

Jason & Wendy Ashorn
Oct 4, 2008

Dustin & Heidi Nowicki
Oct 24, 2009

Travis & Samantha Medve
Oct 7, 2017

Trevor & Hanna Glenz
Oct 16, 2021



BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH-
WILLIAM PENN

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OFFICE HOURS: M-TH; 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

