

*Covenant Presbyterian Church  
Butler, Pennsylvania*



**October 22, 2017**

“God’s word and promise charge that we are made in God’s own image and likeness and are therefore called to live in a way that others may detect the family resemblance.”

--Rev. Dr. David Lose Senior Pastor  
Mount Olivet Lutheran Church  
Minneapolis, Minn.

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The Rev. Dr. James E. Swanson, Pastor  
Pastor’s Phone: 724-752-8383 / 724-712-1407  
Church Office Phone: 724-287-773  
Website: <http://covenantbutler.org>  
Social Media: facebook.com/covenant230

**Order of Service for Worship**

**October 22, 2017**  
Eleven O’clock, A.M.

Rev. Dr. James E. Swanson, Pastor  
Organist/Music Director: Beverly Antis  
Liturgist of the Month: Brian Graff

**THIS IS GOD'S HOUSE ~ ALL ARE WELCOME HERE !**

**Even as the world seeks to judge or divide us according to our economic, racial and ethnic groups, ages, gender, abilities, preferences, politics and theological positions, we believe that in Christ there should be no such division.**

**Our congregation is strengthened through difference and diversity, and in the name of our Lord, we welcome all who come seeking refuge and healing from condemnation, prejudice and discrimination.**

PRELUDE     *Children of the Heavenly Father*     Edward Broughton

CHORAL INTROIT

*I Will Worship the Lord*     John Rutter

*I will worship the Lord all the days of my life;  
I will tell of his glory and will show forth his praise;  
I will sing and rejoice, for the Lord is my stronghold.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

—John Rutter

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN # 477

*Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim*     HANOVER

\*PRAYER OF ADORATION

PSALM OF THE DAY     Psalm 99: 1-9     (*Pew Bible OT p. 480*)

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, you know the burden of our sorrows and the weight of our sin. We have not loved you with a pure heart; we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. We have put other priorities and other gods before you. We have sought to fulfill our own desires rather than following your will.**

**Forgive us, Lord. In your loving-kindness, cleanse us from our sins. Create in us a clean heart and renew a right and willing spirit within us, through the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ.**

A TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Through the Holy Spirit, God gives new life and freedom from the power of sin.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

\*GLORIA PATRI 579

GLORIA PATRI

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

--United Church of Canada

**We believe in God: who has created and is still creating; who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new. He works in us and others by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and to serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God!**

\*GREETINGS OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP

SHARING OF JOYS, CONCERNS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

*Bless the Lord, O My Soul* Robert Lau  
*Bless the Lord, O my soul, my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless his holy name.  
Bless the Lord, my soul. —Psalm103:1*

FIRST LESSON Exodus 33: 12-23 (Pew Bible OT p. 70)

Liturgist: This is the Word of the Lord.  
All: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND LESSON 1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10 (Pew Bible NT p. 959)

Liturgist: Here ends the second lesson.  
All: **Praise be to you, O Lord.**

\*GOSPEL READING     Matthew 22: 15-22     (*Pew Bible NT p. 803*)

Pastor:   The Gospel of our Lord.

All:   **Glory to You, O Christ.**

\*CONGREGATIONAL CANTICLE ~ Hymn #333

*Seek Ye First*

LAFFERTY

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God And His righteousness,  
And all these things shall be added unto you.**

**Allelu, alleluia!**

**Ask and it shall be given unto you, Seek and ye shall find,  
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you.**

**Allelu, alleluia!**

SERMON

*“ I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE ”*

Pastor Jim

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD’S PRAYER

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into  
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the  
kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

CHORAL AMEN

*Three-fold Amen*

Beverly Antis

HYMN # 422     *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

BEACH SPRING

PRESENTATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS & GIFTS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Go Not Far From Me, O God*

Zingarelli

*Go not far from me, far from me, O God;  
cast me not away, cast me not away in the time of age,  
cast me not away in the time of age:  
forsake me not, forsake me not,  
forsake me not when my strength faileth me.*

*O let my mouth be filled with Thy praise, be filled with Thy praise:  
that I may sing, that I may sing,  
that I may sing Thy glory and honour all the day long,  
that I may sing, that I may sing Thy glory all the day long.*

*O let my mouth be filled with Thy praise,  
O let my mouth be filled with Thy praise,  
that I may sing of Thy glory all the day long,  
that I may sing of Thy glory all the day long.*

*O let my mouth, O let my mouth be filled with Thy praise,  
O let my mouth, O let my mouth be filled with Thy praise,  
that I may sing of Thy glory all the day long,  
that I may sing of Thy glory all the day long,  
all the day long, all the day long.*

—Psalm 71: 12, 9, 8, adapted by John P. Hullah

\*THE DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise Him all creatures here below,  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host,  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\*THE UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**O God, accept our offerings, and use us to bring life and  
health and hope to your world. Make us generous and  
faithful stewards of your mysteries, doing your will and  
proclaiming your word; through Christ we pray. Amen.**

\*RECESSIONAL HYMN #423

*Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun*

DUKE STREET

\*THE BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

*May God Bless and Keep You*     Robert Wetzler

*May God bless and keep you  
till we meet again; meet again.*

\*A TIME OF SILENCE

\*THE CHARGE AND DISMISSAL

Pastor: As we go, let us follow Christ into the barren spots  
of our world -- to places where the lonely live,  
to neighborhoods afflicted by injustice,  
to communities where hope has been overshadowed  
by despair and resignation.

Brothers and sisters in Christ:  
Be strong in witness to your faith;  
Be diligent in your study of God's Word;  
Seek the truth; and cultivate a humble heart.

Go in Peace and serve the Lord!

People: **Thanks be to God!**

\* Those who are able, please stand

**YOU WERE GREETED TODAY BY *Betty Butler*.**



### *Celebrating Our Heritage*

You will find installment #25 of the book “*Through Succeeding Years*” - an historical account of the history of First Presbyterian Church from 1813-1938 - in this morning’s bulletin. Future installments will be forthcoming.

*(Back issues available in the narthex.)*

### ***Join us for Fellowship Hour***

***TODAY, Sunday, Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>***



In the Assembly Room  
following worship

***As we honor  
Rev. Dr. James E. Swanson  
& his Family***

***Everyone is cordially  
invited to attend and  
to express their appreciation—***

... to Pastor Jim (and his family!) for all the  
blessings and benefits of their ministry, love  
and friendship!

***Today’s reception is hosted by—  
Ellie Walchesky***

***~ A basket for those who have brought  
cards and/or gifts is in the Assembly Room. ~***

\$ \$ Financial Snapshot ~ SEPTEMBER 2017 \$ \$

Total Budgeted Expenses	\$ 17,302
Budgeted Income from All Sources	\$ 10,479
Taken from Reserve Funds to meet expenses	\$ 6,823

*33 pledges received in 2017 for a total of \$96,536*

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***In Honor Of the 500th Anniversary of  
Martin Luther's post  
on the Cathedral Church door at Wittenberg  
(and the kick-start of the Protestant  
Reformation  
on October 31st, 1517)***



**A Pot-Luck Dinner**  
*featuring “(root)Beer & Brats”*

**Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017 @ 6 p.m.**

**At Trinity Presbyterian Church**  
*(107 Staley Avenue, Butler, PA)*

Please bring a side-dish or dessert to share, Trinity Church will provide the (root)Beer & Brats – and probably coffee and tea.

**RSVP:** Phone: 724-452-5967 (Rev. Silbert's home phone)  
**by 9 PM, October 22**, and leave a message!

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**NOTICE:**  
**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**



According to the Book of Order, a called meeting of the congregation is required to officially “dissolve the relationship” of a departing pastor (in this case, effective Dec. 31, 2017). This requirement will be fulfilled on **Sunday, November 5** in the sanctuary immediately following the postlude before we go downstairs to fellowship. Rev. Bob Mathias will moderate the meeting.



*If your birthday falls anywhere from  
July 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017*

***You are invited:***

*A BIG All-Inclusive Birthday  
Celebration at—*



**BLESSINGS  
ON YOUR  
BIRTHDAY**

**“Kings Family Restaurant”**

*(located beyond Butler High School, New Castle Rd.)*

**Monday, October 30<sup>th</sup> @12 Noon**

**PLEASE RSVP:**

Please let Nancy Rice know  
if you will be attending (724-256-5366)

*Birthday Cake provided - No gifts required*

*\*Each person is responsible for the cost of their meal.*

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***Noisy Offering of Loose Change***

*(last Sunday of each month)*

*...will be received **Next Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>**  
during the **11:00AM Worship Service***

*Bring your change to worship with you next Sunday and be  
prepared to . . . “Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!”*

**Prayer Concerns**

**PRAYER CORDON:** Tuesdays at 12 noon in the Church Library.  
To request prayer, contact Virginia at 724-287-3920.

**Bill Jamieson** ~ recuperating from knee replacement surgery

**Rev. Robert Kennedy** - broke his ankle in two places;  
honorably retired; served Bethlehem Presbyterian Church,  
Shippingport

**Ralph A. (Hap) Nicholas III** – released from Butler Hospital  
last Wednesday, resting at home and awaiting results of  
biopsy



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## *Birth in the Presbytery*

*GREAT JOY!!* and Congratulations to:

Rev. Dena Roy (Associate Pastor at Cranberry Community Presbyterian Church) and her husband Brooks are pleased to announce the arrival of:



*Selah Elise Roy*

**Born October 5, 2017**

*Weighing 6 lbs. 7 oz.*

Selah joins big brother Solomon, age 6,  
and big sister, Cecily, age 2 1/2 .

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## **Upper Room Daily Devotional**

*November/December 2017 Edition*

*Now available in the narthex. Take one – they're free!*

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**Mitchell Hortert** (*Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>*)

**Bryce Edward Butler** (*Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> ~ turning 3 !*)

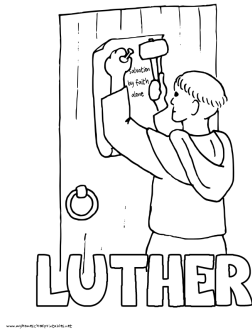
--Jason & Stephanie Butler' son

--Betty Butler's great-grandson

**Ellie Walchesky** (*Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>*)

**Michael Desnoyers** (*Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>*)

**Rosamond Curry** (*Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>*)



*Next Sunday is*  
**Reformation Sunday**

*This year we observe the  
**500<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of Martin Luther's  
protest ... considered  
to be the beginning of the  
Protestant Reformation.*

It is held (traditionally) that on October 31, 1517 Luther posted ninety-five Theses (propositions for debate) concerned with the question of indulgences and other objections to Roman Catholic theology and practice, on the door of the Schlosskirche (Castle Church), Wittenberg, Germany.

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***Seekers Class***

*Sundays @ 9:45 am in the Assembly Room*

*Next Sunday, Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>*

*Elder Nancy Rice leading the Seekers Class*



**Canoeing the Mountains**

*“Christian Leadership  
in Uncharted Territory”  
--by Tom Bolsinger*

**This Wednesday, October 25th @ 6:30pm**

**At the Presbytery Office**

**(134B South Main St., Zelienople)**

*Event for Pastors, Elders, Church Members, non-church members  
and anyone else who is concerned about the  
future of the church - and has a pulse!*

Using the metaphor of the Lewis and Clark expedition, author Tod Bolsinger, takes us along on an adventure of moving into uncharted territory. He uses this metaphor to reflect on the future of the church, as it too moves “off the map”.

- We'll review Missional Thinking
- We'll set a 6 week schedule
- We'll engage in conversation
- We'll eat cookies & drink coffee
- We'll explore important questions
- We'll be ready for a different future

Join us to explore this book together. We'll begin with a review of Missional Thinking and then schedule time together to read and reflect on Bolsinger's work.

**RSVP to: office@beaverbutler.org or 724-452-7515**

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## ***The People for Peace***



### **Study Book:**

"The Evolution of Faith:  
How God is Creating  
a Better Christianity"

~ by Philip Gulley

**This Thursday, October 26th  
@ 11AM ~ Assembly Room**

**Discussion of Chapters 7 & 8**

*(Class is held 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays each month.  
Remaining classes: Nov. 9, no class Nov. 23; Dec. 14)*

Phillip Gulley, famous for his own controversial theology that affirms universality, urges us in *The Evolution of Faith* to let go of our tightly held beliefs and start the journey toward a dynamic faith. Faith should always be seen as a work in progress, and this accessible guide will be a must-have tool for those interested in where the Christian faith is going today.

***This Class is open to everyone!***

Nancy Rice, *Class Convener*

Questions? . . . See or contact Nancy @ 724-256-5366

~ Lesson materials will be made available each class period  
for those who do not wish to purchase the book. ~

***Don't Forget to Bring Your Lunch !***