



Simultaneously Saint & Sinner

Martin Luther was a theological giant of his day - and remains a major theological influence in the world today, 500 years later.

One of the major theological ideas that Martin Luther developed was the idea that every Christian is simultaneously fully a saint (because of their baptism into Christ) and fully a sinner (because of their birth into this world and body of sin).

Every Christian is obviously a sinner because we are born into this world as a selfish human being. All of the ways that we see the world are influenced by our greed, our fear, our hatred, and our lust. Of course, the list could go on and on. This human perspective is reinforced by our society and our biology.

In Luther's day, they thought that you could overcome your sin through proper devotion and by subduing the body. In his extreme fear of God, Luther took this path to heart. He became a monk in the strictest of monastic orders. He starved and damaged his body severely in his effort to subdue it. But none of these things worked. His total fear of God and his sinfulness remained.

Finally, he stumbled on the passage from Romans 3:21-26. A part of that is "For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift...."

Martin Luther proposed that we will always remain sinners. You cannot overcome it by your own efforts or devotion. Therefore, God through Jesus Christ has decided to just completely, unilaterally forgive your sins.

In addition, the Christian fully becomes a saint through their baptism into Christ. When the Christian is baptized, Jesus becomes one with them. They receive His holiness and He takes on their

sinfulness (also call "the sweet swap"). So now, Jesus and His purity and holiness are completely melded into the life and being of the Christian.

And so, the Christian is always simultaneously both saint and sinner.

This is a very freeing understanding because you no longer have to worry about constantly fighting your sin. You no longer have to worry about trying to justify yourself or make yourself righteous through good works. Rather, you may bask in the goodness and complete graciousness of God in Jesus Christ.

So now, with this joy and freedom that you have been given, you are free to respond to God's love and grace in any way that you see fit. But this response is completely different from a response out of fear and guilt. By knowing that there is no longer any fear or guilt, you respond out of love and freedom.

That is a whole different way of being Christian. You do not have to stand in condemnation of yourself or others. You are free. Just go and love and serve as Jesus does.

Now, if you feel like your sin is destroying your life - like some form of addiction or anger or greed, etc. Certainly, you may want to try to curb those impulses or seek help to repair your life. But this is not a response out of fear of God or condemnation by God. That would purely be a response out of love for yourself and the people around you.

May Jesus guide you in all these things. May Jesus free your heart and mind and spirit to love and serve God in joy and peace.

- Pastor Steve

OUR CHURCH FAMILY IN OUR PRAYERS

Homewood: Eileen Grothey, Julia Mummert and Phyllis Frock

The Brethren Home: Shelva Laughman

Hanover Hall: Mildred Raubenstine

At Home: Karen Brown, Robyn Duppins, Eric Collins, Cindy, Lisa Galloway, Lori Shaffer, Jim Krumrine, Daryl Raubenstine, Shelley Saltzgeber, Larry Bixler, Cynthia Waters, Angie Britcher, Anita, Frieda, Mary Marrero, Marlene Redding, Harold Krumrine, Harold Bachman, Gladys Wildasin, Deb Sponseller, Cindy Graybill, Lindsey Crawford, Joyce Johnson, Kyle Wildeson, Leiland Smtih, Jimmy Bryan, Jeff Butler, Amber Shaw, Barb Butler, Isabella Taylor, Tammy Hall, and Katlyn Stremmel, Mara Small, Doug Deviny, Danielle Stislicki, Alan Sterner, Marleigh Myers, Frank George, Paul Chronister, Hannah Engle, Christina Hawn, Hope & Wesley, Ruth Gunnell, Joe Moxley, Donald Sterner, Helen Renner, Sarah Iafrate, Lisa Dickensheets, Ned Sterner, Chasidy Gladfelter, Donna Spaide, Kim Shultz, Vicki Creamer, Faye Gobrecht, Cole Stremmel, RJ, Kyle & Jamison Noel, Harlan Markle, Gordie Sager, Ryan Miller, Mary Ann Canouse, Theron Douglas Hilker, Harlon Rush Hilker, Pastor Kirk Griffin, Jack Shaffer and Janice Kneller.

In the military service: Ryan Baummer, Marcus Gobrecht, Shea Mumma, Mark Reeve, Joshua Mummert, Alex Berwager and Doug Shaffer

PARTICIPATING IN WORSHIP IN MARCH

Worship Assistant	Scripture Reader	Acolyte	Screen Presenter
4 – Toni Null	Sadira Stallings	Cade Baumgardner	Kelly Kuhn
11 – Liz Kielley	Kevin Leppo	Carson Trone	Katie Higgins
18 – Erin Gobrecht	HOPE	Rachel Kaintz	Amy Gobrecht
25 – Glenn Gobrecht	Sadira Stallings	Noah Kuhn	Heather Bair
Worship Sound	Children's Message	Children's Time	
4 – Toni Null	Pastor Steve	Sue Krumrine and Toni Null	
11 – Brian Butters	Liz Kielley	Amy Gobrecht and Faye Gobrecht	
18 – Liz Kielley	Faye Gobrecht	Tara Bryan and Emily Beyer	
25 – Barry Berwager	Larry Brumgard	Amy Wetzal and Kelly Kuhn	

Greeter Ministry: **March** – Chuck Bock and Brenda Warehime
April – Greeters needed

OPPORTUNITIES TO SPONSOR IN MARCH

Sunday bulletins @ \$10.00/Sunday

All dates open

Altar Flowers: If you are interested in sponsoring altar flowers for a worship service, see guideline paper in hallway or contact Ruth Neiderer. The flowers can be sponsored any Sunday





MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3/03 – Diana Hnat
3/07 – Lorraine Bolden
3/07 – Dale Gerber
3/07 – Jane Sneeringer
3/11 – Stephanie Beyer
3/11 – Judy Mummert
3/13 – Donald Frock
3/18 – Eileen Becker
3/18 – Toni Null
3/19 – Nevin Raubenstine, Jr.
3/23 – Ned Sterner
3/24 – William Helwig
3/26 – Carl Gobrecht
3/31 – Nevin Raubenstine

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4/03 – Glenn Feltch
4/06 – Sheila Raubenstine
4/06 – Jacqueline Redding
4/07 – Russell Bolden
4/13 – Barb Butler
4/15 – Mildred Raubenstine*
4/25 – Ruth Neiderer

*shut-in

MAY BIRTHDAYS

5/06 – Harlan Markle
5/20 – Linda Moose
5/26 – Dean Gobrecht

EASTER FLOWERS You may order Easter lilies or tulips at \$11.00 each to decorate the church sanctuary for Easter, Sunday, April 1st. Order forms are located in the hallway. Deadline to place order is the morning of March 16th.



Monroe S.E. Gobrecht Memorial Award Any youth members of St. Bartholomew's who are attending or will be attending post-secondary education are reminded that a minimum of 10 hours of volunteer service (with at least 5 hours for participation in worship services) are required. There are other requirements that need to be met for this scholarship award. Youth members should have documentation of service hours and should NOT wait until the last minute. There are MANY opportunities to volunteer throughout the year at church. Applications for the scholarship are available in mid-April. Application deadline is June 30th.

FROM THE ART GALLERY

BLIND DATE

MY PALMS WERE SWEATY
MY HEARTBEAT WAS FAST
WITH TENSION MOUNTING
YOU WERE HERE AT LAST

WHEN YOU RANG THE BELL
I FROZE TO THE FLOOR
AFRAID TO MOVE
TO GO ANSWER THE DOOR

I WONDERED ABOUT YOU
WERE YOU SHORT WERE YOU TALL
WOULD YOU WISH WHEN YOU SAW ME
NOT TO BE THERE AT ALL

AS I TURNED THE KNOB
AND PULLED OPEN THE DOOR
YOU WERE STANDING THERE
I NEED WONDER NO MORE

TONI NULL



WOMEN OF THE CHURCH Monthly meeting at Homewood, Creekside activity room on March 27th, at 1:00 pm. Please bring your magazines or a bible for our study time and enjoy snacks and fellowship after. For a ride, call Marlene 637-0185. All women are welcome.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER will be celebrated on Friday, March 2, 7:00 pm at Grace United Church of Christ, 100 Fourth St., Hanover, PA. This church is handicap accessible. Women and men from many different churches in Hanover will participate with an ecumenical choir and instrumental music. A time of visiting and refreshment will follow the worship service. This service was prepared by women from the country of Suriname. The evening focuses on the topic: All God's Creation is Good. For information or a ride call Marlene at 717-637-0185



DAY OF RENEWAL Women of our synod will hold a retreat on Saturday, April 21st, 9:00 am to 2:30 pm, at Memorial Lutheran Church in Shippensburg. The Theme is "In Katie's Footsteps." The cost is \$20.00 for the program and lunch. A ride is available. Registration forms are available on the shelf in the hallway. See Marlene or Edna for more information or see the poster on the bulletin board in the hallway.



Lenten Dinners

Lenten Dinners will be held on Tuesday's beginning February 20th through March 20th from 6:30 – 8:00 pm.

Each evening from 6:30 – 7:00 pm we will have a light meal, from 7:00 – 8:00 pm there will be discussion on the up-coming scripture lesson.

All ages are welcome to attend.

Please sign up in the hallway if you plan to attend.

We need volunteers for dinner and desserts. Please see Kelly Kuhn with questions.

We look forward to sharing in the Lenten season with everyone!

COMBINED LENTEN SERVICES

Mar. 4: Host Church: St. Paul's (Dub's) Union

Worship Leader: Rev. Larry Estep

Preaching: Rev. Steven Thomas

Theme: *I AM THE BREAD John 6:35, 48*

Mar. 11: Host Church: St. David's UCC

Worship Leader: Rev. Scott Sager

Preaching: Rev. Larry Estep

Theme: *I AM THE RESURRECTION John*

Mar. 18: Host Church: St. Bartholomew's

Worship Leader: Rev. Steven Thomas

Preaching: Rev. Susan Fritz

Theme: *I AM THE DOOR John 10:9*

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

Palm Sunday **March 25th – 9:00 am**

Maundy Thursday **March 29th – 7:00 pm**

Good Friday **March 30th – 7:00 pm**

Easter – April 1st

Sunrise Service at Long Arm Dam – 6:30 am

Easter Breakfast – 7:30 am

Easter Worship – 9:00 am



**Chicken Barbeque Crew of St. B's
are grilling their delicious chicken.**

Sat., April 28th, 2018

11:00AM – 1:00PM

Dinner includes: Half of chicken, baked potato,
roll, homemade cole slaw and brownie

Donation - TBD

(Ticket Pre-Sale Encouraged)

Call church office for tickets 717-632-1952

PIE SALE

From St. B's kitchens

DONATIONS OF PIES

AND BROWNIES BAKED IN CUPCAKE LINERS

APPRECIATED

Profits will be shared with St. B's ministries and Community Outreach Programs

RAIN OR SHINE

MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN NEEDED!

April 27th - Friday, at 6:30PM

We need volunteers to help make
cole slaw, fill bags, and set up.

Volunteers needed on Saturday to hand out
chicken dinners, sell pies, and to clean up.

Thank you for your time!

(Please see Allen Gobrecht or Ruth Neiderer with any questions.)

THANK YOU! January's special envelope offering raised \$755 for the Synod's Hunger Initiative.

HELPING HANDS MINISTRY This ministry provides care, support and many services to our church family who are in need. If you are in need of assistance, please read the list of services posted on our bulletin boards. Examples of services provided are small home repairs, limited yard work, picking up prescriptions, transportation to appointments and much more. All you need to do is contact the church secretary if you or another member needs assistance. If you are interested in being a volunteer for this ministry, see Judy Mummert.

HANOVER AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES NEEDS IN MARCH

PAL Carrots, Pineapple, Coffee

CLOTHING BANK Hand Towels, Bath Towels, Large Sheets, Brown Paper Bags

CHANGING LIVES SHELTER Full Sized Shampoo, Combs, Razors, Liquid Hand Soap

RUTH'S HARVEST *All single serving please!* Entrees, Fruit, Juice, Snacks

Weekly Prayer Requests:

Week of March 4 – Finance Comm.

Week of March 18 – HACC Staff

Week of March 11 – Fund Development Comm.

Week of March 25 – Meals on Wheels Ministry



INCLEMENT WEATHER In case our worship needs to be cancelled due to weather conditions, the cancellation announcement can be found on our web page at www.stbart-hanoverpa.org. An email will also be sent to everyone that currently receives the Newsletter by email. If you miss these announcements, you may call any council member for information or Pastor Steve at 717-476-9171.

REPORT FROM CHURCH COUNCIL

(February 8, 2018)

Thank you notes received from True North, Hoffman Homes, ECLA Synod gift, Lutheran Disaster Response, Olivia's House, House of Hope, Salvation Army, American Red cross, Changing Lives Shelter and North Star Initiative. Finance committee recommended donations be made to New Hope Ministries, the Salvation Army and the Red Cross using funds from a gift from an estate. The remainder of funds will be place into the Futures Fund. They also recommended to retain \$25,000 from the Capital Campaign in savings to cover any transfers to pay regular operating expenses in 2018 if regular offerings fall short. Recommendations approved. Two outdoor signs will be replaced. Funds for food and childcare for St. Bartholomew's retreat were approved. *Copies of full report are available in hallway.*



GO GREEN Our newsletter is available online. If you would like to "go green" and receive the newsletter and calendar via email, please contact the church office at 717 632-1952 or by email at stbartchurch@comcast.net. Thanks!

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S UNITED CHURCH (ELCA)

1204 Grand Valley Road Hanover, PA 17331
Telephone: (717) 632-1952 Fax: (717) 633-9267

E-mail address: stbartchurch@comcast.net

Website: www.stbart-hanoverpa.org

Rev. Steven E. Thomas, Pastor

Cell phone: 717-476-9171

E-mail address: 3pastorsteve7@gmail.com

Office hours: Wednesdays – 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Mrs. Beth Cronney, Office Administrator

Office hours: Tues, Weds and Fri 8:30 am – 2:30 pm

Mrs. Marlene Shilling, Music Coordinator

Ms. Erin Gobrecht, Bell Choir Director

Ms. Erin Gobrecht, H.O.P.E. Coordinator

WORSHIP SERVICES

Worship on Sunday – 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School classes for all ages – 10:30 a.m.

H.O.P.E. Worship *He Offers Peace Everyday*

Contemporary Style Worship 4th Sunday of each month – 9:00 a.m.

Opportunities to serve the Lord!

Adult Choir and Bells meet every Wednesday

Council meets the second Thursday of each month

Women of the Church meet the last Tuesday of the month

Join the Church/Sunday School orchestra

Membership with the congregation is not required

for participation in any programs of the church.

2018 Council Members

Carl Bachman	Chuck Bock	Wendy Fritz
Allen Gobrecht	Amy Gobrecht	David Hoff
Roger Krumrine	David Schnell	Kim Trone