



Theology of the Cross

One of the more important theological understandings that Lutheranism offers is the concept of a “Theology of the Cross”.

The Theology of the Cross goes something like this: Humanity is completely sinful and so, we are completely unable to save ourselves from our sin. Therefore, Jesus had to sacrifice His life on the cross so that humanity might be saved from our sins. Jesus had to sacrifice Himself on the cross for our salvation.

That sounds like a pretty obvious point in Christianity. And yet, there are two pretty popular ideas in Christianity that are in direct opposition to this basic understanding of the cross. These two corrupting ideas are: (1) That people are able to discipline themselves enough to be able to become more holy and so, make their way to God and (2) Since Christians are God’s chosen people, then they should be on top of the financial ladder - with God’s powerful blessings.

This is called the Theology of Glory. You can hear some classic TV preachers proclaim this corruption of Christianity. They call it the Prosperity Gospel or “Name It And Claim It” theology. You get whatever you want because you deserve it.

Nothing could be further from the truth. It is only because God decided to have mercy upon our pitiful human condition of sinfulness, that Jesus came to forgive us of our sins and to reunite us with God. In fact, the Theology of Glory completely undermines our need for Jesus. Why should Jesus have sacrificed His life in such a horrible way if we were able to clear our hearts and minds and make ourselves good by our own efforts?

A subheading to the Theology of the Cross is that sometimes we experience God most fully in the midst of suffering and/or sacrifice. For instance, when a firefighter sacrifices his life to save people in a burning building, you can see the presence of God through the firefighter’s actions. Or, when someone sacrifices their time and money to help PAL lunch or World Hunger or even with the many various ministries of the local church. In all of these sacrifices you see the presence of Jesus.

In addition, when you are in the midst of suffering, you can have a clearer vision of God. For instance, if you are suffering a serious illness, you fully realize that God is the primary master of all of Creation and Life. Doctors and medicines may or may not help, but God has the power to make these means work - or to simply bring healing beyond all of these means.

In a similar way, when you are suffering from a serious loss. Maybe someone you love has died. Then you very clearly realize that Jesus has opened the pathway to eternal life. Very simply, there is no other hope in all the world.

And so, in these ways, in the midst of suffering, you most clearly see the revelation of God. This is a part of the Theology of the Cross.

Strangely enough, this is the way to the abundant life that Jesus offers. Self-sacrifice opens you to a whole new reality that is not “self”-centered. It opens you to all of the world - all of the realities that are not just the limited “you”. (But then, that is a whole other article.)

Yours,
In Christ,
Pastor Steve

OUR CHURCH FAMILY IN OUR PRAYERS

Homewood: Eileen Grothey, Clyde Frock, Miriam Sterner, 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 & Bruce Shaffer, Jim Krumrine, Daryl Raubenstine, Shelley Saltzgiver, Larry Bixler, Cynthia Waters, Angie Britcher, Anita, Frieda, Mary Marrero, Sheila Staub, Linette Sterner, Marlene Redding, Harold Krumrine, Joann Shock, Harold Bachman, Gladys Wildasin, Deb Sponseller, Cindy Graybill, Pastor Terry McCarthy, Lindsey Crawford, Joyce Johnson, Gordon Sager, Kyle Wildeson, Leiland Smtih, Jimmy Bryan, Jeff Butler, Amber Shaw, Barb Butler, Rory Hughes, Sheila Raubenstine, Isabella Taylor, Tammy Hall, and Katlyn Stremmel, Mara Small, Doug Deviny, Danielle Stislicki, Kaz Krysiak, Alan Sterner, Rev. Fred Shilling, Amy Dehoff, Marleigh Myers, Jerry, Frank George, Paul Chronister, Hannah Engle, Diana Hnat, Christina Hawn, Hope & Wesley, Dottie Waybright and Roger Krumrine.

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

Please call the church office by **Wednesday morning** to have a name added to or removed from the Prayer List (632-1952).

PARTICIPATING IN WORSHIP IN AUGUST

Worship Assistant	Scripture Reader	Acolyte	Screen Presenter
6 – Erin Gobrecht	Michelle Baumgardner	Cade Baumgardner	Ruth Neiderer
13 – Shelley Saltzgiver	Darrell Raubenstine	Carson Trone	Olivia Wetzell
20 – Karen Amoss	Diane Buvia	Mikenna Avery	Erin Gobrecht
27 – Faye Gobrecht	HOPE	Cade Baumgardner	Outside Service
Worship Sound	Children's Message	Children's Time	
6 – Dale Greer	Deb Leppo	Eileen Becker and Kim Becker	
13 – Barry Berwager	Kelly Kuhn	Wendy Fritz and Kelly Kuhn	
20 – Shaun Saltzgiver	Deb Leppo	Kelly Kuhn and Deb Leppo	
27 – Brad Neiderer	Amy Gobrecht	Kim Trone and Toni Null	

Greeter Ministry: August – Glenn Gobrecht & Carl Gobrecht
September – Wendy Fritz

OPPORTUNITIES TO SPONSOR IN AUGUST

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



THANK YOU, A special thanks for all the prayers, cards, visits, phone calls and food while I was a patient at Hanover Hospital and Homewood for therapy for my broken hip.

Thanks again – Alvin Schuchart.

NEW ADDRESSES



Molly Berwager
Krottenbachstrasse 88/34
1190 Vienna, Austria

Marcus & Molly Gobrecht
996 Bighorn Street
Oviedo, FL 32765



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

8/04 – Ted Becker
8/04 – Dawn Sterner
8/10 – Beverly Morningstar
8/13 – Daryl Raubenstine
8/21 – Mary Grace Graybill
8/28 – Karen Raubenstine
8/31 – Norma Jean Norton

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

9/05 – Edward Bortner
9/11 – Loretta Ness
9/13 – Phyllis Frock
9/13 – Rev. Ivan Mechtly

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/06 – Gordon Sager
10/11 – Ida May Butler
10/12 – Dennis Raubenstine



BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING/SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION will take place during the worship service on August 6th.

LITTLESTOWN AREA MUNICIPAL BAND SUMMER CONCERT will be held on August 6th at 2:00 pm at Crouse Park in Littlestown. Rain location – St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, 53 West King Street, Littlestown.

MUSIC PICNIC the choir, bell choir, orchestra and children’s choir musicians are invited to a “Start-up the Practice Year” Picnic on Wednesday, September 6th. Bring a covered dish if you can. The picnic will begin at 6:00 pm in the church pavilion.



WOMEN OF THE CHURCH There will be no Women of the Church meeting at Homewood this month.

SCHOOL KITS shopping time is coming up. As the summer sales on school supplies begin, pick up a few extra supplies to share with **Lutheran World Relief**. Place any of the following items in the labeled baskets at the church. The following items are needed to fill each kit. One item or a whole kit will be appreciated. A kit includes:

- Four 70 sheet notebooks – no loose leaf
- One 30 centimeter ruler (Centimeters on one side and inches on the other)
- One pencil sharpener 5 unsharpened pencils
- 5 ballpoint pens (blue or black ink)
- One eraser
- One box of 16 or 24 crayons



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!





**Let us worship
God in his creation!**

Sunday, August 27th 9:00AM

We will worship outdoors
in the pavilion area.

Bring a lawn chair!

Our service will be followed by a picnic at 11:00 am

A dish to share would be appreciated.





The beauty of creation, praises God's name Psalm 148

St. Bartholomew's has been abundantly blessed with God's creation. The Vision Committee/ Property Committee recommended to Council to improve and promote the church's beautiful natural setting. The current walking trails will be improved, the wooden foot bridge rebuilt, recreate a habitat area for birds and wildlife, maintain and mow walking trails and place benches in the area for viewing. The area would also include an area to plant a tree/shrub in memory or honor of a loved one with a small name plaque. The property committee with member volunteers will oversee this area. The area is located along St. Bartholomew's Road and borders the ballfield area. It is located east of the church building. This piece of God's creation would be named *East Branch Preserve*. Volunteers will be needed and appreciated to reactive this area. The recommendation was approved by Council. Please watch bulletin for more details in the fall of the year.

"You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands." (Isaiah 55:12)

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.



AUGUSTS'S SPECIAL ENVELOPE OFFERING will benefit the Gideons. The Gideons International is an Association of Christian business and professional men and their wives dedicated to telling people about Jesus through associating together for service, sharing personal testimony, and by providing Bibles and New Testaments.

THANK YOU! With your generous donations \$563 was collected to offset the cost of member's attending the Belong Tour with June's special envelope offerings.

HANOVER AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES NEEDS IN AUGUST

PAL – Pam spray, Coffee, Coffee Mate, BBQ Sauce, Bread Crumbs

Clothing Bank – Back-to-School: blue/red pens, notebook/binder, paper, backpacks

Changing Lives Shelter – Liquid Hand Soap, Midsize Shampoo, Midsize Body Wash, band-aids

Ruth's Harvest – Snacks, Cereal, Fruit (*All single serving size, please!*)

Weekly Prayer Requests:

Week of Aug. 6: Community Health Ministry

Week of Aug. 13: Community Needs Comm.

Week of Aug. 20: Executive Committee

Week of Aug. 27: Faith-at-Work Ministry

COOPERATIVE YOUTH MINISTRY DIRECTOR POSITION St. David's Lutheran and St.

Bartholomew's United ELCA are currently accepting applications for a Cooperative Youth Ministry Director. The candidate's primary responsibilities will be to minister to youth members of both congregations by developing creative ways of involving the youth in activities, including worship services, service projects, and national, synod and conference events.

We are seeking motivated individuals with the following qualifications:

1. A solid commitment to Jesus Christ and a prayerful sense of call to do youth ministry.
2. A heart for youth ministry and a desire to build positive relationships with young people.
3. Education and/or experiential background in Bible study, small group ministry, volunteer coordination, and program/event planning.
4. A basic understanding of Lutheran Theology, Sacraments, the Means of Grace, and the Gospel.
5. Certification or willingness to obtain First Aid and CPR training.
6. Ability to successfully complete state mandated background checks and mandated reporter training.

Additional information related to specific job requirements can be found on each congregation's website:

<http://stdavidshanover.org> or <http://stbart-hanoverpa.org>

Interested applicants should send their resume to the Cooperative Youth Ministry Committee at cymapply@gmail.com.

Resumes may also be sent to Pastor LaDonna Thomas at St. David's Lutheran Church (1032 Musselman Rd. Hanover, PA 17331) or Pastor Steve Thomas at St. Bartholomew's United Church (1204 Grand Valley Road Hanover, PA 17331)

REPORT FROM CHURCH COUNCIL

(June 8, 2017)

Thank you notes received from the House of Hope, Seminarian, Mission of the ELCA and world hunger. National Youth Gathering will be held in Texas. Proposal made to purchase and institute a program to help the church with changing demographics. It was decided that the visioning committee has been doing a great job of keeping things fresh and being progressive towards our growing needs. The proposed program was declined.

Treasurer's Report – June's Beginning Balance: \$9,212.72 Ending Balance: \$11,203.21

Approval given for Glenn to request electronic statements due to fee now being charged for paper statements.

St. Bartholomew's United Church (ELCA) 2017 Weekly Offering Tally		
Date:	25-Jun-2017	
Attendance:	157	
	This Week	2017 Cumulative
Envelope Offering	\$3,021.00	\$96,228.05
Loose Offering	\$126.00	\$2,612.95
Total Church Offering	\$3,147.00	\$98,841.00
Special Offering	\$5.00	\$6,056.00
Initial Offering	\$0.00	\$263.00
Total Other	\$5.00	\$6,319.00
Grand Total	\$3,152.00	\$105,160.50
Needed Weekly	\$5,553.13	\$144,381.38
Ahead/Behind	-\$2,401.13	-\$39,220.88
Percent	56.76%	72.84%

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: 476-9171

E-mail address: 3pastorsteve7@gmail.com

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

Mrs. Beth Cronney, Office Administrator

Office hours: Tue/Wed 7:30 am – 2:30 pm, Fri 7:30 am – 12:30 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.