

# Bedford Lutheran

church with a heart

God's Vision for Us: To celebrate Christ, grow in faith, and share God's Love with all! June 2019

## A Message from Pastor Tim Feaser

A couple of years ago I got tired of paying my outrageous cable TV bills and so I cancelled the service. This left me with nothing to watch until I discovered youTube! I've become a follower of a young fellow on youTube who documents abandoned buildings throughout the United States. One of his videos explores a Methodist Church in Gary, Indiana. Being born a Hoosier, I couldn't resist watching it. Boy, what an eye opener! This was a huge congregation in its hay day. The church itself must have seated about 1,000 people. They had a multitude of Sunday School rooms, a huge commercial kitchen and (most impressive of all) a theater with a full stage, lighting and scenery. Amazing...and disconcerting! How could this incredible congregation have declined to the point where they simply abandoned their building. They walked away and left it to the vandals.

Well, probably most of the congregation's decline can be traced to the horrible decline in the city of Gary itself. When I was growing up, Gary was the second largest city in Indiana. Today Gary makes Detroit look like a paradise. The loss of jobs and the American steel industry has profoundly effected Gary. Probably little wonder why the church declined as well.

It's a bit counter-intuitive but we know that church

attendance declines during times of economic stress. (You would think it would be the other way around.) Therefore the church often struggles with the same issues that are troubling the community in which it is located.

Gary Snyder just gave me a short book to read, entitled "Autopsy for a Church." The author studied 14 different congregations, all of which are now defunct. His over-riding question: "What happened?"

Now don't get me wrong, our congregation is not in decline! Bedford is consistently listed as one of the best towns to retire in. In other words, we've got a lot going for us. But, we can still gain some insight from Gary's book. For instance, one of the things that all these now closed churches had in common was the fact that they had become inward focused instead of outward and community oriented. But in order to become outward focused, we need to know our community. So, I've resolved to start talking to random people in Bedford to find out how they perceive our community. I'm looking forward to talking with some non-church people; and I'm not going with a hidden agenda of inviting them to church. I just want to know what they think. Do you want to help? Talk to me after church, or email or call me!

### Bedford Lutheran Church

Worshiping at the  
Bower Center for the Arts  
**Sundays at 10:30 a.m.**  
305 North Bridge Street,  
Bedford, VA 24523

540-586-3205

Email:

[bedfordlutheranva@gmail.com](mailto:bedfordlutheranva@gmail.com)

Website:

[www.bedfordlutheranva.org](http://www.bedfordlutheranva.org)

Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/bedfordlutheran](http://www.facebook.com/bedfordlutheran)

### Pastor

*Reverend Tim Feaser*

410-608-9442 (cell)

Email: [timfeaser@yahoo.com](mailto:timfeaser@yahoo.com)

### Church Council President

*Gary Snyder*

540-583-5034 (home)

434-203-9996 (mobile)

### Pianist

*Katy Voelker*

### Our Mission Partners

St. Michael, Blacksburg  
St. Mark, Charlottesville;

St. Paul's, Hampton  
Trinity-Keezletown

Holy Trinity, Lynchburg;  
Mt. Sidney, Salem;

Hebron, Madison;  
Trinity Ecumenical Parish, Moneta;

Trinity, Pulaski;

St. Philip, Roanoke

St. Peter's, Stafford

VA Synod ELCA



## Church Yard Sale-June 1st

Our annual church yard sale will be held this Saturday, June 1st from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Rain Date is Saturday, June 8th. Gather your items and plan to join us. All proceeds will go to the Parish House Debt Fund.

## Women's Small Group Ministry-June Meetings

The Women's Small Group will meet **this Sunday, June 2nd** and **Sunday, June 16th** at 4:00 p.m. at the Snyder house, 1505 Wellington Drive, Bedford VA. All women are invited. Please contact Florayne Snyder at 540-583-5034 for information.

## Church Council Meeting-Tuesday-June 4th-5 p.m.

The Church Council will hold their monthly meeting on **Tuesday, June 4th** at 5:00 p.m. at the Parish House.



## Outdoor Worship & Potluck Picnic-Sunday-June 9th

Please make plans to join us for our Welcome the Summer Outdoor Worship and Potluck Picnic on **Sunday, June 9th** at the Parish House. The service will start at 10:30 a.m. followed by the picnic. The service is always beautiful in our back lot with lots of good food to follow and share. In the event of rain, we will hold inside the Parish House.



## Installation Service for Pastor Tim Feaser-Sunday-June 30th-4:00 p.m.-Bower Center

Please make plans to attend a special worship service as Pastor Tim Feaser is installed as our pastor at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 30th at the Bower Center. Several pastors from the Virginia Synod will be attending. A reception will follow the service. Please note that we will be holding an abbreviated worship service that morning at our regular 10:30 a.m. worship time.

## Adult Forum Ministry

The Adult Forum Class meets on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. The group is currently studying the book: "Crazy Christians: A Call to Follow Jesus." All are invited. Please contact Fred Duis for further information.

## Monday Sewing Group

If you like to sew, please join the Monday Sewing Group. The group meets on Monday mornings from 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. at our Parish House at 728 Burks Hill Road, Bedford VA. The group sews a wide variety of items for our outreach projects. All are invited. Please contact Charlotte Duis for information.

## Table Talk Bible Study-Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.

"Table Talk" bible study meets on Tuesday nights at 7:00 p.m. at our Parish House, 728 Burks Hill Road. The group studies the books of the Bible. All are invited. Please contact Jay Johnson for further information.

## Virginia Synod Assembly-June 7th and 8th-Roanoke College

Pastor Tim Feaser, Brenda Wolhfert and David Hagerman will be representing Bedford Lutheran this year at the annual Virginia Synod Assembly meeting on June 7th and June 8th. Please keep them in your prayers.

## Power in the Spirit Conference-July 11 through 13-Roanoke College

There is definitely a feeling of the Power of the Spirit when people from all over Virginia and beyond come together to fellowship, experience, and worship together at Roanoke College. Church Council has approved a partial reimbursement of the \$195 commuter package early registration fee. If you would like to attend the event this year, please contact Robin Wood for event details and information. **Early registration deadline is June 15th.** Registrations received after June 15th will incur a \$25 late registration fee.

## Bedford Lutheran Outreach Project with Lutheran Family Services by Anita Braun

At the beginning of this year, Bedford Lutheran Church coordinated with Lutheran Family Services to inaugurate a reading program for a few of the residents of the Group Home, both as a service project and as a personal form of ministry for interested parishioners. The only requirements are to pass a state-required background check and to take a short session of instruction in dealing with the individual residents. Service time is one hour of reading stories one-on-one to assigned residents once a month. It is a very rewarding ministry for time-pressed church members. If this should appeal to anyone, please contact Anita Braun at (540)-947-2363 or (540)-204-7799 (cell-text).

# Worship Schedule

	June 2	June 9 Outdoor Worship	June 16	June 23	June 30
<b>Greeters</b>	Darlene Dyess John Dyess	Jay Johnson	Florayne Snyder	Bob Hage	Gary Snyder
<b>Reading</b>	Gary Snyder	Jay Johnson	Robin Wood	Shela Wolford	Fred Duis
<b>Ushers</b>	Eleanor Coppedge Robin Wood	Fred Duis Ron Wolfert	Jay Johnson Shela Wolford	Bob Pratt Doris Pratt	Ann Sites Robin Wood
<b>Communion</b>	Doris Pratt	Charlotte Duis	Gary Snyder	Anita Braun	Florayne Snyder
<b>Altar Care</b>	Florayne Snyder Set up: Snyder	Charlotte Duis Set up: Duis	Brenda Wolfert Set up: Wolfert	Charlotte Duis Set up: Duis	Ann Sites Set up: Hagerman-Johnson

## Worship Attendance

- May 5th: 24 people; May 12th: 28 people; May 19th: 22 people; May 26th: 27 people
- Please submit items for the **July** Newsletter to Robin Wood by **Wednesday, June 24th** or earlier if possible.

## Pastoral Needs

For any Pastoral needs, please call Pastor Tim Feaser at **410-608-9442** or email Pastor Tim at [timfeaser@yahoo.com](mailto:timfeaser@yahoo.com). For any prayer requests that you would like to share with our community through email, please send request to [bedfordlutheranva@gmail.com](mailto:bedfordlutheranva@gmail.com).

Bedford Lutheran Church  
P.O. Box 508  
Bedford, VA 24523