



SPIRITUAL FORMATION AT BETHEL

JANUARY – MAY 2019

*Be joyful. Grow to maturity. Encourage each other.
Live in harmony and peace. Then the God of love and peace
will be with you. (2 Corinthians 13:11, NLT)*

Paul ends his second letter to the Corinthians with this encouragement to ground their lives on four key behaviors. The essential one is the second, for without spiritual maturity the others are less likely to be present. In my experience immature people are less likely to be joyful, to be encouraging, or to live in harmony and peace with others. They tend to be more focused on themselves and their own wants, whereas spiritually mature individuals more easily set themselves aside and put others first. God's goal and expectation for us is that we will continue to grow in our faith, so Bethel provides the spiritual soil, sunlight, and nourishment in the form of these spiritual formation activities to promote that growth.

However, I don't hear the final phrase as a conditional promise: that God will *only* be with us if we exhibit these four behaviors. I believe it's more a matter of awareness. As we grow to maturity – as we show joy, encouragement, harmony, and peace – it will be ever more evident to ourselves and to those around us that God is with us. That God is making a difference in our church family and in our community. I'm so grateful that's the kind of Church we are. Thanks be to God!

Pastor Al

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CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION

*Sunday School
Classes
10:00-10:55 a.m.*

Nursery

Preschool

Elementary School

Middle School

*High School
(see next page)*

*We will not have
classes for children or
adults March 31 (Spring
Break) and April 21
(Easter Sunday).*

Sunday School — Sunday School for children ages Kindergarten through 12th grade begins at 10:00 a.m. Children go directly to their rooms where they will meet their teacher(s). They are dismissed to parents at 10:55 a.m.

Nursery — Infants and toddlers under 3 are welcomed in our nursery on Sunday any time between 8:40 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Our paid Nursery attendant, *Brenna Taitano*, and other volunteers read Bible stories, play and love on our youngest members while their parents attend Adult Education classes or worship.

Preschool — Children who turn 3 years old before December 31st are invited to join our Preschool Sunday School Class at 10:00 a.m. Gospel Light Curriculum teaches children Bible lessons in a fun, age-appropriate way, with engaging songs, stories, videos and puppets!

K-5th Grade — Children are grouped into Sunday School classes by age/grade. Over a three-year cycle, students learn the basic stories and Lutheran concepts in preparation for Confirmation during middle school. The curriculum used is “Sunday Schoolhouse” from Sola Publishing.

Confirmation

Led by Confirmation Team ❖ Student Center

Confirmation class for Middle School students (grades 6-8) strives to move faith from the head to the heart through a highly interactive experience that includes both large group presentation and small group discussion. Following class, we attend worship together. Once a month we will continue our time together after worship with a large group



fellowship activity. Our goal is to develop a sticky, life-long faith through a combination of engaging learning events, regular fellowship activities, and frequent service opportunities in and beyond the congregation. Join us upstairs in the Student Center. Contact Youth and Family Minister *Joe Rudy* for registration information (joerudy@bethellutheranchurch.com).

High School

Led by *Laura and Jason Houser* ❖ Room 205

We explore various topics of mutual interest, seeking to apply our faith to real-life situations and challenges; to move beyond the accumulation of more head knowledge, into the arena of faith application and growing as disciples. We begin class each week sharing at least one good thing from the past week. We encourage conversation and discussion in a respectful manner. We encourage active serving while reminding them of the little eyes looking up to them here at church. We end each class with prayer requests and prayer.

MIDWEEK: High School Youth Ministry

led by *Joe Rudy* ❖ Student Center

Wednesdays

6:30-8:30 p.m.

Our High School (grades 9-12) youth ministry meets upstairs in the Student Center. A typical night involves hanging out, eating Oreos or something awesome, listening to music, playing games, watching a video, discussing the important and the not so important things and wrapping up the evening with High's and Low's. We welcome all (members and friends alike), and we encourage each other throughout the week. We have been known to go on trips, mission work, summer camp and Boundary Water Adventure journeys. High School life is too hard to do it alone, so we try and do it together.

MIDDLE & HS FORMATION

*Confirmation
(Middle School
Sunday School)*

*Midweek: Sr. High
Youth Ministry*

*Unless otherwise
indicated, all classes are
on Sundays mornings
from 10-10:55 a.m.*

FAITH STEPPING STONES

Baptism Class

Entering Preschool

Entering Grade School

Bethel offers several “faith stepping stones” at significant points in a person’s faith journey. These stones are intentional opportunities to go deeper in faith and, as a person matures, to accept for oneself the faith she or he has received from parents and godparents.

Baptism Class

The first Tuesday of the Month

led by the Pastors ❖ Office

6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.



I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit -

This class is for parents who wish to have their child(ren) baptized. During this session, we explore what happens when we come to the font and what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. We review the expectations placed on parents, and we touch on their child’s emotional and spiritual development.

Entering Preschool

Fall 2019

A child’s transition from infant to toddler to full-blown preschooler is a period of constant discovery and almost daily changes. In this session, parents will spend time sharing, laughing, and growing as they learn about their preschoolers’ physical, emotional, and spiritual health, as well as their own. The class concludes with a group blessing of the preschoolers at the altar.

Entering Grade School

Fall 2019

The whole world changes for both parents and children when their little ones head off to kindergarten. Setting up a pattern for regular open, caring, communication between parent and child becomes extremely important. In this stepping stone, parents will learn how to share their Highs and Lows with one another, and how to turn those experiences into prayers. At the end of the course, parents and children return to the altar for a blessing.

First Communion Class

Mar 17, 24, Apr 7, 14

Children in 4th grade and up learn about God’s promises and the importance of Holy Communion. Classes are held during Lent and culminate with the Rite of First Communion on Maundy Thursday. For more information, speak with our Children’s Ministry coordinator *Kris Lingenfelter* (kris@bethellutheranchurch.com).

Confirmation

April 28, 12:45-2:00 p.m.

This stepping stone is a time for confirmands in their final month of class and their parents to reflect on God’s promises to them in baptism and the call God has placed on their life for ministry. When confirmation day comes, it is less a “graduation” from church as it is an “ordination” into ministry.

Graduation

May 5, 12:45 – 2:00 p.m.

Graduating seniors and their parents will meet for three sessions to look back at the blessings received so far in their faith journey, and to look ahead to God’s new calling and direction for their lives.

Discovery

Jan 13-Feb 3

Led by Various Ministry leaders

6-8 p.m.



During this interactive and engaging “new disciple” orientation, participants will grow deeper into the life of discipleship as we explore key aspects of our Lutheran Christian faith, including how God has wired each person to be ministers rather than simply members of the Church.

Contact the church office (317-773-4315) or one of the pastors to register.

FAITH STEPPING STONES

First Communion

Confirmation

High School Graduation

Discovery

**MEN & WOMEN'S
FAITH FORMATION**

*Men's Sausage
and Scripture*

*Women's Book Clubs
- Tuesday Evenings
- Saturday Mornings*

*Women on
Wednesdays*

Sausage and Scripture

Saturdays beginning Jan 5 at 7:30 a.m. ❖ Fellowship Hall

This men's Breakfast and Bible Study meets weekly on Saturday mornings. Participants take turns providing a simple breakfast and leading the study. We are reading Henry Blackaby's book *Experiencing God*. For more information, please contact Kevin Hardie (765-432-6211).

Bethel Book Clubs

Bethel hosts two women's book clubs that meet monthly.

One group meets the **first Tuesday** of the month (**skipping January**; next on Feb 5) at 7 p.m. in various homes for fellowship and discussion. The book for February will be *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman. For more information, including meeting location, contact Rise Helgemo (317-877-8416).

The second group meets on the **second Saturday** each month (taking a break **until April**) at 11:30 a.m. Our next book will be *11/22/63* by Stephen King. Each month's session includes lunch. For more information and meeting location, contact Linda Crist (317-758-6748).

Women on Wednesdays

Wednesdays (starting 1/9) at 9:15 a.m. ❖ Room 216/218

Our study *Waiting: A Bible Study on Patience, Hope, and Trust* explores how the Holy Spirit changes people through the uncomfortable delays of life-waiting for test results, a child, a life-changing decision to be made. Each chapter focuses on a woman in the Bible and her story of waiting. From Sarah to Martha, the stories of these biblical women will be applied to readers' lives. For more information please contact Mary Jo Mikulski (260-403-5525).

Ask the Question

Jan 6 – May 19

Led by Jason Pearson and Lu Olp ❖ Chapel



The Church ought to be a safe place where we can bring our faith questions. In fact, a healthy faith questions and pushes for greater understanding, and a healthy church

embraces those questions without feeling threatened or attacked. Join us as we discuss the questions you bring to the table, along with your cup of coffee and sweet treat from the coffee fellowship.

Loose Links

Jan 6 – May 19

Led by Suzy Patterson and Tree Rudy ❖ Library

A group of Christian friends who discuss, question, and banter around day-to-day life situations and use the Bible, their own “common sense,” and humor to help each other out. This fall, we will (likely) explore a book by Henri Nouwen. New participants expected and welcome!

Adult Forum – Mission Trip to Nicaragua

Jan 6 (only)

Led by Kris Byerley ❖ Fellowship Hall

Come and see what God is doing in Nicaragua! Kris Byerley will offer an adult forum on her 2016 mission trip to Nicaragua for an eye glass clinic through M.O.S.T. Ministries. Thanks to Bethel’s generosity, she was able to travel to a very remote and poor area of this beautiful country to help spread God’s word in an amazing way – and be incredibly blessed herself! She’ll bring her pictures, blogs and souvenirs for you to check out.

ADULT CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

Ask the Question

Loose Links

Adult Forums –
Mission Trip to
Nicaragua; to
Ethiopia; The Way of
St. James

Does God Exist?

The Book of
Revelation

Learning
Vulnerability

The Letters of Paul

At the Crossroads of
Faith, Law, and
Culture

Jonah and the
Mystery of God’s
Mercy

Unless otherwise
indicated, all classes are
on Sundays mornings
from 10-10:55 a.m.

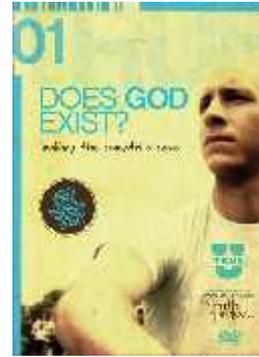
There will be no
classes for children or
adults March 31 (Spring
Break) and April 21
(Easter Sunday).

Does God Exist?

Jan 6 – Mar 24

Led by *Jim Hogle and Carl Wooldridge* ❖ Room 215

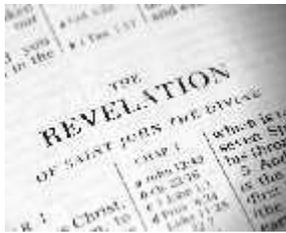
Can we prove the existence of God, or are we left to grapple in the dark and take blind leaps of faith about what we believe? Steven Meyers presents a 10-part video series on the evidence for design in the universe which explores four prevalent worldviews in contemporary society. The level of presentation is upper high school or college level thinking. The program is directed towards high school and college student, and their families. St. Paul said in Romans that “Since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So, they have no excuse for not knowing God” (1.20, NLT). Carl Sagan said, “The cosmos is all there is.” Who is more accurate?



The Book of Revelation

Jan 13 – Apr 14

Led by *Jim Herr and Pastor Al* ❖ Room 216/218



The last book of our Bible is one of the most challenging and perplexing. Believers of different theological persuasions have studied it faithfully and thoroughly, and they have come to very different conclusions. What is Jesus trying to tell us about the present and the future? Join us on a 10-week Bible study of this fascinating book!

Learning Vulnerability on the Pathway to Transformation

Jan 13 – Apr 7

Led by *Pastor Joe Freeman* ❖ Fellowship Hall

Through an exploration of Brene Brown’s book, *Daring Greatly* and some audio tape portions of her CD collection titled “The Power of Vulnerability: Authenticity, Connection & Courage” participants will become more in touch with the true persons they are, which cannot be done without being vulnerable, transparent and authentic.

Interestingly, the origin of the word authentic comes from the Latin *authenticus* and means “coming from the Author.” The implication is that only by letting / welcoming God to “author” our lives – and not our marketability, or good looks, or wealth and possessions, or athletic prowess – will we become truly authentic, honest to goodness true persons! It's not public-image-bearing or mask-wearing the tells ourselves and others who we are; rather, as Scripture says, “It’s in Christ that we find out who we are and what we’re living for” (Ephesians 1:11, Message translation).



Adult Forum – Mission Trip to Ethiopia

Apr 7 (only)

Led by *Pastor Doug* ❖ Fellowship Hall

Last September, Pastor Doug was part of a delegation of representatives from several Lutheran Church bodies to the *Global Confessional and Missional Lutheran Forum* in Bishoftu, Ethiopia. While he was in the country, he spent time with our mission partner congregation in Senbete. Come and hear how the Holy Spirit is doing wonderful things through the Lutheran Church in Ethiopia, and through our mission partner, as Pastor Doug shares his reflections and pictures from his time there.

The Letters of Paul

Apr 7 – May 5

Led by *Greg Marshall* ❖ Room 216/218

You’ve Got Mail! They say that letter writing is becoming a lost art. What with emails, texting, Facebook and Snapchat, who takes the time to handwrite a long letter anymore? Back in Apostle Paul’s time, letters were even more rare. Few people could read and write, “paper” was very expensive, and with no postal service, delivery of letters depended on hitching a ride with travelers. So, if you received a letter from someone, you can bet it was important, and it was likely something you would



keep and treasure . . . forever. Though Paul’s letters were not written to us, clearly the messages were preserved for us. Join us as we explore the Letters of Paul!

Adult Forum – Way of St. James Pilgrimage

Apr 14 (only)

Led by *Tina Marshall* ❖ Fellowship Hall

For over 1200 years, pilgrims have followed the “Way of St. James” from St. Jean Pied de Port, France over the Pyrenees Mountains and across northern Spain to Santiago de Compostela. Join Tina Marshall as she shares pictures and experiences from her own 500-mile pilgrimage from this past fall.



At the Crossroads of Faith, Law, and Culture

Apr 28-May 19

Led by *Kent Zepick* ❖ Fellowship Hall



Must a city-owned cemetery remove a cross that was erected to memorialize World War I soldiers because the cross is a Christian symbol? Must a Christian-owned business provide medical insurance that covers abortion-inducing drugs? Can the government compel a Christian baker to design a wedding cake for a gay couple? Like all Americans, Christians ask the United States Supreme Court to answer vexing questions like these, but sometimes the Court’s murky rulings sow more confusion than clarity. And when the Court does speak with a clear voice, we sometimes hear ominous rumblings that make us wonder whether the right to live our faith in the public square is withering away. Join us as we examine the intersection of faith, law, and culture.

Jonah and the Mystery of God's Mercy

Apr 28 – May 19

Led by *Pastor Al* ❖ Room 215

The story of Jonah is one of the most well-known parables in the Bible. Many people, even those outside the faith are familiar with him: a rebellious prophet who defies



God and is swallowed by a “whale.” It is also often a misunderstood story. Did you know that Jesus saw himself in Jonah? After Jonah is spit up by the big fish, there’s “the rest of the story” – his one sentence prophecy to Nineveh and their remarkable repentance. But it is a story left unresolved; why do you suppose the book ends with what amounts to a

cliffhanger? Join us as we dig into this wonderfully complex parable and plumb the depths of God’s amazing mercy.

OCCASIONAL MINISTRY PRESENTATIONS

Throughout the year our Care Ministry and Mission Committee offer occasional presentations. Our **Care Ministry** sponsors grief-related seminars to support those grieving the death of a loved one. Through its **Mission Committee** Bethel supports 28 various local, national, and international missions. Last June, we welcomed Rev. *Mugeleta Melaku* from the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus as guest preacher and Adult Forum leader; he will likely return again this Spring. Watch out for occasional forums with our mission partners in 2018-2019!



OVERVIEW OF ADULT CLASSES ON SUNDAYS

AF – Mission Trip to Honduras (1/6)		
Bible Study on the Book of Revelation <i>Jim Herr and Pastor Al</i> (1/13-3/24)	Learning Vulnerability on the Pathway of Transformation <i>Pastor Joe Freeman</i> (1/13-4/7)	Does God Exist? <i>Jim Hogle and Carl Wooldridge</i> (1/6-3/24)
Spring Break / No Classes (3/31)		
AF – Ethiopia (4/7)		Letters of Paul
AF – Way of St. James Pilgrimage (4/14)		
Easter Morning / No Classes (4/21)		
Jonah and the Mystery of God’s Mercy <i>Pastor Al</i> (4/28-5/19)	At the Crossroads of Faith, Law, and Culture <i>Kent Zepick</i> (4/28-5/19)	Greg Marshall (4/7-5/5)



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