



# SPIRITUAL FORMATION AT BETHEL

MARCH – MAY 2020

*And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. (Acts 2:42)*

What’s THE most important thing for you? If I was stranded on a desert island and could only have ONE thing with me (besides a change of clothes), I think I’d choose my family. I know, that’s not really fair – first, my family isn’t a “thing,” and second, my family is composed of three others (plus our dog, Bella), so technically, it’s not just ONE “thing” it’s four. But of everything I might bring to a deserted island, I could make do with a lot of things, but I would really only want my family to be with me. With them by my side, I would feel much better about facing the many unknowns of desert isle living.

When the Church has been asked, “What’s the most important activity we should be about?” it has often answered with this passage. While we quickly might answer with “make disciples,” how to accomplish that mission is found in these four activities: Bible study, fellowship, worship (“breaking bread” is another phrase for communion), and prayers. We need all four to be balanced. We can be a church without one of them, but like a four-legged stool that only has three legs (or less), we would likely become unsteady – and we might even fall over or collapse.

Join us this Spring as we develop our “study” leg. It’ll be a lot more fun than working the leg machine at the gym, and it will provide other “heart” benefits, too!

*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)*

*There will be no classes  
for children or adults on  
April 5 (Spring Break) or  
April 12 (Easter).*

**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 disciples 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-5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:joerudy@bethellutheranchurch.com)). Confirmation will be May 17 at the 11:11 a.m. service.

## 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 Highs and Lows. We welcome everyone (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. – 7:30 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**

*September*

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**

*September*

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.



## FAITH STEPPING STONES

*First Communion*

*Confirmation*

*High School Graduation*

*Discovery*

**First Communion Class**      *Sunday April 19, 26, May 3 (11a)*  
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](mailto:kris@bethellutheranchurch.com)). First Communion will be on Sunday, May 10.

**Confirmation**      *May 31 at 10:00 a.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. Confirmation will be Sunday, May 17, 2020.

**Graduation**      *May 17 at 10:00 a.m.*  
Graduating seniors and their parents will meet 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**      *Sundays, April 19-May 3*  
*Led by Various Ministry leaders*      *6:00-8:15 p.m.*



During this three-week 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.

## MEN & WOMEN'S FAITH FORMATION

### Men's Sausage and Scripture

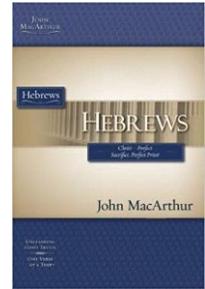
Women's Book Clubs  
- Tuesday Evenings  
- Saturday Mornings

Women on  
Wednesdays

## Sausage and Scripture

Saturdays 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. Our study this spring is *Hebrews: Christ-perfect Sacrifice, Perfect Priest*. For more information, please contact *Jason Pearson* (317-289-3986).



## Bethel Book Clubs

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

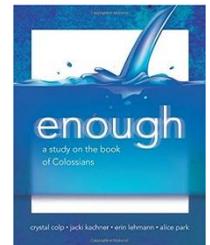
One group meets the **first Tuesday** of the month at 7 p.m. in various homes for fellowship and discussion. For more information, including meeting location and book being studied, contact *Risë Helgemo* (317-877-8416).

The second group meets on the **second Saturday** each month at 11:30 a.m. Each month's session includes lunch. For more information including book being studied and the meeting location, contact *Linda Crist* (317-695-7384).

## Women on Wednesdays

Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. ❖ Room 216/218

Our study *Enough: A Study on the Book of Colossians*. In this personal, practical study of the book of Colossians, you will learn how a life devoted to Jesus brings true satisfaction and contentment. You will discover the completeness that can be found in Christ as you reflect on Paul's proclamations of the supremacy and sufficiency of Christ and apply the Word of God to your life. For more information please contact *Mary Jo Mikulski* (260-403-5525).



## ON-GOING ADULT FORUMS

### **Ask the Question**

Jan 5 – May 17

Led by Lu Olp and Jason Pearson ❖ 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 5 – May 17

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. New participants expected and welcome!

## ONE SESSION ADULT FORUMS

### **Jamaica Mission Trip**

March 1

Led by Jim Herr & Tom Hooper ❖ Fellowship Hall



Jim and Tom will present a **one-session forum** during the Christian Education hour on their **Mission Trips** last year. Jim will speak about his mission trip to Jamaica, and Tom will speak about his mission trips to Serbia and Dominican Republic.



## ADULT CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

*Ask the Question*

*Loose Links*

*The Daniel Dilemma*

*The Letters of Paul*

*Financial Peace University*

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

*There will be no classes for children or adults on April 5 (Spring Break) or April 12 (Easter).*

## **A Physician's View of the Crucifixion of Christ**

March 29

Led by John Renick ❖ Fellowship Hall

John Renick will lead a one-session class on the medical aspects of crucifixion. Invented by the Persians and "perfected" by the Romans, crucifixion is arguably the most painful death ever invented by man and is where we get the term "excruciating." The presentation will be an attempt to look graphically and descriptively at the sufferings of Christ as He died on the cross. How was His crucifixion different from others of His time? What were the steps by which He died? John will describe how crucifixions were carried out in the Roman Empire and the medical aspects of how Jesus died. I will answer questions from participants and suggest readings. Learning the details of Jesus' physical sufferings helps us to realize just how very much our Savior sacrificed for us in this profound demonstration of God's love for His people.

About the presenter: John Renick, MD, FASCP, is trained as a Lutheran pastor and has 45 years of experience as a psychiatrist. He served as a professor of psychiatry at Stanford and at the University of Alabama and has many publications to his name.

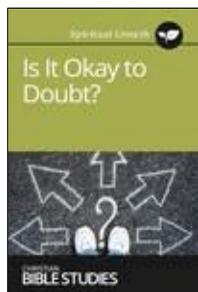
### ADULT CLASSES

#### **Is It Okay to Doubt?**

March 8-22

***What to do when the questions creep in***

Led by Jim Hogle ❖ Room 215



What do you do when you start to doubt? Perhaps you wonder if God really cares about you, or you're troubled by a certain Christian belief, or you have a hard time believing a good God could let such evil exist. Worse, you may wonder if you are truly a Christian if you have doubts. No matter what your questions are, and regardless of where your doubts are coming from, this 3-session Bible study will help you discover what the Bible has to say about doubts, and you'll make a plan to overcome them.

**Acts: Learning from the Apostles**  
**How to tap into the power of the Spirit**

March 8-29

Led by Carol & David Jacobs ❖ Room 216/218

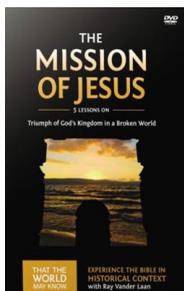


At first glance, it seems as though Jesus asks impossible demands of us. However, a close look at the Book of Acts lets us know that we are not left alone with his commands. He gives us his own Spirit to supply the power and strength to do what he asks. This five-session study will show us how to tap into that power. It discusses how to live life with passion, get off to a good start, worship through our trials, and keep a proper perspective.

**The Mission of Jesus**  
**The Triumph of God's Kingdom in a World of Chaos**

April 19-May 17

Led by Carol & David Jacobs ❖ Room 216/218



In the region of Galilee, Jesus revealed the power of God's Kingdom and His role as King. The "good news" of His shalom sent ripples through Israel - stirring the hearts of new followers and challenging the rule of an empire. Biblical historian and teacher Ray Vander Laan guides viewers on Jesus' path through Israel - while exploring the rule of ancient Rome - and reveals how God brought triumph in a world of chaos.

**Timeless Truth for Tough Times - 1 Peter**

April 19-May 17

Led by the Pastors ❖ Fellowship Hall

1 Peter is a message of encouragement written to the believers in Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey) who faced opposition and religious persecution due to their belief in Christ. Martin Luther names 1 Peter as one of the New Testament books that shows us Christ and teaches how Christians should live in the world. Many of the Second Readings this year in the Season of Easter are taken from 1 Peter. This class will take a deeper look into this short but powerful book.



## LENT 2020: He Chose the Cross so that....

DATE		THEME	SYMBOL
Wednesday Feb. 26	Ash Wednesday	...I might have new life	cross
<b>Sunday March 1</b>	<b>Lent I</b>	<b>...I might say no!</b>	
Wednesday March 4	Wednesday	...I might never be alone	purple cloth
<b>Sunday March 8</b>	<b>Lent II</b>	<b>...I might stand firm!</b>	
Wednesday March 11	Wednesday	...I might know forgiveness	nail
<b>Sunday March 15</b>	<b>Lent III</b>	<b>...I might be faithful!</b>	
Wednesday March 18	Wednesday	...I might face my pain	sponge
<b>Sunday March 22</b>	<b>Lent IV</b>	<b>...I might begin anew!</b>	
Wednesday March 25	Wednesday	...I might see His signs	INRI sign
<b>Sunday March 29</b>	<b>Lent V</b>	<b>I might set new goals!</b>	
Wednesday April 1	Wednesday	...I might live forever	dice
<b>Sunday April 5</b>	<b>Palm Sunday</b>	<b>...I might seek Christ-like humility!</b>	
Thursday April 9	Maundy Thursday	...I might know love	crown of thorns
Friday April 10	Good Friday	...I might see thru tragedy	stone
Saturday April 11	Holy Saturday	...I might find comfort in His absence!	
<b>Sunday April 12</b>	<b>Easter Sunday</b>	<b>...I might share His victory!</b>	<b>linen cloth</b>

## OCCASIONAL MINISTRY PRESENTATIONS

Throughout the year our Care Ministry and Missions Committee offer occasional presentations. Through its **Missions Committee** Bethel supports 30 various local, national, and international missions. In 2020, we plan to welcome several guest preachers and speakers. Some are mission partners and some are from the NALC. Watch out for occasional forums in 2020!



Looking Ahead:

# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

## Sunday Jun 28 - Thursday July 2

SAVE THE  
DATES

BRING A  
FRIEND



VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED

CLIMB  
ABOARD



BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH (NALC)

20650 Cumberland Road + Noblesville, IN 46062

[www.bethellutheranchurch.com](http://www.bethellutheranchurch.com) + (317) 773-4513