

FOOTPRINTS

Bethel Lutheran Church Believe—Belong—Become

“Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.” Psalm 119:105

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FOOTPRINTS

Bethel Lutheran Church Believe—Belong—Become

Volume 1 Issue 1



ON THE COVER:

Martin Luther Statue, Wittenberg, Germany

Pixabay

FOOTPRINTS

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After many suggestions and much prayerful deliberation, the Publication Team chose **FOOTPRINTS** to be the name of Bethel's quarterly magazine. With this name, we honor our commitment to walk in the steps of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ leaving a legacy for others to follow. At the same time, we look back and acknowledge the Bethel believers and our own personal *cloud of witnesses* who have gone before us leaving their footprints of faith for us to follow. We hope our humble efforts give Glory to God and provide enlightenment, entertainment, and knowledge to our readers. God bless you all!

† † †

Bethel's **vision** is to be a dynamic, life-changing church of fully devoted disciples of Jesus Christ.

† † †

Bethel's **mission** is to engage the curious, encourage the convinced, and empower the committed to be fully devoted disciples of Jesus Christ.

† † †

PoWeR SuRGe

Pray daily

Worship regularly

Read Scripture daily

Serve others

Relate to other Christians in Faith

Give of your financial resources

† † †

Editorial Board:

Gay Hanson (Editor in Chief), Susan Adda, Pam Dodane, Pastor Doug Gast, Carole Kuhn, Sarah Manro, John Patterson, Kirk Pfeil, and Connie Woodridge.

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Believe † Belong † Become

SEASON AFTER PENTECOST 2017



PASTOR DOUG'S COLUMN

Every Christian is a Minister.

“God . . . has made us what we are and given us new lives from Christ Jesus; and long ages ago he planned that we should spend these lives in helping others.” (Ephesians 2:10 TLB)

Yesterday, a woman called asking if she and her husband could stop by because there was a pressing issue they needed help with. When they sat down in my office, they began by saying, “I don’t know where to start, but we need help.” We also received a call from a young mom because she needed almost immediate help for one of her children. Word went out to some Bethel friends and within a couple hours, things were taken care of.

We get calls almost daily from people in our church, in our community, even from the far reaches of the world and the message is the same, “I (we) need help.” Don’t we all need help from time to time. Sometimes it is physical help “Can you come over to help me fix something, to move something, to check on something?” “I am hungry, do you have any food?” Or “We don’t have money to buy our children a backpack to start school, could you help us with school essentials for our child?” Sometimes it is emotional help people are looking for . . . someone to listen . . . someone to share with a compassionate heart . . . someone to just be there for us and with us. Sometimes it is spiritual help we need . . . pray for me and with me . . . write a card or email with a note of encouragement and hope. None of us is so strong, so wise, so powerful that we don’t need the help of others from time to time.

In the Psalms there is a continual cry to God for help in the time of trouble, help to face the enemies, help from God to deliver us from suffering, and help for healing and strength. In fact, one of the simplest yet most powerful prayers is three short words. . . . “Lord, help me!”

From the very beginning, God created Adam and Eve to be helpmates for one another. One of the most well-known of all Jesus’ parables is “The Good Samaritan,” where the neighbor is the one who stopped to give help to the man who was beaten up. And the apostle Paul was always on the lookout for those in need. He sent his most trusted colleagues to help individuals and churches in need of help. And he took up a collection for brothers and sisters in Jerusalem in order to help them get through a time of suffering. God did not put us on earth just to live for ourselves. He wants us to make a positive difference with the one and only life we have been given. God wants us to help make this world a little kinder, compassion, and caring. Learning to love God and love one another is the reason we were put on this earth.

The apostle Paul counseled his friends: “God . . . has made us what we are and given us new lives from Christ Jesus; and long ages ago He planned that we should spend these lives in helping others.”

There’s a word for this: **ministry**. Every Christian is a minister. Not every Christian is a pastor, but every Christian is called to be a minister. It is what Martin Luther described as the “Priesthood of All Believers.” That means you and I use our talents and gifts to make a contribution in life to be a giver and not a taker.

The Bible says 58 times, Love one another. Care for one another. Pray for one another. Encourage one another. Help one another. Counsel one another. Support one another and on and on. We are a church centered on Word and Sacrament, for sure. But once we are fed, God calls us into His mission field to help others know Him, feel His presence and be touched by His grace. It is the mutual ministry of every believer in the family of God to every other believer in the family of God. That is the way God meant for it to be.

One of the things that continues to humble me, amaze me, and fill my heart with joy and gratitude is how many times,



literally hundreds of people have said, in one way or another: How can I help? What can we do to help? Where can we serve? When the word goes out, Bethel people step up. That is the Spirit of Christ at its best.

The truth is, serving God by serving others is not always easy. Sometimes we’re going to get discouraged. Sometimes we wonder if we are truly helping or only enabling. Sometimes we may even get tired of doing good. So what do we do when we get disheartened?

First, remember that you are going to receive a reward that’s going to go on for eternity. We are building a legacy personally and as a congregation. The Bible says that God “will not forget how hard you have worked for Him and how you have shown your love to Him by caring for other believers.” (Hebrew 6:10b). Don’t we all want God to say to us, “Well done good and faithful servant.”

The second thing to remember is that God uses every little thing. Nothing is insignificant when you serve God. Remember Jesus reminded his first disciples that what they did had great impact. It was the little things, the faith of a mustard seed trustingly planted, a cup of cold water offered in love, and everything that we do for the least of those in His name that answer His command “to do it all for the least of them.” It is the mission of Bethel not only to be the heart of Jesus but to be His hands and feet as well. What a wonderful church God has called us to!

PASTOR DOUG GAST
Senior Pastor



PROFILE:

PASTOR EMERITUS E. DEAN WINDHORN



EARLY YEARS

Eldor (E.) Dean Windhorn was born at home on October 24, 1934, in Milford, Illinois, to Clarence and Adelgunde Windhorn. He grew up on a farm as one of six children. He graduated from Gillman High School where he played

football and basketball, sang in the choir, and excelled academically. He attended Wartburg College in Waverley, Iowa, where he was active in the Wartburg Choir and was student body Vice President in his senior year. He was listed in *Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities*



High School

for his achievements. He graduated in May of 1956 and then entered Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. He was active singing in the Seminary Choir and toured with them during his time at seminary. As a freshman, he organized the choir's tour. He did his internship at First



Ordained

Lutheran Church in Torrance, California, which was something of a culture shock for a small town, Midwestern farm boy, but he did well there. After returning to the seminary for his final year, he graduated and was ordained, as was the practice of the time, at his home congregation of St. John's Evan. Lutheran Church in Danforth, Illinois, on June 12, 1960.

E. Dean met his future wife Joyce Koets in high school in Gilman, Illinois. Joyce says that their friends and family expected them to get married right after high school or maybe right after they graduated from college, but they surprised everyone by waiting until she had graduated from Illinois State University and taught school for a year and E. Dean graduated from Wartburg College and completed his first year at seminary. At the seminary, they lived in the married student trailer park, and she remembers budgets being so tight that there were a number of group dinners – someone had a carrot, someone else had an onion, etc. They have been married since 1957, have three sons (Doug, Stan, and Steve) and six grandchildren (2 boys and 4 girls).



Windhorn family on E. Dean & Joyce's 50th Anniversary

"PASTOR"

St John's Lutheran Church (ALC) of Fowlerville, Michigan, was Pastor E. Dean's first call beginning in 1960. The church was in a small rural community east of Lansing. It had a parsonage next to the church, and they held Sunday school in their basement for a time. Both he and Joyce learned a lot in his first call. Joyce recalls the first funeral E. Dean performed there. He was trying to do things "by the book," and included hymns in the service. He did not find out until afterward that this congregation didn't have or want singing during a funeral. That did change as some people came to appreciate music in the funeral setting. Joyce's other vivid memory of that call came because E. Dean has a phobia of bats. One evening she looked over from the parsonage into the church office to see him swatting madly at something. She assumed it was a bat and when she went to investigate, it was to find that he had been swatting at an SOS pad that he had mistaken for a bat.



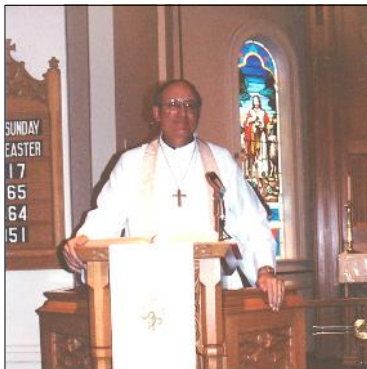
Blessing the building—St. John's

Christ Lutheran Church of Wyoming, Michigan, near Grand Rapids was Pastor E. Dean's next call in 1966. It was a mission congregation, and by the time he moved on to his next call, the congregation was self-supporting, and they had built on office space and a Sunday school wing to accommodate the growth in membership.

Trinity Lutheran Church in Mattoon, Illinois, was the next call starting in 1975. By this time, his Bishop had recognized Pastor E. Dean's strengths in mission building as well as building projects. Trinity was what was then called a *package mission*, and it was struggling. With a *package mission*, the church and the parsonage would be built and then, they would call a pastor to get the people. Since Trinity was located in a town not far from Eastern Illinois University, Pastor E. Dean was able to attract a number of the people from the University, and by the time he left Trinity, it was an established church and off of mission status.

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran in Rock Falls, Illinois, was Pastor E. Dean's fourth congregation (1979). Immanuel was an established congregation that worshiped an average of 250 when he was called there to be the sole pastor. He was blessed with a lot of help from lay members and did a lot of evangelism during his time there. Through the use of the *Bethel Series Bible Study* program and his evangelism efforts, he brought many people to Christ during his tenure. When he left, Immanuel's worship attendance was around 500. He also led the building program that included an expanded narthex, an elevator, several offices, a new Sunday school wing, and handicapped accessibility.

Pastor E. Dean and Joyce came to the central Indiana area as a result of an American Lutheran Church drive called "50 more in '84" that aimed to start 50 new congregations. The church that would become Christ Church, the Lutheran Church of Zionsville, was one of those new congregations. There was a core of people who wanted to start a Lutheran church in Zionsville, and Pastor E. Dean was asked to lead the effort. They met in homes to begin with and then in a school for four years before the church was built. Pastor E. Dean and Joyce lived in an apartment until a parsonage was built. Once again, Pastor E. Dean's gift for mission work and evangelism resulted in establishing a vital and viable Lutheran congregation. *An interesting side note is that Karen Schoonover attended Christ Church in Zionsville as a young woman when E. Dean was there.*



Preaching

Pastor E. Dean retired in 1997, although, as Joyce says, he really didn't retire as he went directly into interim pastoral service. For many years, he preached twice a month at Faith United Lutheran Church in Richmond, Indiana.

In 2003, he connected with Bethel Lutheran Church in Noblesville, Indiana, where

there was a need for a visitation pastor. Joyce actually provided the connection between E. Dean and Bethel. She had begun leading a women's Bible study with Bethel members. After a time, she met Pastor Doug Gast, and the connection to Pastor E. Dean was made!

At Bethel, he was a part-time Associate Pastor and served as visitation pastor, preached once a month, planned the 8:00 a.m. worship service, trained lay leaders, helped with the new member classes, and was the pastoral liaison to the newly formed Missions Committee in 2012-2013.

"What is a Pastor Emeritus?"

Emeritus is an honorary title bestowed on someone who has retired from a position. Emeritus comes from the Latin word *emereri*, which means to earn one's discharge by service. Giving the title "Pastor Emeritus" to a retiring pastor is a way for a church to honor and express gratitude for the pastor's service to that church.

50+ YEARS and GOD'S GRACE

Over his five calls and other interim and pastoral service, Pastor E. Dean has exhibited great strength and skill in working with mission congregations and churches needing some extra care. He has shown a special gift for working with churches that needed renewal or were consolidating and no longer had a pastor in place.

He has also been very good at church building projects having overseen building or remodeling at all five of his calls as well as helping with Bethel's expansion!



Builders: Pastors Doug and E. Dean

Beyond his life in the ministry, Pastor E.

Dean is a loving family man. He enjoys gardening and fishing and is a devoted Indiana Pacers fan. Over the years, he has led a number of tours in the United States, the Holy Land, and Europe (Luther sites in Germany and Rome, for example).

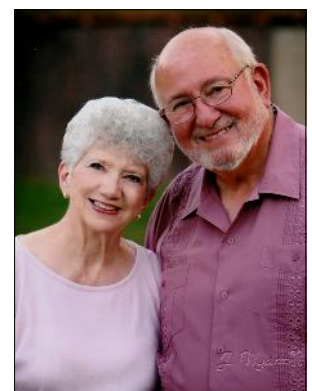
As a pastor, E. Dean has been known for his depth of Scripture knowledge as well as being a great storyteller, teacher, preacher, joke-teller, singer, and hymn leader. He has sometimes dressed up to increase the impact of a sermon, such as preaching as Martin Luther for Reformation Sunday services or speaking as Joseph, Paul, or Pontius Pilate. He has been asked to sing the Lord's Prayer for special services and has always had great relationships with children.



Preaching as Martin Luther on a Reformation Sunday

At the celebration of E. Dean's 45th year of ordained ministry in 2005, Pastor Doug remarked that in his sermons Pastor E. Dean, "can sing, tell a joke, preach, and tell a story — all in 15 minutes!"

In more than 50 years of ordained ministry, Pastor Emeritus E. Dean Windhorn, has been a pastor, family man, friend, and colleague, but most importantly, he has been a good and faithful servant of the Lord.



Joyce and E. Dean



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REFORMATION 500

500 Years ago on October 31, 1517, Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg setting off the Protestant Reformation.

Article by Sarah Manro

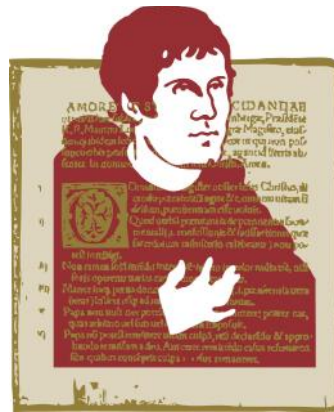
Photo: 95 Theses on Castle Church door, Wittenberg

This year we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation!

On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. These Theses were 95 arguments Luther developed to have a scholarly debate, as was common practice at the time, on what he saw as areas in the Roman Catholic Church that needed reform. Although written in Latin, a translation into the common language was soon published and spread across Germany sparking much more than the scholarly debate Luther was expecting. This was the start of the Reformation.



the Book of Romans. In this study, Luther began to understand the grace of God as a free gift for the faithful and not something to be earned through sacraments and good works as was taught in the Roman Catholic Church. This realization made Luther feel born again and accepted!



In addition to his duties as a professor, Luther was also priest at the city Church. Here he witnessed the sale of indulgences, documents prepared by the Church and sold as payment for the debt sinners owed to God. Indulgences replaced the need to confess one's sins and could be purchased for the living and the dead.

The Church taught that indulgences would forgive you from guilt and eternal punishment but a temporal punishment existed, meaning restitution for one's sins still needed to be met and could be reduced by deeds of penance prescribed by the Church. But all deeds could be fully discharged in this life and the soul went through a cleansing process in Purgatory. Indulgences purchased for the dead would release them from Purgatory after a certain amount of time. Rarely offered were Total Indulgences which would release the sinner from Purgatory altogether. But Pope Leo X had been spending too freely and was in financial trouble. He sold Total Indulgences and about 2,000 Church offices to raise funds.



Luther's birthplace

Martin Luther was born November 10th, 1483. He was the oldest of 7 children who grew up with very strict parents. The children were taught to fear the Lord, that God was a frightening, wrathful avenger. When he was older Luther's parents sent him to the University of Erfurt where he studied philosophy. At the university, he saw a complete Latin Bible for the first time and prayed

for one of his very own. He graduated with a degree in philosophy. Luther's father wanted him to be a lawyer. He began the study of law, but he also began to doubt the state of his own soul. One night he was caught in a terrible storm. He prayed for help and promised he would become a monk if he was saved. Luther was saved, and he kept his promise.

The life of a monk required strict devotion and obedience; he prayed 7 hours a day. His main motive was concern for his own salvation. Luther received the complete Latin Bible he had prayed for from a superior. While Luther was a very devoted monk, he could not find peace in his soul. The Scriptures made him feel sinful and that brought him great despair.

In 1502, the Elector of Saxony, known as Frederick the Wise, founded the University of Wittenberg. Because a new university had a small income, the Elector used monks from the nearby monastery as professors. In 1508, the Elector invited Martin Luther to be a professor of philosophy at the university. It is at the University of Wittenberg where Luther spent most of his life and work. Soon, Luther was persuaded to get his Ph.D. in theology. And on October 18, 1512, at age 28, he received his Ph.D. Luther taught theology of the Bible and preferred to be called Doctor of Holy Scriptures. In 1515, Luther began an intensive study of

Luther was furious! Luther was convinced that forgiveness could not be bought or obtained through any human effort. Luther wrote a letter to his superiors attacking the Indulgence trade and called for scholarly debate on the subject by drafting 95 arguments and posting them to the Castle Church. He had no preconceived plan. He just saw a moral and religious wrong and rose to fight it. A translation was published and spread across Germany, and within two weeks, the Indulgence cash receipts fell significantly. This angered the Pope. He summoned Luther to Rome to answer a charge of heresy. Luther petitioned the Elector Frederick the Wise to hold the trial in Germany because he feared going to Rome would mean certain death for him. The Elector's confidential secretary happened to be a close friend of Luther's and had strong influence on the Elector. This relationship secured a devoted supporter and protector for Luther for many years. The trial was moved to Germany. The Church demanded Luther recant or he and his followers would be arrested and punished. Luther attended but was not allowed to defend himself. The Pope then sent a representative to Luther with three demands. First, he needed to correct his errors in his Theses; second, he needed to promise never to teach his arguments; and third, he needed to refrain from anything that disturbed the peace of the Church.

When Luther asked what errors he had made and tried to discuss them, he was cut off and commanded to revoke. He would not.

“I cannot and will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. Here I stand, I can do no other, so help me God. Amen.”

On his way home, a false kidnapping of Luther was staged by supporters, and Luther went into hiding for almost a year. During this time, Luther translated the New Testament into German. In printed form, this was a masterpiece. He later went on to translate the Old Testament.



Wartburg Castle, Germany where Luther was taken after being “kidnapped” and where he translated the New Testament into German.

When Luther returned to Wittenberg the Pope wanted him brought as a prisoner to Rome or banished from his own country. Frederick the Wise refused and insisted on a fair trial. Luther prepared for the worst and appealed to the general council of the Holy Roman Empire. He feared excommunication. But because the state of agitation was so high in Germany, Rome hesitated and decided to try one more thing to silence Luther. An agreement was made. Luther would stay quiet on the most controversial matters if his opponents stopped attacking him. But another controversy soon arose. On June 27, 1519, Luther was challenged to dispute another professor. Not only did Luther disagree with the sale of indulgences but the Pope’s right to sell them. For five days the two scholars argued the 13th Thesis about the supremacy of the Pope and the Roman Catholic Church. Luther argued that Christ, not the Pope, is the head of the Church and that commitment to the Roman Catholic Church was not necessary for salvation. Luther questioned the Pope and the Church council because they were subject to error. He stated only the Bible was infallible. Because of these statements, Luther was believed to be a heathen.

A Papal Bull, or public decree by the Pope, was released threatening excommunication and condemning Luther’s teachings. Again, Frederick the Wise insisted on a fair trial for Luther. Luther replied to the Bull by admonishing the Pope. It would be a violation of Luther’s conscience to retreat. The Pope demanded that Luther’s writings be burned. In response, Luther publicly burned the Pope’s Bull and then wrote about it. This act was in effect a separation from Rome, a declaration of independence from the Pope.

Luther never wanted to organize a new church. The Catholic Church was already a finely developed church. But guided by his conscience, courage, and faith, Martin Luther challenged the powerful hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church and accused it of misusing the Christian religion. By demanding reform, he sparked the most important grass roots religious movement in the Western world and gave birth to the Protestant faith. He continued to lead the Reformation until his death on Feb 18, 1546.



House where Luther died

Additional facts about Martin Luther:

- Luther is responsible for reducing the number of sacraments from 7 in the Catholic Church to the 2 we are familiar with in the Lutheran Church: Baptism and Communion.
- Luther is responsible for the order in which we worship during our services.
- Luther wanted singing in church and wrote dozens of hymns himself. “Why should the devil have all the good music?” Martin Luther
- Excluding Bible translations, Luther had more than 500 publications, including the Large and Small Catechism.
- After great consideration, Luther believed that celibacy was a human regulation created by Rome and not God. Because of this belief, Protestant ministers can marry and have children.
- Luther married a former nun, Katarina von Bora, and together they had 6 children.

Source: *Here I Stand! The Life and Legacy of Martin Luther* (DVD)



NEW DISCIPLES AT BETHEL

We were blessed to receive into membership three new families in June. All three families have children, and we are happy to “introduce” them so that you might welcome them and know some of their stories!



**ERIN & LARRY
ECKERT**
CHARLIE & HENRY

Larry (Jr.) and Erin Eckert have two children, Charles, age 5, and Henry, age 2. They look forward to adding to their family in January as little Eckert #3 arrives. Larry works at the Larry M. Eckert Agency for American Family Insurance. At the moment, Erin is keeping busy at home in Noblesville on Morse Lake with the two little ones and preparing for the next little Eckert arrival in January! They have transferred from Holy Spirit at Geist. They commented that everyone here at Bethel is “consistently friendly and welcoming”-- they did not feel like “just another number.” They feel the Pastors and staff are very approachable with the overall “climate here open and friendly.” Erin was encouraged to join MOMS right away, even before membership. They hosted the Wine and Canvas Social Ladies’ Night and their children began attending the Preschool. They are open to volunteering when possible. When not busy with work or necessary home duties, they enjoy boating, swimming, camping, hiking, fishing and time with family and friends. Larry particularly enjoys bass fishing and Erin indoor/sand volleyball. Busy people! They normally attend the 9:30 a.m. Sunday service.



**SARAH & KEVIN
MOORE**
KATHLEEN & DAVID

Kevin and Sarah Moore have transferred from Cicero Christian Church. They reside in Noblesville. Two children complete their home, David age 12 and Katie, 10. David attends Noblesville West Middle School while Katie is at Hinkle Creek.

Kevin is a programmer and Sarah is also working outside the home as a claims adjuster. As a family, they enjoy gardening, reading, music, swimming, and traveling. Also “important to this family is their dog, a Beagle named Norman!”

The Moores mentioned the “welcoming, family atmosphere” here at Bethel and that they intend to be active here. They will usually be at the 9:30 service, though if service times change, they may attend the later service.



**CHRISTINE & STEVE
WYATT**
ASHLEY & EMILY

Steve and Christine Wyatt have joined Bethel, transferring from St. John’s Lutheran Church in Joliet, Illinois. They have two daughters, Ashley, age 6, and Emily age 5. The family also counts two cats as part of their family. Having been active members at St. John’s for over 10 years, they already volunteered at VBS and Christine assisted in the rummage sale. They have expressed interest in our music areas, Steve as a drummer and Christine plays bells. They live in Fishers and the girls will be attending Thorpe Creek Elementary school, Ashley in 2nd grade and Emily in kindergarten.

Steve is an Instructional Designer for U.S. Customs and Border Protection and Christine holds down the home front. They like “spending time outdoors with the girls; Christine enjoys helping at school functions.” Steve also spends time as Jr. Vice Commander at the Carmel VFW. Positives for them here at Bethel include “the friendly congregation and the variety of different ministries with so many volunteers.” Currently, they attend the 11 a.m. service.



Don’t forget to welcome these new families and make it easier for them to know who you are by wearing your name badges!



By Zach and Jeff Reising

The Bethel Peace Trail has become the springboard of many new projects that will strengthen our congregation for a long time to come. So how did the story unfold and where is it going in the future?

PLANNING

The first step in doing an Eagle Scout Service Project is to develop an idea to help the community or a group with the project. Zack Reising knew he wanted to do something involving Bethel. After discussing it with his parents, a walking path to a peace garden or labyrinth excited him. Meetings with Joe Rudy, Kirk Pfeil and others in July of 2015 helped Zack morph the idea into a walking trail. He immediately wanted it to encircle the whole property but decided to focus on getting a walking path out back that could draw people to the shelter and fire pit. Meetings with his adult Scout Leaders, temporarily slammed the brakes on Zack's idea,



Zach presents his plan to the church council.

when they suggested it was too big — too much to handle. A very frustrated Scout decided to scale it back into phases to make it seem more palatable, but quietly, Zack told his parents he was going to “go big or go home.”

Church council approval allowed fund-raising efforts began, including presentations at each service of his project. Within 5 weeks, over \$10,000 in donations of cash, materials, equipment and manpower had been raised.

It was time to build the trail!

BUILDING THE TRAIL

A mild winter allowed for a late February/March 2016 start on the project. Bobcats and operators were coordinated to excavate 6 inches of soil from the trail path. Over 380 tons of soil were moved and shaped around the trail to create landscape planting mounds. In Late March, landscape fabric was laid prior to the delivery of 400 tons of crushed limestone. Much of this stone was placed on the trail and on a snowy Saturday morning in April over 65 volunteers came out to rake, level and compact over 2200' of trail. Subsequent weekends allowed for the final stone placements to be made, with finishing touches including some unplanned



Volunteers working on the trail.

trees and a sign that Zack had made with his own donation at the trail entrance. Done!! Over 450 volunteer hours helped make it possible. Fantastic support by the congregation and friends of the family in the world of Cerebral Palsy, made this a truly special project. On a warm June day after the 11 a.m. service, it was formally dedicated as many supporters, family and friends stood by. What has made it even more special are the projects that have and are springing up because of it. Truly a legacy project that keeps on giving.

THE BRIDGE

When Zack shared his project idea with the High School Youth Group that meets on Wednesday nights, everyone was so excited. They wanted to do something to help Zack and be involved to help the church, too. With Joe Rudy's initial guidance, a group of the kids, put together a grant proposal to the United Way Youth As Resources (known now as Youth Engagement Team) for funds to build a bridge over the drainage swale so the trail wouldn't



Finished bridge financed by youth grant.

get flooded when it rained. They won the grant and were able to build a beautiful, long lasting bridge that adds character to the trail and the back of the Bethel property. Zack was very moved by this effort and gesture from his fellow high schoolers. It was a great moment of friendship, teamwork and service to the church that was born out of the trail. It is now a visible structure that can draw the attention of the congregation and the community to come and walk the Peace Trail, and improve the health of your mind body and soul.

LEGACY PROGRAM AND MORE

In the spring of 2017, the Legacy Program, to honor and memorialize our family and friends, began and has completely sold out. 41 trees and 7 benches were sold. The trees have all been installed and benches will be on the grounds very soon, adding to the trails amenities. Additionally, 14 Stations of the Cross markers were installed in time for a very moving ceremony on Good Friday.



Volunteers planting trees.

What's next? An extension of the trail from Station 14 to the bridge will be done soon, along with topdressing the trail with a finer stone. Both will allow easier handicap accessibility. A stone parking overflow lot has been completed and plans are being developed for the trail to connect to the church via the Narthex door on the east side of the building that will allow for other longer range items to take shape, such as a serenity garden and columbarium project. It's so much more than an Eagle Scout Project, it's a dynamic engine of growth for Bethel Lutheran.

EAGLE SCOUT



Eagle Scout is Boy Scouting's highest rank. The requirements include: live by the Scout Oath and Scout Law in daily life, be active in the Scout unit, earn 21 Merit Badges, provide leadership and service over several years, and lead a major service project for a community organization.



On February 16, 2017, Zack completed his Board of Review and became an Eagle Scout. After 6 years in Boy Scouts, he achieved its' highest rank and became part of the 5% who attain this honor. Perseverance and a positive attitude to not give up regardless of your challenges made it a reality.



Eagle Scout Zach Reising



NALC

North American Lutheran Church

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH IS A MEMBER OF THE NORTH AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH (NALC).

CORE VALUES OF THE NALC

Christ-Centered † Mission-Driven † Traditionally-Grounded † Congregationally-Focused

The NALC is a fast-growing Christian church in the Lutheran tradition, uniting more than 141,000 Lutherans over 400 congregations across North America. The NALC embodies the theological center of Lutheranism in North America and stands firmly within the global Lutheran mainstream.

We are a church family committed to the authority of the Bible as the inspired Word of God. In keeping with the Lutheran Confessions, we believe all doctrines should and must be judged by the teaching of Scripture.

The NALC has embraced four core values which shape our common life: Christ Centered, Mission Driven, Traditionally Grounded, and Congregationally Focused. We are a church centered on the unique Gospel of Jesus Christ, animated by missions and evangelism, grounded in the 2,000-year tradition of Christian faith, and organized chiefly to serve our congregations.

A renewed Lutheran community moving forward in faith, the NALC is focused on living out Christ's Great Commission to go and make disciples in North America and around the globe. We invite you to learn more about

our church family.

The NALC was constituted on August 27, 2010, in Columbus, Ohio, at a Convocation organized



by the church reform movement **Lutheran CORE**. One year earlier, a similar gathering of Lutheran CORE had directed its leadership to develop new organizational alternatives for faithful Lutheran Christians in North America. In response to numerous requests from congregations for the creation of a new Lutheran church, Lutheran CORE developed **A Vision and Plan** for the North American Lutheran Church and Lutheran CORE, published in February 2010. Six months later, our new church was formed.

The constituting Convocation was attended by nearly 1,000 members and visitors from across North America. A number of

other churches sent leaders to greet the Convocation, including the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ, and the Anglican Church in North America. Bishop Benson Bagonza of the Karagwe Diocese, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, preached at the closing worship and, along with retired Bishop Ken Sauer, installed the Rev. Paull E. Spring as the first Bishop of the NALC.

The NALC has been blessed with extraordinarily rapid growth. At the time of the constituting Convocation in August 2010, seventeen congregations had voted to join the NALC. Six years later, that number had grown to more than 400 congregations. Of those, roughly 70 are mission congregations, reflecting the priority placed on missions and evangelism by the NALC. We give thanks to God for all that has been accomplished, and seek His guidance as we move into the future with excitement.



ASK THE PASTOR



IS THERE SOMETHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO ASK?

By Pastor Al Schoonover

One of the most frequent questions I have received revolves around what Lutherans believe about the end of time (“eschatology”). Specifically, when will Jesus come again, and do we have to worry about being “left behind”?

When we talk about eschatology, there are really two core questions: “What is going to happen?” and “How is what will happen going to happen?” Based on Jesus’ own teachings, as well as the letters of Paul and Peter, our three historical Creeds – the Apostles’ Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed – are clear in answering the first question: At the end of time, Jesus will come again to judge the living and the dead. Those judged righteous will enjoy eternal life, while those judged unrighteous will suffer eternal separation from God. The world as we know it will end, replaced with a “new heaven” and a “new earth.”



How (and when) what is going to happen will happen is a more difficult question to answer. The visions of Daniel and Revelation, along with Jesus’ parables give us hints, but we should resist the temptation to patch them together

to create a timeline or sequence of events against which we can evaluate current-day events to “prove” when Jesus will return. Even Jesus was ignorant about the exact how and when of it all: *But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.* (Mark 13:32, ESV) On occasion, Jesus would tell parables and vivid stories about divine judgment that awaited all (The End of the Age, Matthew 24:3-14; The Abomination of Desolation, Matthew 24:15-28; The Coming of the Son of Man,

Matthew 24:29-32; The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats, Matthew 25:31-46). Many of his sayings end with a similar exhortation: “Therefore, stay awake . . .” (Matthew 24:42). Therefore, you also must be ready . . .” (Matthew 24:44). “Watch, therefore . . .” (Matthew 25:13). Jesus means for these teachings to motivate us for ministry and to help us be clear about our own relationship with God.

Will Lutherans Be “Left Behind”?

Thanks to authors Hal Lindsey (*The Late, Great Planet Earth*, 1970), and Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins (the *Left Behind* series, 1995-2004), there is renewed interest in how and when Jesus will return. These authors draw their perspective from the teachings of an Anglican priest named John Nelson Darby who came to this country in 1830. Darby divided God’s relationship with us into seven ages, or dispensations. His understanding included a “rapture” in which Christians will be snatched up to heaven before the beginning of an increasingly hellish seven-year tribulation. He bases this on Paul’s first letter to the Thessalonians: *Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up* (Latin: *rapiemur*) *together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.* (4:17, ESV)

The *Left Behind* series envisions the following sequence of events at the end of time:

-)] This current age ends with a secret return of Christ and a rapture of believers.
-)] A seven-year tribulation for non-believers left behind, during which some may come to faith.
-)] A visible return of Jesus, who then judges the righteous from the unrighteous (Matthew 25:31-46).

-)] The final dispensation of a 1000-year reign of Christ on earth (Revelation 20).
-)] The final resurrection of the just (to heaven) and unjust (to hell).
-)] The inauguration of Jesus’ new heaven and new earth (Revelation 21).

Prior to Darby’s teachings, there is no indication that any Christian church embraced this sequence of events, including Jesus’ secret return and rapture of believers. Rather, Christians affirmed what we profess in the Creeds, that Jesus will come again visibly at some undisclosed time to judge – once and for all – the living and the dead. The context of Paul’s teaching in 1 Thessalonians 4:17 is important, for in the previous verse Paul writes, *For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.* (4:16, ESV) The

“FOR THE LORD HIMSELF WILL COME DOWN FROM HEAVEN, WITH A LOUD COMMAND.”

1 Thessalonians 4:16, NIV



“cry of command,” “voice of an archangel,” and “sound of the trumpet” indicate that when Christians are “caught up” the overwhelming sound will be heard by all people. Jesus confirms this when he says, *Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.* (Matthew 24:30, ESV) At least

Continued on page 24.

SEASONS & HOLY DAYS

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8 (NIV)

THE SEASON AFTER PENTECOST

By Carole Kuhn

The Christian world celebrates the Season after Pentecost beginning on the Monday following Pentecost Sunday in late spring. It continues through the summer ending on Christ the King Sunday in late fall, traditionally known as the last day of the Church year. This makes the Season the largest season of the liturgical year. It covers most of the time Jesus was on earth teaching and working his miracles.

This is a time to continue to develop our relationship with the risen Christ. We are reminded of Jesus' gift of salvation which should encourage our growth in Christ, and help us focus on the work of the Church in the world.

Throughout the days of celebration we share a time of praise, fellowship and spiritual renewal. It is suggested as a time to keep our confirmation promise to help make disciples of all nations by reaching out to others and to share the gift of God's love. In a sense, we should think of this "season" as a time to let God help us build bridges with others in our Christian faith.

Church "seasons" are also identified by a chosen color. For the Season after Pentecost, the usual color is green, as in the trees and plants around us at this time of year. It reminds us of the growth given to our lives through Jesus' sacrifice.

LUTHERAN CHRISTIANS

WHO WE ARE - WHAT WE BELIEVE

By Susan Adda

The Bethel Service...What we do (and why)

"For where two or three come together in my name, there I am with them." Matthew 18:20



Whether you are new to attending a Bethel Lutheran service or have been attending for a long time, understanding the aspects of the service help you to understand this special moment you are sharing with God and celebrating His presence.

The service has been carefully planned for worshippers so that we may place our hearts, minds, and souls into His care and help us understand the liturgy and logic to living a Christian life.

Understanding what is said and done within the service will create the foundation for a meaningful experience.

We begin with the **INVOCATION**: "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." These words are a reminder that we enter God's presence to worship Him as we were made his children through baptism.

CONFESION & FORGIVENESS

Bethel

CONFESION AND FORGIVENESS: In every service we humbly confess our sins to God and then gladly hear His proclamation that each and every one of them has been forgiven.

APOSTOLIC GREETING: In the Salutation, the pastor and the congregation greet each other in the Lord's name. "The Lord be with you." (pastor) "And also with you." (congregation)

KYRIE/KYRIE ELEISON: Kyrie Eleison is Greek for "Lord, have mercy." It is a cry to the Lord for help and strength and dates from Old Testament times.

HYMNS and SONGS OF PRAISE: Grateful and joyful sounds express our thankfulness for forgiveness and confirm our faith.



PRAYER OF THE DAY: This prayer fits the theme for the day.



WORD OF GOD AND SERMON: The first Bible reading may be taken from the Old Testament or the Epistles - the part of the New Testament after the Gospel of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Here we receive instructions of the Christian life. The Gospel reading centers on the life and words of Jesus. It is often the key to the theme for the day, main event, or lesson which we are commemorating. We stand

to hear the words of Christ our King, just like people stood in the presence of royalty in ancient times. The sermon teaches how God's word applies to our Christian life.

CREED: After the sermon, we proclaim what we believe. We make that proclamation using the words of the Nicene or the Apostles Creed.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION/ PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: We join to pray to God about specific joys and troubles in our church and in the Church around the world. At Bethel, these prayers are written by members of the congregation.



THE PEACE: We share the greeting of peace as Jesus said after His resurrection - "Peace be with you."

OFFERING: Our offerings are for the support of the church. They enable the church to provide the written and spoken word of God, Christian education, pastoral care, and a helping hand to those in need. The gifts of God's people are a response to God's blessings "as God has prospered them." (1 Corinthians 16:2)



COMMUNION: In the Lord's Supper or Holy Communion, we are united with our brothers and sisters in faith as we approach God's altar to receive the body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith. Lutherans

believe that Jesus Christ is truly present in, with, and under the bread and wine.

LORD'S PRAYER: We pray to God as our Father using the prayer of the family of God - the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples and us.

BENEDICTION: We receive the same blessing that God gave to the ancient Israelites. The blessing is God's promise that Christ will go with us as we leave the church and return to the world to serve Him.



As you leave the sanctuary, look overhead to read the words "**You are now entering the mission field.**" We are to go forth into our week sharing the knowledge and teachings of our Lord with others.

CHURCH HISTORY

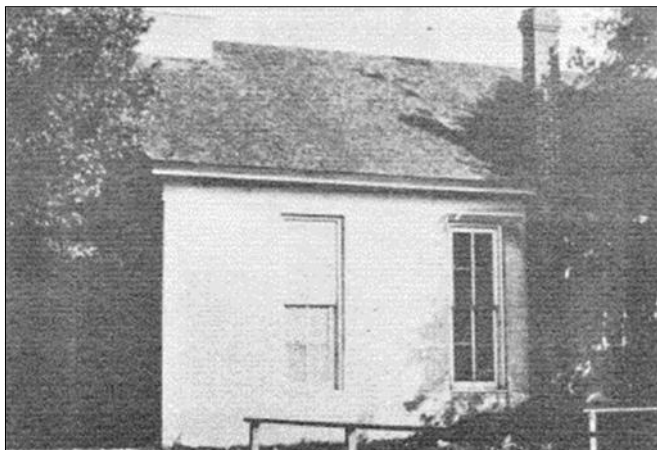
BETHEL BEGINNINGS: 1856-1929

Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized in a broom shop in Cicero on October 12, 1856. The Rev. Ambrose H. Scherer, pastor of Mt. Pleasant Church near Arcadia, met with 8 charter members to organize the congregation. The 8 charter members were: Michael Brown, David Garber, David Kistler, Charlotte Kepner, Francis Kepner, Samuel Kepner, John Applegate, and Jacob Kepner.

From 1856 to 1864, the school house in Cicero was used for a meeting place. The first church building was completed in 1864 at a cost of \$1,427.85. It measured 32' x 48' and was located at the corner of Cass and Pearl Streets in Cicero.



Interior of the church at Cass and Pearl Streets. Picture dates from 1896-1908 (45-star flag).



The original church at Cass & Pearl Streets – built 1864.

In 1875, the congregation installed a reed organ in the church building, later replaced by a piano, and eventually in 1947 by a Wicks pipe organ.

In 1873, a parsonage was bought, repaired, and furnished with a pastor's study at a total cost of \$850. This was replaced in 1929 with the purchase of a property on S. Harrison Street.



Rev. Ambrose Henkle Scherer was born in North Carolina on November 22, 1822. When he was 15, his parents moved to Hendricks County, Indiana. While working in the woods, he felt he had a direct call, "Ambrose, I need thee in My vineyard." He walked to Olney, Illinois, to study with his uncle, a graduate of Gettysburg College. He was licensed to preach in 1852 and was pastor of the neighboring Mt. Pleasant church when he started the church in Cicero. He organized a total of 17 Lutheran churches in central Indiana. Rev. Scherer died in 1892. He is buried in Sharpville Cemetery, Tipton County, Indiana.

Historical Highlights

1856 – Mt. Pleasant's Pastor Ambrose H. Scherer met with 8 persons in a broom shop in Cicero and organized a Lutheran congregation in Cicero, naming it Bethel Lutheran. They met for services in a school in Cicero.

1862 – Ten families were assessed \$4.40 each to obtain funds to purchase a lot in Cicero for \$44.40. A resolution was passed to build a brick building.

1864 – The building cost \$1,427.85. This left a surplus in the building fund of \$56.15. This building still stands at the corner of Cass and Pearl Streets.

1873 – Bethel purchased a parsonage on Buckeye Street and repaired it for a total cost of \$850.00.

1875 – By a ballot of 25-9, the congregation voted to purchase a reed organ for the church.

1898 – Bethel ladies and young people earned \$275.00 to buy new pews. These pews were used until 1964, when they were sold for \$500.00.

1913 – Pastor M.L. Smith was the first pastor to own an automobile.

1917 – Three men on Church Council (Martin Luther Bishop, Otto K. Jensen, and Harry Scherer) went into the service during World War I. Their places were filled by three ladies of the congregation. This is of particular interest because women did not gain the right to vote until 1920.

1929 – Jacob G. Kepner, oldest living lifelong member of Bethel congregation, tossed out the first shovel of earth in groundbreaking for the second Bethel building.



CHURCH MUSIC

By Carole Kuhn

Martin Luther, 1483-1546, was not only known for his deep-seated beliefs that led to the Reformation, he was also a very creative musician. Born into a musical family, as a young person he was in a boys' choir and played the flute. Stories about his musical love and talent include that he earned money for school fees by singing in the streets of Eisenach, Germany, and playing the lute. He is quoted as saying "Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world..."

His first hymnal was published in 1524 containing eight hymns, four written by Luther. Over his lifetime, he, with others, composed for church choirs, organ, and other instruments. He is credited with having revised many Latin hymns to German texts, and having written 36 or 37 hymns.



But his most famous hymn is still well recognized today in the Christian world, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God." He based the words on Psalm 46, "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." (NIV) It became known as the Battle Hymn of the

Reformation as it seemingly increased the support for the Reformers' cause.

Today, it is one of the best-loved hymns of the Lutheran church and many other Protestant denominations.

There are other theories as to why Luther wrote this hymn from it being what he and others sang marching into Worms for the Diet to it being a tribute to a friend executed in 1527. The earliest available hymnal in which it appeared is from 1531. Sweden was noted as using it like an anthem during the Thirty Years' War. There are a variety of English translations, up to 100, with different versions used by different denominations. Lutherans have mainly used the 1868 translation though a newer translation was completed in 1978. Some churches only sing the first verse, but they should understand that the "he" referred to in the final lines of that verse refers to the devil!

It is said the song is a "picture" of Luther...bold, confident, and defiant...in both words and melody. At the base of the monument to Luther in Wittenberg, Germany, is engraved the first line of lyrics of this hymn.

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

"Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott"



*A mighty fortress is our God,
a sword and shield victorious;
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod
and wins salvation glorious.*

*The old satanic foe
has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might
he arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.*

*No strength of ours can match his might!
We would be lost, rejected.*

*But now a champion comes to fight,
whom God himself elected.*

You ask who this may be?

The Lord of hosts is he!

Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,

God's only Son, adored.

He holds the field victorious.

*Though hordes of devils fill the land
all threat'ning to devour us,
we tremble not, unmoved we stand;
they cannot over-pow'r us.*

Let this world's tyrant rage;

in battle we'll engage!

His might is doomed to fail;

God's judgment must prevail!

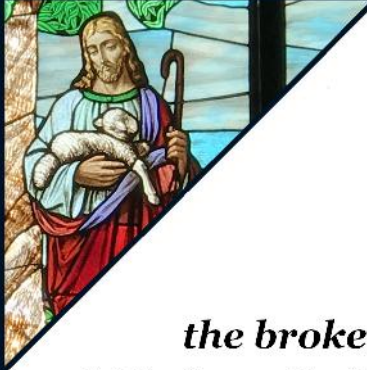
One little word subdues him.

*God's Word forever shall abide,
no thanks to foes, who fear it;
for God Himself fights by our side
with weapons of the Spirit.*

*Were they to take our house,
goods, honor, child, or spouse,
though life be wrenched away,
they cannot win the day.*

The kingdom's ours forever!

CARING CORNER



***He Heals
the broken in heart
and binds up their wounds.***

Psalm 147:3

On the first Wednesday in May, Bethel began to hold a special worship experience . . . a service of healing prayers, as well as Holy Communion. Though this service might be new to many of Bethel's people, the practice of laying-on of hands for healing with anointing is an ancient one, as old as the church itself. When Jesus sent out his first disciples two by two, he empowered them with a commission to "anoint many with oil who were sick and to cure them." (Mark 6:13) As you read through the experiences of the early church in the book of Acts, they too were gathered in prayer, in faith and calling on the name of Jesus for healing. Acts 28 recalls one of those stories, *"His father was sick in bed, suffering from fever and dysentery. Paul went in to see him and, after prayer, placed his hands on him and healed him."*



The New Testament writer James asked those who were part of his community of faith: *"¹³Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. ¹⁴Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up;*

and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. ¹⁶Therefore confess YOUR sins to one another, and PRAY for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective." James 5:13-16

CARE MINISTRY

BETHEL HEALING SERVICE

At least for the first seven centuries of the church's existence, gathering for prayer and anointing were common parts of the life of the body of Christ. In recent years the church has rediscovered the power of this ancient practice of our Christian life together. By participating in the act of anointing, we reaffirm not only the miracles that come through modern medicine and the doctors and medical teams that serve so effectively and skillfully, but also the effective healing that comes through God's healing presence in every area of our lives. As Pastor Doug has always said, "Good doctors, good medicine and good prayers are a powerful combination."



What is shared in this time together is neither the stuff of TV evangelists, nor is it what is commonly known as "faith healing." However, those present at the services call on the name of Jesus in faith and do so in the belief that God is the author and the source of all healing. Whatever brings people to the services, whatever problem or trial they are facing, whatever hardship or heartache they bring, they should know that God loves them and God cares.



The services held so far have been blessings to those present, and many have mentioned that they have felt the power of the Spirit's presence, and are strengthened for their journey ahead.

Everyone is welcome to the healing services. Even if you do not feel the need for healing, being present to lay hands on others and pray for them can be a powerful spiritual experience! As Jesus says in John 1:39 "Come and see."

MISSIONS

“WE ARE ALL ONE IN MISSION”

IGLESIA LUTERANA SAN PEDRO, MIAMI, FL



By Gay Hanson

One of the fundamental tenets of Missions at Bethel is that we want to build **relationships** with our Mission Partners. Iglesia Luterana San Pedro (St. Peter’s Lutheran Church) of Miami, Florida, is an excellent example of this. Since 2012, Bethel and San Pedro have built a relationship based on our common call to “make disciples.”

A strong Christian friendship has developed between Pastor Doug Gast & his family and Pastor Eddy Perez & his family.



The pastors talk, email, visit, and support each other. Christian relationships have also developed between Bob & Gay Hanson and the Perez family. Members of Bethel have visited and worshipped at San Pedro. Pastor Doug has preached at San Pedro, and Pastor Eddy has preached at Bethel.

This summer, Pastor Eddy’s family was able to come with him on his visit to Bethel. They were warmly accepted into the life of our community through sightseeing, visits to a museum and a farm, axe throwing, boating on the reservoir, and the “Symphony on the Prairie”



4th of July Concert. Pastor Doug even let them ride his John Deere lawn tractor!



Most importantly, they participated in the worship life of Bethel. Pastor Eddy preached at all four services. His daughter Elisabet sang with the Praise Band and the



Saturday evening singers, and she sang solos at the other Sunday

services. Debora, his younger daughter, sat in the Audio Visual (AV)



booth at all four services, learning and helping to work our AV. Her experiences will help San Pedro to build up their AV system. Wife Yuddy contributed her support with her presence and some great Cuban food for various get-togethers.

Many Bethel members had the opportunity not only to hear Eddy’s message but to speak to him

personally. Those who purchased his book, *The Blowing Wind*, will be able to get to know this man of God on an even deeper level through his personal faith story.



In his ministry, Pastor Eddy also builds relationships for Christ. San Pedro averages between 50-60 people each Sunday, and the radio program, Pastor Eddy does three times a week reaches out with the Word of Christ to Spanish-speaking people throughout South Florida to Cuba and beyond.

Many of the people who come to San Pedro are legal



immigrants who have heard his voice on the radio and know they can find help, comfort, and the Word of God at his church. Because they are new to the U.S., these people often come to his church needing to learn basics, such as using a checking account. As they get more comfortable in their new country and get better jobs, they move on. However, they do so having heard the message of Christ, which is often just as new to them! For Eddy, it is a very rewarding ministry of building relationships for God, first through his voice and then in person!



Support for these ministries is part of Bethel’s Missions effort. Our joy and reward comes from the special relationships we are building with Eddy, his family, the disciples of San Pedro, and the world beyond through his radio ministry. Glory be to God!

CHRISTIAN

CHILDREN AND YOUTH



Sunday School for children ages kindergarten through 5th grade begins at 10:00 a.m. Children will gather in the Christian Ed room upstairs until 10:00 a.m. when the teachers will greet and walk them to their classrooms. Children will gather back in the Christian Ed room at 10:45 a.m. for a large-group recap of the lesson and announcements. They are dismissed to parents from there at 11:00 a.m.

Nursery — Infants and toddlers under 3 are welcomed into our nursery during the 8:45 service. Nursery attendants 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. 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. The curriculum follows the weekly worship themes. The focus for this group is growing in faith and learning the basic stories and Lutheran concepts that will prepare them for Confirmation in middle school.

High School — 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.



Confirmation

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 the 11:11 a.m. service to 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.



MIDWEEK: High School Youth Ministry

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 & Lows. 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.



Baptism Class

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 the support they can expect to receive from the church.



First Communion Class

Children in 4th grade and up learn about God's promises and the importance of Holy Communion. Classes are held each Spring during the Sunday School hour, beginning in Lent and culminating with the Rite of First Communion on Maundy Thursday. For more information, speak with Kris Lingenfelter .



Discovery: Becoming a Disciple of Jesus

Next Class: Sundays — September 24 to October 15, 2017

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 at 317-773-4315 or talk to one of the pastors to register.

EDUCATION

ADULTS

Sundays

New Adult Classes Start August 27th

Coffee time: 9:40 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Class from 10:00 a.m. - 10:55 a.m.



Ask the Question—Chapel
Led by Jason Pearson & Lu Olp

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—Library
Led by Suzy Patterson & Tree Rudy

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 welcome!

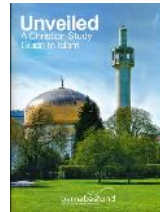
Adult Sunday School Class



An Introduction to Islam for Christians — Fellowship Hall
Through October 1

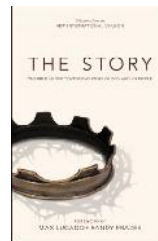
Led by Bob & Gay Hanson, Jim Herr, Greg Marshall, Pastor Martins Irbe, Cathy Crosley, and Pastor Doug

- Aug 27 Muhammad
- Sept 3 The Qur'an
- Sept 10 The Five Pillars of Islam
- Sept 17 The Spread of Islam
- Sept 24 Women and Islam
- Oct 1 Christianity & Islam / Know Our Faith



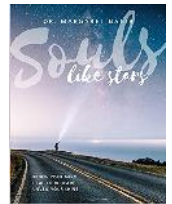
The Story — Room 215
Through December 17

The "Greatest Story Ever Told" is more than just a cliché. God has gone to great lengths to rescue lost and hurting people. That is what *The Story* is all about: the story of the Bible, God's great love affair with humans. During the course of this school year, we will get a birds-eye view of God's story with us, exploring 31 chapters in God's relationship with us. No previous experience with the Bible needed.



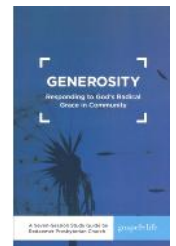
Souls Like Stars: Renew Your Mind, Heal Your Heart, Unveil Your Shine — Room 214-216
Through December 3

Join Pastor Joe Freeman as we explore the stories of real people - people much like you - who once felt hopeless and helpless. Thanks to God's transformative love and presence, they experienced true love and their hearts were unveiled. Like stars reflect the light of the sun, you and I were created to reflect the glory of our Heavenly Father. Text available for purchase (\$25).



Generosity: Responding to God's Radiant Grace—Fellowship Hall
Oct 8 – Nov 19 (no class Oct 29)

According to the Bible, generosity is so much more than being generous with your money. The source of generosity that is truly radical is a gospel-transformed heart that has received the costly grace of God. The group will have a chance to explore passages from the book of Luke on generosity.



During the Week

Sausage and Scripture - Fellowship Hall

Men's Breakfast and Bible Study meets Saturdays at 7:30 a.m. For more information, please contact Kevin Hardie (765-432-6211).

Women on Wednesdays - first upstairs classroom in the education building. Meets on Wednesday mornings at 9:15 a.m. for Bible study. Contact Mary Jo Mikulski with questions (260-403-5525).

Monthly Bethel Book Clubs for Women

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

The second group meets **Saturdays** at 11:00 a.m. at Harbour Trees Golf Club. Each month's study includes lunch. For more information, contact Linda Crist (317-758-6748).

FOCUS ON MINISTRY

STEWARDSHIP

By Tom Foreman

Over the years, I have attended stewardship campaigns at several churches – often these messages focused on the **need** and **responsibility** to give of our blessings. However, there has always been a slightly different perspective that has been interesting to consider, “Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

2 Corinthians 9:7



The concept of a “cheerful giver” evokes mixed emotions when considering a human perspective. In our daily lives, we are focused on bargains, good deals, and freebies are always good! How does this translate to cheerfully giving?

To better understand how we can cheerfully give of our time, gifts, and finances, we should probably first consider the meaning of stewardship. To be a steward is to “manage or look after another’s property.”

Why would providing God what is already His give us cheer? The answer may be a little further in 2 Corinthians 9:11, “You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.”

At Bethel, we are very blessed to



have many activities, many engaged volunteers, and a group of staff and Pastors that continuously look to pursue the mission of the Church in new ways. Every week, we hear of activities that benefit not only members and visitors, but also the community and mission partners. Ministries continue to develop as the needs of the congregation are ever changing. We have also witnessed new projects exceed all expectations in funding and contribution of time and skill, such as the Bethel Peace Trail.

This year, the stewardship campaign will focus not only on recognizing the many existing ministries that use our contributions to glorify God, but also provide insight into some of the long-term goals for new ministries.



By sharing the ways that the many ministries have impacted the lives of members, visitors, and the community, we can celebrate together and experience the cheer that God intends for us to feel as faithful stewards.

We are blessed to be a part of a Church family where gifts of time, skills, and finances are converted to such a wide variety of ministries.

However, we also want to continue to develop and expand the ministries of



the church. By setting long-term goals for the church, we can share in the vision and excitement of new ministries to come.

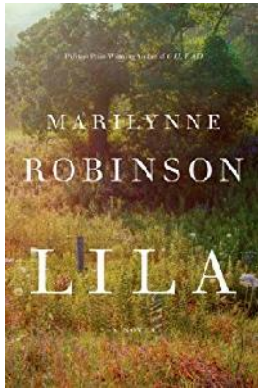
So how does this all tie back into our desire for a good bargain? This year, as we plan our allocation of time, talents, and finances as stewards, we should consider the impact that the ministries of Bethel have had in the past and will have in the future. Whether the food pantry, youth programs, Respite Ranch, preschool, weekly worship services, missions, or any of the many other ministries are most meaningful to you, we can celebrate together that God has blessed us with the opportunity to have such a significant impact by giving so little of what He gave us first.

Thanks be to God not only for trusting us as stewards of the blessings He has bestowed on us but also for providing us with the tools to share these blessings in a way that is fulfilling and brings us closer to each other and to Him.

BOOKS OF INTEREST

Reviews by Connie Wooldridge

Reading level:
adult

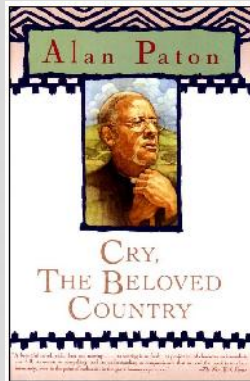


LILA

by Marilynne Robinson

Lila is rescued as a small, motherless child by Doll, who wraps her in a shawl and carries her away just before she dies of utter neglect. The two lead a rough, vagabond life. Doll grows old and mysteriously disappears while the adult Lila lands in an abandoned shack outside the town of Gilead, Iowa. When kind hands reach out to her, she is as wary as a wild animal. Will she be able to accept the love being offered and, more importantly, the faith that stands behind that love? The author never fully answers many of the theological questions she raises in her novels (including *Gilead*, 2004 and *Home*, 2009). But she asks them with respectful boldness. Believers and skeptics alike seem drawn to Marilynne Robinson's books. Perhaps we're all hoping that, should answers come crashing down from heaven on this wonderful, peculiar novelist, we might find ourselves pricked by a flying splinter of red hot spiritual insight.

Reading level:
high school/adult



CRY, THE BELOVED COUNTRY

by Alan Paton

The date is September, 1946. The setting is South Africa. When the Zulu Anglican pastor Stephen Kumalo leaves his tribal village and sets out for Johannesburg in search of his lost son he feels "the fear of a man who lives in a world not made for him...". His journey is a spiritual as well as a physical one that brings him close to losing his faith before ending in both tragedy and triumph. This novel was an immediate best-seller when it was published in 1948 and is still in print. It is searingly beautiful.

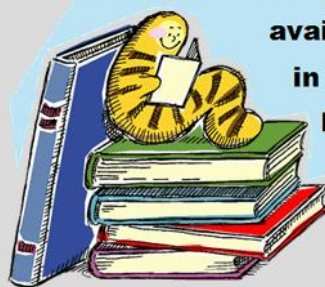
All these books are

available

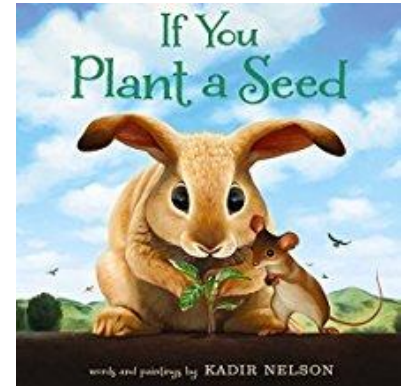
in the

Bethel

Library



Reading level:
ages 3-7



IF YOU PLANT A SEED

Words and paintings
by Kadir Nelson

Seeds - both real ones, like tomatoes, carrots, and cabbages and metaphoric ones like kindness and selfishness - are the subject of this stunning oversized picture book. By the final two-page spread the entire cast of characters (all animals and birds) learn that some seeds grow into a "heap of trouble" and others produce something "very, very sweet."

Picture books are often a young child's first exposure to art and the illustrations here are actual paintings, so meticulously photographed you can see the texture of the canvas. The "reap what you sow" message is straight from the Bible and the illustrations are a feast for the eyes. You can't go wrong with this one!



PARAMENTS AND BANNERS

You may not hear the term “paraments” as common talk at church, but this term is important to a Lutheran church’s identity. The altar and pulpit are usually “dressed” in **paraments**. They transform the worship space visually to reflect the message and mood of each church season. They are in the color of the day—blue, white, red, purple, or green. There is only one time when no paraments are used—Good Friday. On Maundy Thursday, all paraments are removed.



Pulpit Fall

Pastor’s stoles often match the Paraments or are in the same color and have the same or related symbols on them.



Altar Frontal

MEANINGS:

Can you match the meaning with the symbol? (use each only once)

Answers and more information on the symbols may be found on page 26.

- _____ 10 Commandments (Law)
- _____ Feeding the Five Thousand
- _____ First and Last— Beginning and End (Gospel)
- _____ Greek 1st, 2nd, & last letters of the name Jesus
- _____ Jesus



Continued from Page 13 Ask the Pastor
five more biblical passages from Daniel to Revelation affirm that Jesus is coming with clouds and that every eye will see Him (Daniel 7:13; Luke 21:27; Mark 14:62; Acts 1:11; and Revelation 1:7).

Nor does the book of Revelation teach a pre-tribulation rapture of Christians out of the troubles of this world. Instead, it teaches that God will preserve his people in the face of persecution and suffering (Revelation 3:10; 14:12; also Matthew 28:20). Additionally, since Jesus will resurrect all believers and unbelievers on Judgment Day, Revelation states that there will be no second chance for repentance (Revelation 11:18; 20:11-15).

Finally, the *Left Behind* series causes more confusion when it promotes the idea that there is not just one return of Christ (the rapture), nor two (Christ’s return to usher in his 1000-year rule), but three comings of Christ. The last advent, it teaches, will be at the end of the millennial reign or the Great White Throne of Judgment found in Revelation 20:11-15. However, when discussing these events, the Bible uniformly uses singular nouns. We find, for ex-

ample, “time” not times in Daniel 12:1-2; “the hour” not hours in John 5:28-29; “day” not days in Acts 17:31; and “a resurrection” not resurrections in Acts 24:15. Together, these aspects designate one event: Christ’s Second Coming. There is but one future hope for the church, the bodily return of Jesus Christ. This will be the end of history on this earth as we know it, not the beginning of a glorious earthly kingdom.

The Lutheran Church has historically understood the end times from an “amillennial” perspective. We believe that Jesus will not have a literal 1000-year visible earthly kingdom. Rather, we believe that Jesus ascended to heaven after his resurrection (Acts 1:6-11) and is seated at the right hand of God. He is reigning now. The thousand years of Revelation 20:1-10 is understood figuratively as a reference to the time of Christ’s reign as King from the day of his ascension until the Last Day. Accordingly, the millennium is a present reality (Christ’s heavenly reign), not some future hope (a rule of Christ on earth after his return).

So what does this mean? What do we know, if we believe the biblical pictures? We trust that there will be an

end; that the injustices and inequities of our world do not have the final word. Second, we are privileged to hear about this mystery that, whatever is to happen, God is in control. Even if the end comes about through human folly or sin, that end will not occur beyond the scope of God. Third, this end involves Jesus Christ. In Holy Communion, we proclaim: “Christ has died. Christ is risen! Christ will come again!” Ultimately, we take our hope and confidence from the foundation of what Jesus says and promises, not from our ability to decipher some alleged biblical “code” we glean from selected passages of the Bible. Aside from Jesus, all other ground is sinking sand.

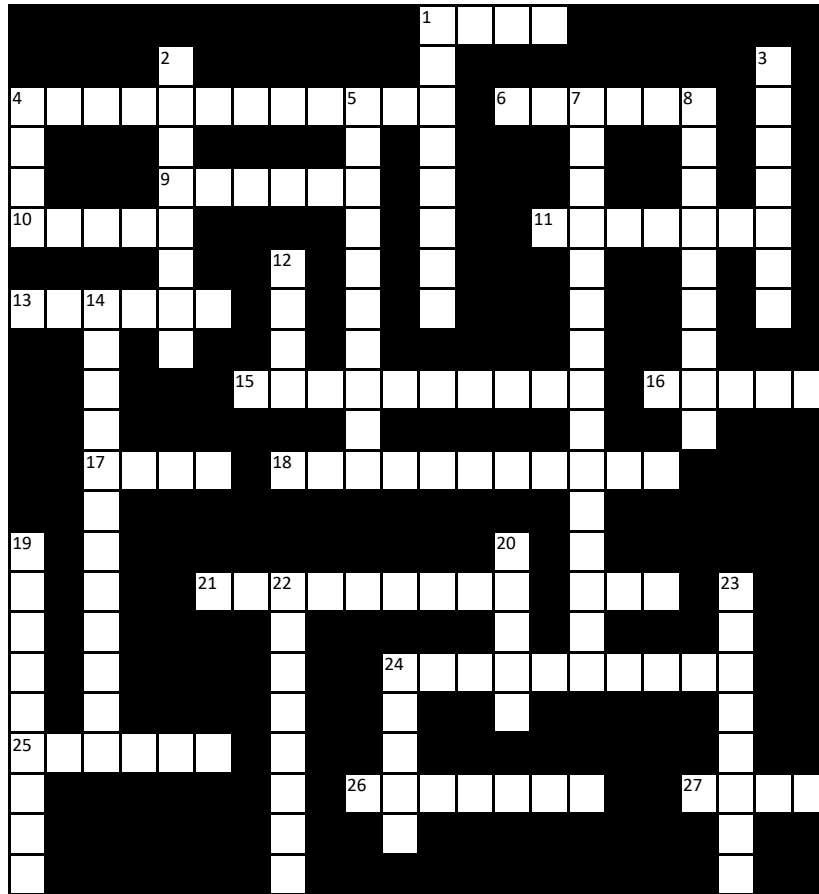
For Further Reading

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (2004). *A Lutheran Response to the “Left Behind” Series*. The Commission on Theology and Church Relations of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. St. Louis, MO.

Martin E. Marty (2007). *Lutheran Questions, Lutheran Answers: Exploring Christian Faith*. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Publishers.

Barbara R. Rossing (2005). *The Rapture Exposed: The Message of Hope in the Book of Revelation*. New York, NY: Basic Books.

REFORMATION CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

1. In the beginning was the _____, and the _____ was with God, and the _____ was God.
4. Person who sparked the Reformation in Germany (2 words)
6. Luther posted 95 of these to encourage discussion
9. Profession Luther was supposed to take up
10. Mrs. Luther
11. What Luther threw the Papal Bull into
13. He sold indulgences in Germany
15. He wrote the primary statement of Lutheranism (see 23 Down)
16. Unearned, unmerited love of God given as a free gift
17. Imperial council that was convened to decide the fate of Martin Luther
18. Documents that were said to shorten time in purgatory
21. How we are put right with God
24. Town where Luther posted his theses and where he was a professor
25. Book of the Bible where Luther discovered he was saved by grace through faith
26. Holy Roman _____ - person who was to decide Luther's fate at 17 Across
27. An edict issued by a pope

DOWN

1. Castle where Luther was hidden after being outlawed
2. Town where Luther was born
3. To admit that one has sinned
4. What Luther promised he would become if saved from a severe storm
5. Luther's statement on being asked to recant (3 words)
7. The action of excluding someone from the sacraments
8. The Bible
12. Head of the Roman Catholic Church
14. Knocked Luther to ground and caused him to change careers
19. The wise Elector of Saxony who protected Luther
20. Belief in God
22. Luther's confessor
23. _____ Confession - primary statement of faith of the Lutheran Church
24. Location of the imperial council where Luther was asked to recant

ANSWERS ON PAGE 26

CALENDAR

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

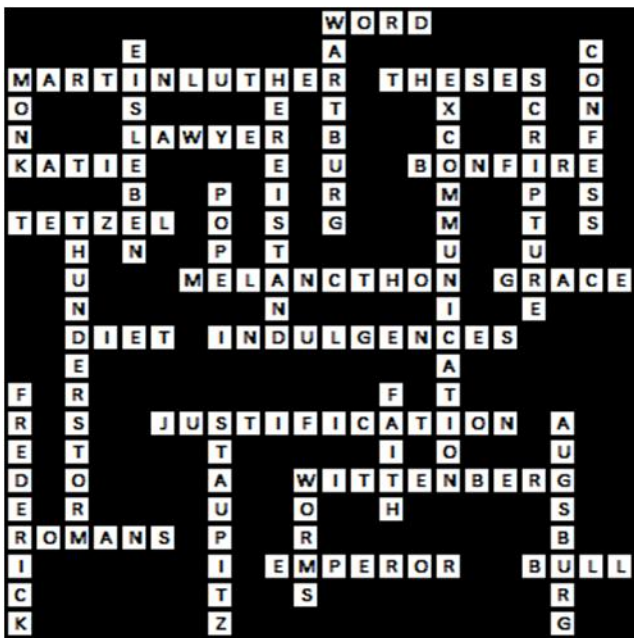
Bethel Lutheran Church functions on a liturgical calendar with seasons and holy days. There are colors associated with each of the seasons and holy days. These are shown on this calendar and are reflected in the paraments in the sanctuary.

DAY	DATE	CHURCH CALENDAR
Sunday	8/20/17	11th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	8/27/17	12th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	9/3/17	13th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	9/10/17	14th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	9/24/17	15th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	10/1/17	16th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	10/8/17	17th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	10/15/17	18th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	10/22/17	19th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	10/29/17	Reformation Sunday
Sunday	11/5/17	All Saints Sunday
Sunday	11/12/17	23rd Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	11/19/17	24th Sunday after Pentecost
Wednesday	11/22/17	Thanksgiving Eve Service
Sunday	11/26/17	Christ the King Sunday

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

August 15, 2017 — November 30, 1917

- Aug 20 Fall Kick-Off & Church Picnic 10 a.m.
- Aug 27 Christian Education starts
- Sept 6 Healing Service 7:00 p.m.
- Sept 5 Preschool school year starts
- Sept 21-24 Men's Via de Cristo (Camp Epworth)
- Sept 24 Discovery Class starts (4 Sundays)
- Sept 29 Circle of Sisters Craft Fair 3:30-7:00 p.m.
- Sept 29 Fish & Chicken Fry 4:30-7:00 p.m.
- Oct 4 Healing Service 7:00 p.m.
- Oct 8 80+ Luncheon 12:15 p.m.
- Oct 28 Trunk or Treat and bonfire 6:45 p.m.
- Oct 31 500th Anniversary of the Reformation
- Nov 1 Healing Service 7:00 p.m.
- Nov 18 Thanksgiving Food Basket Distribution
- Nov 22 Thanksgiving Eve Service 7:00 p.m.



From Page 24: Meanings: 10 Commandments-5, Feeding the Five Thousand-4, First and Last (Beginning and End)-2, Greek 1st, 2nd, and last letters of the name Jesus-3, Jesus-1.

Paraments:

Altar Frontal for Season after Pentecost:

The two stones bearing the 10 Commandments God presented to Moses on Mt. Sinai. (Exodus 31.18) The letters IHC (over the cross), which are the Greek 1st, 2nd and last letters of the name Jesus. The cross is the universal symbol for Christianity. The Greek letters, Alpha and Omega...the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. Used together in Christian practice meaning that Jesus is the beginning and the end of all things. Jesus states "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End." (Revelation 22:13)

Pulpit Fall for the Season after Pentecost:

The Lamb is a symbol of Christ, the Paschal Lamb, who died for the sins of all. The banner the Lamb holds is used to depict that Christ rose triumphant over sin and death. (John 1:29) The town is the new Jerusalem (Revelation 21:2)

Banner:

Basket of fish over the cross: This reminds us of one of Christ' miracles...the feeding of the 5,000 (Luke 9:16). We too are to care for and "feed" others in need. The basket with 2 fish and bread is a common symbol of the Season after Pentecost.

Events & Activities



FALL KICK-OFF



CHURCH PICNIC

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES
for
ADULTS



Via de Cristo Via de Cristo Via de Cristo



BETHEL MISSIONS

Fish & Chicken Fry

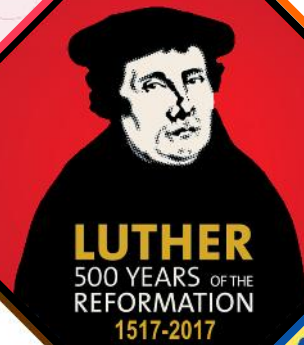


DAN'S FISH FRY



Trunk or Treat

80 +
Luncheon



LUTHER
500 YEARS OF THE REFORMATION
1517-2017



SERVICE OF
HEALING



Thanksgiving
Food Baskets



Thanksgiving
Worship



WEEKEND WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SATURDAY

5:30 p.m. – Casual Worship

SUNDAY

8:45 a.m. – Classic Worship

10:00 a.m. – Christian Education Hour

11:11 a.m. – Praise Worship

Communion will be celebrated at all services.

OTHER WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

7:00 p.m. – Healing Service

NOVEMBER 23rd

7:00 p.m. – Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Bethel Lutheran Church

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Noblesville, IN 46062

317.773.4315

www.BethelLutheranChurch.com



NALC

North American Lutheran Church