

# 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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# Pentecost

# FOOTPRINTS



ON THE COVER:  
Flames of Pentecost  
ChurchArt.com

# FOOTPRINTS

## Issue #4

With the name **FOOTPRINTS**, 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 Wooldridge.

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# PENTECOST

PASTOR'S COLUMN  
PASTOR AL SCHOONOVER

## Happy Birthday, Church!

On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability. (Acts 2:1-4, NLT)



50 days after Easter, while the disciples (approximately 120 of them) were gathered together to celebrate the Jewish festival of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit crashed the party, blowing through the believer's lives and bestowing on them an empowering gift. At his ascension, Jesus had promised that this would happen (Acts 1:4-8), so the disciples shouldn't leave town just yet. But with so many of Jesus self-predictions, the disciples both heard and didn't fully understand what he was talking about. They had only just begun to fathom that Jesus was doing an entirely new thing for them and to them. It wasn't until after they received the Holy Spirit that they began to realize the implications of what he had been saying.

In the Old Testament, Pentecost (or "Feast of Weeks") was an agricultural feast marking the end of the grain harvest (Leviticus 23:15-16; Deuteronomy 16:9). It occurred 50 days after Passover and was usually celebrated in late May or early June. With the events of Acts 2, Pentecost became something entirely new – the birthday of an empowered Christian community. Although not yet a "church" in the way we experience it today, it was a group of people empowered for ministry (think "Great Commission" and "Great Commandment"). They were readily recognizable by their counter-cultural behavior of caring for one another, especially the folks on the fringe of Roman society. The second-century pastor and theologian, Tertullian, once

remarked:

*But it is mainly the deeds of a love so noble that lead many (non-believers) to put a brand upon us. See, they say, how they love one another, for themselves are animated by mutual hatred; how they are ready even to die for one another, for they themselves will sooner put to death. (Apology, Chapter XXXIX)*

Throughout the book of Acts, the early believers are known as "The Way" (9:2; 19:9, 23; 22:4, 14; 24:22). I love this designation, because to me, being people of "The Way" implies movement. We are "on the way." We are a community "in progress." We haven't arrived, yet. We are still under construction. This is both encouraging and a little challenging.



As a community "in progress" God is still working on us, shaping us to be the person God created us to be. When we mess up, or fall short, or come face to face with our shortcomings, then we draw strength from the promise that God isn't done with us yet. There is still time to repent, to turn around, to renew our commitment to God and a life of faith.



The challenge in this – that God is still working on us – means that we ought not ever think that "we've arrived." That we're finished

growing or learning spiritually. That we don't need to be part of a small group or an adult class. That we don't need to serve any more. Because God is still working on us, because we are a work in progress, we will never be finished with our spiritual journey this side of heaven. The long "green season" of Pentecost is just the right time to focus on this spiritual growth. Our sermon series on the book of Mark, serving at the rummage sale or at VBS or at Serve Noblesville, or other ministry opportunities that may emerge this summer will be a sort of spiritual fertilizer (but not manure!) that will strengthen the roots of our faith. With strong roots, we can reach out towards others in our mission: *to engage the curious, encourage the convinced, and empower the committed to be fully devoted disciples of Jesus Christ.*

Serving Jesus with you!

Pastor Al





# PROFILE:

## PASTOR JOE FREEMAN



Pastor Joe Freeman retired January 9, 2017, as the Teaching Pastor of Spiritual Formation at Heartland Church, Fishers. However, he commented that “Retirement is not the end of service....not retired, but refired.”

**"Retirement is not the end of service... not retired, but refired."**



*Pastor Joe*

Newly purposed, he now volunteers 30 hours a week between Bethel and Heartland, sharing his skills in mentoring, counseling and teaching. Pastor Joe's primary goal is to connect with people in his call to expand God's kingdom.

### CHILDHOOD

His childhood might not have foretold that particular journey. His Mother grew up in a dysfunctional family and had only an eighth-grade education. This seemed to carry over into her later years as she struggled with marriages—five of them. She raised Pr. Joe and his sister in Columbus, Ohio, their

hometown, through those years. Another child was adopted out as she married the third time. Also, Pr. Joe was in foster care in-between a couple of the marriages. He states that it was a time of very negative results for himself as he still finds it difficult to this day to believe he can be loved by another human for a sustained period of time.

His mother worked hard as a waitress with little time to nurture children. Pr. Joe resented his situation and anyone with authority, including parents and teachers. He failed first grade, but began to enjoy some friendships at school. But he gained little or no knowledge of God.

### FINDING CHRIST

But, by 8<sup>th</sup> grade, he began to see positives in public school, a new sense of order and some who could care. He describes the middle of 8<sup>th</sup> grade as a time of “a life-changing-and-defining event.” His best friend in school, also a neighbor, invited him to his church, a small independent Pentecostal church. The pastor preached a message that he could understand and appreciate.

Within a few weeks, he “went to the Altar, surrendered my heart and life to Christ.” He was baptized and the congregation became his “surrogate family.” He became motivated by the gratitude of God's presence in his life and began to seriously study “for the first time!”

Two English teachers in high school encouraged him to think of college as he excelled in all his studies. One teacher was married to the Ohio LCA Bishop, and they helped him obtain a scholarship to their alma mater, Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio. Thinking to major in English, he found a sudden interest in religious courses. He graduated with a Religion major and Psychology minor. During his sophomore year while studying Martin Luther and the Reformation, he moved from Pentecostal to being an LCA Lutheran. During his junior year, he felt the call to ministry.

### BECOMING “PASTOR” JOE

He was advised to apply to Eastern Ivy League Divinity schools; he was accepted and entered Yale Divinity School. There he met the professor who became his key mentor...on both his personal and pastoral life, Fr. Henri JM Nouwen. In-between his second and third years of Divinity school, he took the normal Vicarage year as an intern pastor at Bethany Lutheran Church in Englewood, Colorado, a suburb of Denver. “I loved it!” he comments. He graduated in 1974 with an M. Div. ordination degree.

Counseled to get more clinical pastoral education, he went to St. Elizabeth Hospital in Washington, D.C. for a year. His training was learning to minister in a psychiatric hospital to deeply troubled persons.

Next, it was a call as Assistant Pastor at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Lima, Ohio. After 3 years, in 1979, he returned to St. Elizabeth's for 18 months further training including supervisory skills.

### MARRIAGE & FATHERHOOD

In 1979, he also had a personal goal to find and marry a Christian woman. He met Sandi Kluck at an indoor volleyball event. She was a Special Education teacher in Fairfax, County, Virginia. They dated, “noticed some ‘red flags’” but ignored them thinking as Christians, they could overcome them. They married December 29, 1979. Within 1 ½ years, they had their first daughter, Hannah. Their family grew with the birth of the second daughter, Rachel.



*Daughter Hannah & son C.J.*



Joe with daughter Rachel, son-in-law Dan & their dog.



Joe with Rachel's daughter Kiara & her dog.

Seven years after his Vicar-Internship at the near-Denver parish, he was invited to return as Associate Pastor. He was ecstatic...he loved Colorado.

During this time, a presiding LCA Bishop suggested he consider parish development, perhaps become a mission pastor. Within a year, he was invited to be a parish-developer in the new, growing suburb of Fishers, Indiana. He and Sandi visited there, felt it right, and left the beloved Colorado "to serve the Lord in the 'land of horizontal beauty.'"

## CTS LUTHERAN CHURCH



Pastor Joe served Christ the Savior Lutheran Church, Fishers, (ELCA) 30 years. To begin, he knocked on many doors, introducing himself and his faith and inviting people to form a mission church. They met for four years in a leased space, eventually growing to be able to purchase 3 ½ acres, building two buildings over 14 years. Then, 35 acres were purchased and a 44,000 square foot church facility built.

During the controversy facing the ELCA congregations in 2008-2011, CTS chose an "18-month period of discernment, prayer, congregational forums and leadership meetings." They chose to remain ELCA. Pr. Joe stayed an additional year in prayerful thought but chose to resign and transferred his clergy roster status to the NALC.

In this time of growing a new church, he admits he "became a workaholic, genuinely loving the Lord and people," but not truly present as a husband and father. After 21 years of marriage and counseling, Pr. Joe and Sandi agreed to a divorce. They also admitted their mistakes and forgave one another.

## SPECIAL CALL TO MINISTRY

A month after leaving CTS, Heartland Church in Fishers invited him to take on the role of "Teaching Pastor of Spiritual Formation." This call was blessed by the NALC Bishop as a "special call to ministry." He became "known throughout Fishers as the 'village pastor.'"

Pr. Joe has a love of travel and meeting diverse personalities. A few years ago, he and his wife were privileged to enjoy a Lilly Endowment 5-week trek across Europe visiting the lands of Luther, Calvin, Knox and Wesley. His love of Ireland is known to many and he has enjoyed wonderful visits there. He sometimes refers to himself as the "World's Tallest Leprechaun."



## CONSTANTS

The blessings of those who influenced him in his younger years shaped his life to become who he is...one who understands how some areas of one's life can be so negative and yet become the tools to influence others toward a positive life. He notes that "In summary, Christ and circumstances have been the two most 'constants' in my life." He says he concentrates on capitalizing the "C" in Christ and NOT the "c" in circumstances.

**"God made my life complete,  
When I placed all the pieces  
before Him."**

2 Samuel 22:21

From "Message" translation - Pr. Dr. Eugene Peterson



# RUMMAGE SALE

Humbly written by His servant, Tree Rudy

Growing up in a family of six with parents who worked factory jobs, we knew how to shop second hand and scout out a good rummage sale. I didn't often get to pick out what I wanted at a full price store, but I knew I could pretty much get anything I picked up at a rummage sale. Rummage sale and consignment shopping is a natural fit for me as I have always loved recycling things and seeing old things be "made new." I'm sure that is why Joe and I live in our rehabbed home built in 1906. But that project is a story for another time.

I began working at the Bethel Rummage Sale in the toy room when we were still new members in 2004. The toy room was an outdoor portable trailer on the east side of the church. This was before we had the luxury of spreading out the goods through our amazing education building. When Jen Shelton and I were first asked to "run" the Bethel Rummage Sale in 2017, we were leery. We had always worked the sale, but didn't necessarily want to be in charge. Yet, here we are one year later, ready to do it again!



*Brittany Pritsch, first-time Book Room organizer, made this incredible rare and vintage book section.*

The Bethel Rummage Sale is way bigger than the people organizing the event. In actuality, it kind of runs itself. We have had the same people working the same rooms for years, some for even 10-15 years. That is an amazing blessing when new people come into the picture. The seasoned volunteers welcome the "newbies" openly and can share some great tips for their specialty area. If



*Grace Pearson and Tree Rudy modeling their \$4 outfits...shoes included!*

you need to know how to untangle a billion necklaces in the jewelry room, just ask Jane Nee or Joy Diamond. If you need to know how to price random lawn, garden, and outdoor gear, speak to some fellas like Dale Lubs, Jim Enyon, or John Hessig. I was lucky enough to get the fashion expertise of my daughter, Aubrey Rudy, and her pal, Grace Pearson, when I was lacking adult volunteers to organize the BIG job of women's clothing. I was not disappointed by their work, friendliness, and willingness to spread the word of great deals on their social media! I can think of at least 20 more names of helpful, willing volunteers when I go through my mental list of rooms at the rummage sale. There are even people who sign up just to make food for volunteers and pick up furniture items to bring to the sale. There are so many ways to help at the rummage sale.

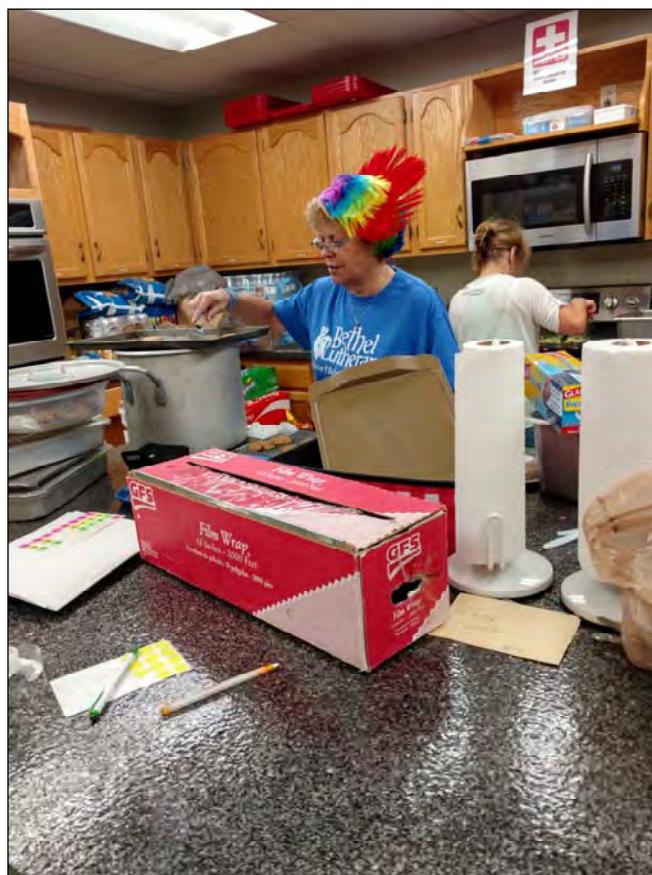
Are you thinking of volunteering yet? Or perhaps

you want to shop and get the word out to other shoppers about the Bethel Rummage Sale. Maybe you have some great items to donate. Here's what you need to know. Drop off of items to the education building will begin Monday, June 4<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed to sort items from 9am-3pm each day from Monday, June 4<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday, June 13<sup>th</sup>. More volunteers are needed on Father's Day weekend for the sale days. We have volunteer time slots on Friday, June 15<sup>th</sup> from 7:30-3:00 and more times from 7:30-1:00 on Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup>. Can't work the sale times? Contact us about donating to the bake sale or being on the cleanup crew that puts the building back in order.

their savings on a gown. We have sold men's suits to young gentlemen going on a job interview. We have helped college kids and young families affordably furnish their first apartments and homes. And we have seen our "old things" made new to other people. As followers of Christ, this is one way we can spread His love and compassion. In 2 Corinthians 5:17, Paul tells us that "if anyone belongs to Christ, there is a new creation. The old things have gone; everything is made new!" Last year, Jen and I referred to ourselves as the Bethel Rummage Sale "Chaos Coordinators." This year, I think we will all be a part of the "Made New Crew."



*Steve Dankert and Joe Rudy manning the grill for the youth to serve up brats and hot dogs to hungry shoppers.*



*Suzy Patterson bakes cookies for the bake sale while the onions and peppers are cooked up for the grill.*

I know some of you are wondering why we put the effort into this sale each year. Yes, it is a marvelous fundraiser and an incredible way to build fellowship with other Bethel members. But it is more than that to our community. Working in the toy room for so many years, the sheer joy of seeing that child with two dollars get to pick out anything they wanted is why I still do it. We have families in our community who cannot afford to buy their clothes at the mall or let their child pick out a toy for the fun of it. We have sold prom dresses to girls who otherwise would have spent

**RUMMAGE SALE**

**Friday, June 15**  
**8 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

**Saturday, June 16**  
**8 a.m. to 1 p.m.**



# GENEROSITY

Last fall as part of the church's Stewardship focus, Bethel was blessed to have nine of its members give personal testimonies on God's Generosity to them . We will be sharing them over several issues of FOOTPRINTS as few people were able to hear all of them, and their messages are awesome reminders of God's real presence in our lives.

## **BY DEBBIE NIELSEN**

I am a fairly private person, but when Pastor Al sent an e-mail recently basically saying, "Can I get a witness?!" I felt strongly that this was a great chance to brag on God.

I love the phrase, "with glad and generous hearts," but if I could tweak that scripture, I might insert the word "grateful" there: "with glad, grateful, and generous hearts."

One of the things I'm most grateful for is that Bethel is the kind of place that not only provides opportunities, but makes you want to serve. There's no coercion, there's no arm-twisting, there's simply a host of opportunities.

My own story began a few years ago when I began to feel really unsettled in my walk with Christ. I knew that there was something that God wanted me to be doing in service to Him. I just couldn't put my finger on what it was. I began by casually asking God nicely to show me what that "something" was. I had a job I loved, and I started knocking on doors there because I just knew I had a great idea that would enable me to use my passion and abilities to make a difference in people's lives in the marketplace. God's response: "No...that's not what I have in mind for you."

Over time, my "asking God nicely" became begging God. By that time, that job I had that I "loved" was now a job that I liked. I continued knocking on doors there. Still, nothing. Because I'm not a terribly patient person, I escalated begging God to demanding an answer from Him. And over several months, that job that I used to love was now a job I tolerated. Still no answer from God. Then I got mad. And because God is big enough to handle our anger, He listened, and .... He continued to wait to give me an answer.

Finally, through some "coincidental" timing of circumstances in my workplace, I decided to stop trying to beat down doors and change my tack: I had a little fit and said, "I'm done, God. I am not supposed to feel as unfilled and purposeless as I do. I got nuthin'." And then, because it was God I was talking to, I decided to simmer down and say, "Fine. I'll be still." Where have we heard that before?!

Surprisingly, though not really, I began to see all sorts of opportunities to serve at Bethel that really, really resonated with me. Food Pantry--I'd always said that I'd like to do that. I was never able to volunteer before. So I volunteered there. Up close and personal with folks who are hurting and in need. It's a perspective changer. Then I saw that there was an opportunity to serve in the library. I could totally do that and have fun with it. So I decided to pursue helping in the library here at Bethel.

But here's the real kicker--my true passion is teaching Spanish--and for literally years, I've wanted to teach adult learners and ignite a spark--even if it means just one person

--to inspire them to reach Latinos. This coming week we finish up a pilot program of *Spanish with a Mission*.



For me, serving at Bethel is life-giving. I love my places of service at Bethel so much that I almost feel guilty. As the scripture says, I am glad. I am absolutely grateful. I don't regard myself as "generous" so much as blessed. God is the generous One; He put up with my whining when I was trying to orchestrate His plan of service for me.

When I began, I thought of myself as a "volunteer," but I've learned that there's really no "volunteer" program in God's economy; it's simply a matter of finding the place God has for you that dovetails with your gifts.

## **BY KIM RADANT**

Hi everyone. I am Kim Radant and I have been a member of Bethel Lutheran Church for over ten years. Pastor Al asked me to tell a story about how God's generosity has been reflected in my life. I'd like to briefly share my journey to Bethel Lutheran.

Many of you know that I am married to Mike Husek. It is a second marriage for both of us. I was married to my husband Wayne over 16 years. We married in the Lutheran church I grew up in, in Gary, Indiana. Wayne and I wanted children and went through all kinds of gymnastics to have children (some stories there but I will spare you). When it didn't work we pursued a private adoption. One Sunday a call came that an infant girl was born and we would be able to bring her home the next day. We were ecstatic....so were our family and friends. As we were leaving the house on Monday the phone rang and a voice on the other end told us that the birth mother had changed her mind. It was devastating...one of worst days of my life.

We regrouped and again began to pursue adoption when my husband Wayne died suddenly and unexpectedly at the ripe old age of 42. The next six years were surreal to me. I'd occasionally stop at the Lutheran Church in Speedway but never attended with any regularity. I must admit that I was not necessarily feeling the reflection of God's generosity in my life. It was during that time I came to realize that it is nearly impossible to reflect upon God's generosity in your life when you are focusing more on what you *don't* have than what you have. I have a refrigerator magnet that says "Gratitude is the window through which God sends his blessings." I look at it every day.

I met Mike six years later. Our lives seemed loaded with coincidences. Like Wayne, Mike's wife Valerie passed away in her early 40's. Mike was left to raise their ten year old boy Jeremiah and six year old daughter Jessica. Mike and Valerie adopted Jess when she was three days old. Mike says it was the best day of his life.

We purchased a home in Cicero and contacted Bethel. Scott Mork put us in touch with Pastor E. Dean. He married us in our living room with Jeremiah and Jessica as our attendants, and with my family, Mike's family, Valerie's family and Wayne's family all present. You know how many people talk about "both sides of the family?" We have four sides to our family. We spend time together at the holidays, vacation together, etc. What a Blessing. (We used to joke with Pastor E. Dean that I married Mike



# GLAD AND GENEROUS HEARTS

for his children and he, newly retired, married me for Healthcare!)

Mike and I went visited several churches in the area but were always drawn back to Bethel. Since Mike was a practicing Catholic, I did not want to force a Lutheran Church on him (well, actually, I kind of did but I knew that would not be right). One day, when we were walking out of Bethel he said, "You know...I feel such joy when I am at this church." Another coincidence...I felt that joy as well.

In Bethel's Discovery Class Lee Ann Burrow spoke to our group and pronounced emphatically, "Folks, here at Bethel we know that there are NO coincidences...none, zero, zilch." She was right. Those coincidences weren't coincidences at all...they were examples of God's generosity. That is why belonging and giving back to this Body of Christ, Bethel Lutheran Church, through money, time and talent are so important to Mike and me.

## **BY JEFF REISING**

Pastor Al asked me to speak about God's generosity in my life.

So the first thing I had to do was to really consider my life in general and then try to remember events in my life where God was indeed generous to me. So here's what I started with:

The thing is, this list is a drop in the bucket. I mean, I'm 62 years old and the fact is that God generously has been with me the entire time. The only problem was, I DID NOT recognize or acknowledge it for many years. I consider myself kind of new at giving God the credit for me and all that I am.

But to stick to my assignment, here's but a few highlights of his generosity.

1. First, he generously gave me good parents, a stable home and a loving family. Mom was a great teacher and Dad an incredibly hard worker, they built the foundation necessary for me to succeed as an adult, and God generously watched over our family. Looking at today's world, it always causes me to pause and reflect on how lucky I was to have that love and stability growing up. My parents shared their strong faith with us and left the seed that finally helped me see God's generosity that is now with me daily.

2. Through athletics, God generously gave me opportunities to learn from the thrill of victory, the agony of defeat, and how important teamwork was. I also learned the value of good friends during each of those times. I believe that my understanding the value of developing good, strong friendships has been a huge gift for me. I am so blessed to have the friends that I have and continue to attain in life. Athletics gave me a mindset and a body to continue working and playing pretty hard most of the time.

3. I wasn't given a complete free pass in life. Sometimes I wondered aloud and quietly where God was, like when I had my trial run at Marriage, but realized later how generous and loving God was, to keep me safe during a very self-

centered and destructive three week pity party.

4. God was so generous with his patience in me. I struggled several times to make career decisions that impacted not only me but also my family, and each time when I tried to work through the process, he guided me, gave me comfort in my decisions and even delivered a spiritual kick in the pants along the way.

5. Why he did it I DO NOT know, but he generously gave me another shot at finding a soul mate. And as part of the package, I got a beautiful two year old daughter to raise as my own. And recently gained a great son in law too. The big bonus, Melissa singlehandedly taught me to express my love to my parents, something I could never do before we met. I Guarantee you I won't be squandering this second chance gift from God!

6. God also generously brought me another fantastic teacher of life lessons. Through this teacher, I learned patience, persistence, positivity. I learned not to judge a book by it's cover but to understand the true soul of another of God's people and love them EACH AND EVERY DAY. God so generously shared this star child with Melissa and me, a gift I can never repay. I still learn from Zack every day, and believe that God's gift to us has inspired me to be a much better, healthier person than I was 18 years ago.

7. God generously brought us to Bethel, a group of people that I'm SO VERY comfortable with and SO VERY thankful to know. I am personally a much better individual for being here. And I want to recognize Joe for his friendship, and his leadership of the youth here at Bethel, especially one youth in particular! There's too many people I could name here as well, but three came to mind. First, Suzie Patterson, for always being there with a big smile as you come in the office. For the Helgemos, who unselfishly gave so much time to the Sunday school program and helped Zack in his early years at Bethel. And finally, for Jason Pearson, who sent me a personal note, that I have taped to my bedside lamp, too personal to read but very important to me.

8. Finally, and this one has been hard to figure out. Beginning on December 26, 2007, God called home my dad, followed by both of my younger sisters at 50 and 55, my mom this past July 18, two of my closest friends and 6 other relatives. ALL those losses in such a short time. That kind of run can shake your beliefs to the core. But you know what God did? He generously surrounded me with all those friends that he helped me gain over the years to make me feel loved. He gave my immediate family extra strength to see me through. They helped me smile and kept me moving forward and value the memories that can never be taken away.

9. And BEST OF ALL, through all the loss, he has helped me know my own mortality and realize that it is only the beginning, that there is so much more to look forward to, and that he will generously continue to be there with me and for me, forever.

*Blessed  
to Be a  
Blessing*



By Joe Rudy

## Summer Camp

July 7-14, 2018

In the past 10 years of leading Youth Ministry at Bethel, I have found the most spiritually rewarding and impactful opportunity for our kids to attend is CAMP. Church Camp! Camp has consistently been a place where kids feel they get to be their true selves. I have witnessed kids start a real relationship with Christ for the first time. Some have called it a flag/stake in the ground kind of moment. These moments shape and define who they become. The community that is built in camp is like no other.



Tree and I have had the opportunity to be counselors at Lake Louise where we serve on a committed team for the High School camp called "As We Are." We have brought Bethel High Schoolers to this beautiful place in Boyne Falls, MI every July for several years now. Bethel has built its own relationships with the several churches involved in the Lake Louise Community.



Lutheran Outdoor Ministries is our local camp community (LOMIK.org). They have 3 camps; Lake Luther, Lutherwald and Lutheran

Hills. Tree and I sent Max and Aubrey to Lutheran Hills when they were little. Our experience with Lutheran Outdoor Ministries was wonderful. I have used Lutheran Hills and Lutherwald for winter retreats in the past with our High School Youth. Their facilities are clean, comfortable and fun. Lutheran Outdoor Ministries offers full scholarships for kids that need financial assistance.



As always, it has been our policy that money is not the reason you don't participate in a youth activity including camp. We have been blessed with a loving church community of our own that supports our

fundraising efforts generously. We have been able to give kids the opportunity to attend church camp and get that stake in the ground moment. Bethel, you are making a difference in the lives of our youth, please keep it up!





# NEW DISCIPLES AT BETHEL

In February, we were happy to welcome the following new members to Bethel.  
Don't forget to wear your name badges when you welcome them!



**Douglas Bosworth**

Douglas Bosworth resides in Carmel and transfers from New Beginnings Lutheran Church. His wife is deceased. He is retired but spent 35 years at Deere & Co. as well as 10 years at the University of Illinois. He stays active enjoying reading, agriculture, hiking and other exercise. He said the active congregation and mission orientation are his main positives here at Bethel. You'll see him at the 8:45 service on Sunday mornings.

**We welcome these new families and encourage all to greet them and introduce yourselves when you see them at services!**



**Grant & Janie Schuller**

Grant ("Duke") and Janie Schuller reside in Cicero. Grant is retired from American Hospital Supply (medical supplies) and worked as a bus driver-aide helping his wife when she drove a bus for handicapped children. This was after Janie retired from Disney World and they had moved to this area. They have two grown sons, Gary and Donald and four grandchildren. Grant listed fishing and boating as his time to relax. Saturday evening service is their choice of services.



**Joe Williams**

Joe Williams also joins us....Julie, his wife is a member here at Bethel. Joe is an independent insurance agent in Noblesville where the Williams live. He opened this business in 2012 after coaching college football for 25 years. He stays "in the game" by coaching football in the Noblesville School System. Julie is an elementary school counselor in the Noblesville School System where she has worked for 25 years. They enjoy spending time with family which includes a daughter, Katelyn Sergi and husband Ross who are expecting a child soon. This will be the Williams first grandchild! They also have a son John, a music teacher, and a son, Cory, a policeman. You'll see them at the 11:11 Sunday service.

**A HELPFUL WAY TO REMEMBER GOD'S ACTIVITY IN OUR LIVES**

**CHRISTMAS - GOD WITH US**



**EASTER - GOD FOR US**



**PENTECOST - GOD IN US**





# NALC Pastors Conference

By Pastor Al Schoonover

Pastor Doug and I attended the annual Pastors Conference January 30-February 1 this year, in sunny San Antonio, TX. Thank you for providing the time and resources so we could go! The time away was a very helpful deep breath before the wave of Lenten busy-ness washed over us!

Gathering under the theme “Discipleship, Leadership, and the NALC Pastor,” over 200 leaders from across the country met for worship, ministry-related presentations, Bible Study, and fellowship. There was a pleasing combination of planned activities and unstructured fellowship or personal time.

Sometimes, the most spiritually refreshing thing you can do is take a nap! Our Tuesday afternoon and evening were completely open, which gave us a delightful opportunity to explore some of the shops and restaurants along the Riverwalk in downtown San Antonio.



Among the planned activities, we enjoyed . . .

. . . teaching time with Dr. Jim Nestingen (one of our personal favorites!), who led us through a study of the lectionary readings for the Sundays in Lent through Easter Sunday. He’s a masterful teacher and story-teller. He has an engaging way of exploring the readings that “prime the pump” for our preaching each week.



. . . hearing from our Bishop, John Bradosky, who led two keynote presentations on our calling to be leaders focused on making disciples rather than maintaining ministry institutions. How refreshing to have a Bishop who teaches well and who communicates a compelling vision of the church! He is an effective leader and someone I am very willing to follow.



. . . worshipping together with the Daily Prayer offices throughout the day, and a festive communion service at which we reaffirmed our ordination vows. The NALC is blessed with a rich and deep worship life, and the best of that was evident during our time together.

. . . a meeting of the pastors on Thursday morning, where we learned of the NALC’s vision for an increased staffing structure that, if approved at the Convocation in August, will be implemented in 2019. Each congregation will receive more information about this proposal this summer before Convocation. In short, our current staffing configuration was designed for a denomination of approximately 100 congregations; currently, the NALC has over 400, and we are feeling the growing pains associated with that.



The plan is to meet annually at the end of January or first week in February (before Ash Wednesday!), alternating between San Antonio one year and Orlando the next. Thank you, again, for this wonderful gift of time to get away for rest, to reconnect with colleagues, and to be renewed in ministry. What a blessing!

**The Core Values of the NALC**  
**Christ-Centered**  
**Mission-Driven**  
**Traditionally-Grounded**  
**Congregationally-Focused**



# ASK THE PASTOR



## IS THERE SOMETHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO ASK?

By Pastor Doug Gast

### Why Does God Allow Evil?

That is probably the question of all time. We can go along for a long time and not think about it, but then all of a sudden there is an event, an attack at a school and dozens of students and teachers are killed or wounded forever. The words Columbine, Sandyhook Elementary and Marjory Stoneman Douglas HS in Parkland, Florida, send a chill up and down our spines. Or the venue might be a concert, a night club or even a marathon. Evil can rear its head anywhere and at any time. Even churches are not exempt from the evil actions of heartless killers. One of the most moving memorials I have ever been to is the little church in Sutherland Spring, Texas, where 23 people were killed while attending worship last fall.

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### *Why does our God who we know is so good allow evil to happen in our world?*

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Whenever things like this happen and innocent men, women, and children are killed, it leaves all rational people shocked, angry and filled with overwhelming grief. Our tears flow freely and our hearts are filled with a deep emptiness. How can thing like this happen?

In the midst of the pain and the darkness of it all we ask the timeless question . . . “Why does an all-powerful God stand on the sidelines and allow suffering? Why do bad things happen to good people? How does God, who is a loving God, permit people to hurt one another so badly? Why does our God who we know is so good allow evil to happen in our world?”

There are a couple of things that I believe are true. First, when evil things occur . . . it is never God's will. Sin, death and the devil are God's enemies just as much as they are ours. In the Jesus story, the Gospel writers tell us that Satan entered Judas, and that was the beginning of the greatest betrayal ever. Satan continues to enter the hearts of people who then do unspeakable acts of violence and terror.

In heaven, God's will is done perfectly. That is why there is no pain, suffering or sorrow. That is why heaven is filled with joy, peace, life and light. Rabbi Harold Kushner was once asked about how he came to terms with the evil in the world. And he said this. . . . “We who are part of religious communities do have to wrestle with the bad things and the evil things of this world. But people who

have no faith foundation have an even more ominous task and that is to explain why there is so much good in our world.”

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### *when evil things occur . . . it is never God's will. Sin, death and the devil are God's enemies just as much as they are ours.*

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We get glimpses of God's will being done even in the worst tragedies as we witness the first responders moving in with courage and sacrifice . . . and as people are moved to offer comfort, aid and support. We take part in God's will as we all turn to Him for guidance, strength, courage and help.

The other thing that comes to my mind is that God has given us a wonderful gift . . . but we also face a difficult decision. He has given us the freedom of choice. God has given us free will. Part of what it means to live in the image of God is that we have the freedom to make moral choices in our world. Animals operate by instinct. Humans operate by values and decisions. People, and that includes all of us, often make selfish, self-centered and evil choices. And whenever that happens people get hurt.

The Bible explains the root of evil: “This is the crisis we are in: God's light streamed into the world, but men and women everywhere ran for the darkness . . . because they were not really interested in pleasing God.” (John 3:19, The Message Translation). We are far more interested in pleasing ourselves.

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### *We need to look to God and his Word.*

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There are many questions that run through our minds in the dark days. I don't think the answer ultimately is in more laws, more officers, more locks, or more penalties for those who do evil. They may help . . . but what I believe we need is a spiritual revival for all of us. We need to look to God and his Word. We must be humble and admit we are sinners in need of Christ's redeeming. And then as individuals and as a community of faith we must do all we can to be a beacon of light and hope and healing and caring. It is a choice God promises to help us to make and more importantly — to keep.

# SEASONS & HOLY DAYS

## PENTECOST

By Carole Kuhn

### The 50<sup>th</sup> Day after Easter—Pentecost

Seven weeks after Easter, on the 50<sup>th</sup> day (including Easter Sunday), we celebrate **Pentecost**. The name comes from the Greek term *Pentekoste* which means fiftieth.

Many were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks, 50 days after the Feast of Firstfruits. (Lev.23:16) Suddenly the Holy Spirit descended upon 120 followers of Christ, including the 12 Apostles, as promised by Jesus and Old Testament prophets. They began to preach in many languages to the crowds gathered in Jerusalem. All who were gathered there were amazed that they could hear the promise of salvation in their own language and that they were promised the Gospel belonged to all nations, Jews and Gentiles alike. (Acts 2:1-31)

Peter spoke explaining that the ability to preach in all languages was not, as some were saying, because they had too much wine to drink. But it was a reminder that this Jesus they had crucified had arose and ascended into heaven. God had sent him as their Savior, and they needed to repent and ask for forgiveness for the part they played in his death. It was a time of offering the Holy Spirit to all.

Many were converted and baptized and the church increased by about 3,000 people. After this gathering, Christianity spread to all the major cities of the Roman Empire. This is often referred to as the beginning of the Christian church.

From this day of **Pentecost** until the Season of Advent it is called “ordinary time,” a time for spiritual growth. We are reminded to be thankful for the gift of the Holy Spirit and to share this faith with all, including those outside our immediate Christian community, extending to all nations.

The church color will feature **red** indicating joy and the fire of the Holy Spirit.

**All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.**

*Acts 2:4 (NIV)*

**Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.**

*Acts 2:41 (NIV)*

**And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.**

*Acts 2:21 (NIV)*



# LUTHERAN CHRISTIANS

## WHO WE ARE - WHAT WE BELIEVE

By Susan Adda

### A CELEBRATION OF COLOR

Just as an artist uses various colors to depict emotion, drama, or realism in a painting, the church uses symbols and colors to evoke a mood or tone for particular seasons throughout the church year.

The first season of the church year is Advent. In Advent, purple is used to symbolize royalty, signaling the coming of our King. In the late 20th century, some churches began to use a deep blue as the color for Advent. Deep blue is the color of the sky just before dawn so in Advent it is used to inspire hope and to encourage God's people to keep watch for the promised light coming in the Christ child. Bethel uses the color blue in Advent.



*Altar set for Easter.*



*Altar set for Christmas.*

For Christmas, white is the liturgical color of the season. Candles and paraments are white, signifying the Light of the World, our Lord Jesus, who brings the enlightening presence of God among us.

Epiphany celebrates the discovery that a Savior has come, sent by God, to bring righteousness into our world and to reveal the unimaginable depth of God's love. This season extends from January 6<sup>th</sup> up through Transfiguration Sunday. White is the color of the Day of Epiphany and the week following, while green is the color for the remaining weeks of the season, representing living plants and suggesting spiritual growth.

The Season of Lent is represented by two colors, violet for repentance and black for mourning, the latter used on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

For Easter Day and its season, white is the color, representing the joyous celebration at this time of the year. Alternatively, gold is sometimes used as the color for Easter Day and the following week.

The Day of Pentecost closes the Easter season and opens the Season after Pentecost (also called Ordinary Time). The color red is used for the day of Pentecost. It reminds us of the offering of life – the lives of Christian martyrs gone before us and our own lives - in the service of our Lord. Red is also used for Reformation Sunday at the end of October. For Sundays after Pentecost or Ordinary Time, the color green is used again.

All Saints Day, which is November 1<sup>st</sup>, celebrates the saints of the Lord Jesus on earth and those in heaven and is represented by the color white. This day completes the traditional cycle of the church year.

As you attend service throughout the year, look for these colors and let your eyes and your heart be filled with the meaning of the Colors of God's Church.



*SOURCE: The Christian Church Year, by King Schoenfeld; Copyright 2000 by Creative Communications for the Parish.*



# CHURCH HISTORY

## GROWTH AND MERGER: 1895-1937



1902 Calendar showing church connections

During the 1920s, it became apparent that a new church building was needed to meet the demands of a growing Bethel congregation. In 1925, a plot of land on East Jackson Street was purchased for \$1,400 and then began the long road toward raising sufficient funds for the proposed \$20,000 edifice. After much long, hard work and despite the national depression which began in 1929, the struggle paid off...the dream became a reality!! Dedication for the

beautiful new facility, was held in October of 1930.

By this time, the three separate congregations were already cooperating in many ways. A common church council existed among the Mt. Pleasant, Bethel, and Olive Branch Churches. In fact, in 1929, the three churches acted together to purchase a parsonage. It followed very natu-



First shovel thrown by Jacob Kepner



39 S. Harrison Street Parsonage

rally that within the decade both Olive Branch (1932) and Mt. Pleasant (1937) merged with Bethel to form one united congregation. While the closing of two churches could have been a sad event, for most it was an opportunity to unite their faith and their families in a beautiful new building.



Bethel building—dedicated October 1930

The Service Circle was a group of women organized in 1929 to help pay off the debt of the new church building. They set monthly dues at the rate of five cents a member, and the membership ranged over the years from approximately 50 to 55 members. In order for these women to pay their pledge to the building fund, they served suppers and banquets, sold food at auction sales, had markets, did quilting, and sold a variety of small items. When its goal had been reached, in 1943, the Service Circle disbanded, deserving great credit for their efforts in paying off the church debt.





# CHURCH MUSIC

By Suzy Patterson

## SONGS OF PRAISE

### Where I Belong

Bethel's Praise Team of the 11:11 a.m. service is a unique band of sinners. We range in age from mid-20's to almost 70 (me). We truly love and care for each other, pray for each other. Before beginning the service, holding hands, we pray for the music and our enthusiasm to touch hearts and minds listening, but mostly we pray to God for His glory! We enjoy using our various gifts and have fun using them.

One of our favorite songs is *Where I Belong* by **Building 429**. The words are printed in the next column.

*When my mom heard our group sing this on one of her visits to Bethel, she watched us and heard the words, and for the first time, understood why I love praise music so much!*

**Building 429** took this name due to being inspired by Ephesians 4:49: "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that may benefit those who listen."



Jason Roy, the group leader, wrote this song to honor his friend, Kelly who was

struggling with breast cancer. One night during their prayer class, Kelly said she wasn't ready to go because she didn't want to leave her baby girls, and then he said she stood up and said, "Take this world and give me Jesus." The band wrote this song the next day in practice – to give Kelly strength. (*Kelly is now healthy, alive and sharing her story with others.*) This song was published 2-21-2012.

They have worked extensively with "food for the hungry." A majority of their songs are about and for people who feel separated from God.

They were #1 on the Billboards Christian Charts for 15 weeks in 2011. In 2012, they received the honor of Christian "Song of the Year" and Broadcast Music, Inc. "Song of the Year in 2013.

Bethel's Praise Team enjoys singing the songs of **Building 429** because we love their music, and its gives glory to God!



*LISTEN TO THE SOUND album cover*

### Where I Belong

Sometimes it feels like I'm watching from the outside  
Sometimes it feels like I'm breathing, but am I alive?  
I will keep searching for answers that aren't here to find

*All I know is I'm not home yet  
This is not where I belong  
Take this world and give me Jesus  
This is not where I belong*

So when the walls come falling down on me  
And when I'm lost in the current of a raging sea  
I have this blessed assurance holding me

*All I know is I'm not home yet  
This is not where I belong  
Take this world and give me Jesus  
This is not where I belong*

When the earth shakes  
I wanna be found in you  
When the lights fade  
I wanna be found in you

*All I know is I'm not home yet  
This is not where I belong  
Take this world and give me Jesus  
This is not where I belong*

All I know is I'm not home yet  
This is not where I belong  
Take this world and give me Jesus  
This is not where I belong

*Where I belong  
where I belong  
Where I belong  
where I belong*

By holding the top spot for 15 consecutive weeks, this song set a new record on the Billboard Hot Christian Songs chart for most weeks at #1. The song won **Christian Song of the Year** at BMI's 2013 Christian Awards.

# CARING C O R N E R



# CARE MINISTRY

By Bobbi Dankert

***Let's work for the good of all whenever we have an opportunity, and especially for those in the household of faith.***

Galatians 6:10

## The Sunshine Club



*A group of Bethel meal takers*

The Sunshine Club provides meals for people experiencing a life-changing event in their lives. We strive to provide food via store-bought, restaurant-made or home-cooked. It can be hard to know how to help or support someone during a difficult journey, but the Sunshine Club provides an easy way to reach out. By taking a meal, we are walking beside them, acknowledging their journey, even if we are just dropping the meal off at the door.



## Sunshine Club

You don't have to be a cook, just have the heart to reach out. I send out short emails with instructions on the need and how to sign up for a particular request. You only reply when the timing fits into your schedule. I have received countless blessings by providing food to others. The type of blessing varies, but turns out to be exactly what I needed for that day. My goal is to share in these blessings. If you are interested in receiving emails, please reach out to me.

Requests for Sunshine Club meals are through the Bethel Pastors and the Care Committee team. Therefore the need is real and the effort of providing support from the Bethel community is valued. We do our best to meet the needs of our church family. If you would like to request a meal, please reach out to the Care Committee or Pastor(s).



**One meal makes a difference!**

**Bobbi Dankert**

**Sunshine Club Coordinator  
317-753-8664 cell  
b.dankert@comcast.net**



# MISSIONS

*“GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES...”*



By Joe Rudy



**SERVE Noblesville** is . . . Bridging the social, economic and spiritual gaps in and around our community . . . Bringing local churches, businesses and organizations together in ways that they can serve, meet, and interact with their neighbors . . . touching lives of our neighbors through tangible acts of compassion . . . serving our city by loving our community!



This year (Our 6<sup>th</sup> year!) **SERVE Noblesville** will be held June 27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> at the Hamilton County Fairgrounds. We meet there in the morning and then head out to designated service projects around town. These projects have been applied for and approved and have project leaders there to

guide you to do your job. Over the 4 days, there will be nearly 800 of our neighbors helping in complete over 50 projects in the surrounding community. Through our concentrated efforts, we provide the atmosphere of compassionate neighbors to come together using their unique talents and interests to strengthen relationships between neighbors, unify our community, and grow the pride in where we live.

In years past, I have taken as many youth as possible from Bethel on our “local”



mission trip, but **SERVE Noblesville** is not just a youth event. **SERVE Noblesville** is for every-one of any age. There are many projects to choose from that fit your



age, skill set and passion. I have thought every year how awesome it would be to have a Bethel Team work on a



project together. If this is something you would like to be involved with, let me know! Also, if you have a project idea for someone in need of

assistance but not the financial means to take it on, please reach out to us. Are you in a small group? Talk it up or invite someone from **SERVE Noblesville** to talk it up and do a local mission project right here in our town where it is needed. You will meet people and provide a needed service to our community and friends.



**SERVE Noblesville** can be found on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) as well as their website at: <http://servenoblesville.com>.



# CHRISTIAN

## CONFIRMATION

By Sarah Manro

Confirmation is a big event in the life of a youth. I remember my own Confirmation on September 30, 1990. No, I don't actually remember that date, but I do remember the day and that it was special— it was my coming of age in the church. That's what Confirmation is— a young person affirms their Christian belief and becomes a full member of the church. The date, 9/30/90, is engraved on the back of a simple silver cross our church gave us upon our Confirmation. This is why I do remember the date.

Here at Bethel, Confirmation class is a bit different than it was for me.

We have a strong program lead by Joe Rudy. In addition to Joe and Pastors Doug, Al, and Martins, teaching our middle-school-aged students are Ryan Shelton, Mike Score, Jessica Pearson, Erik Forbes and substitutes Alysen Lemieux and Dustin Pritsch. These volunteers are passionate about working with the pre-teen and young teenagers of our church. Classes take place during our 10 o'clock education hour in the Youth room on the second floor of the education building where you can often find fresh popped popcorn.

Typically Confirmation class is for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students. All the grades are taught together and are currently on the third year of a three-year program cycle. This cycle works well because the order in which it is taught does not matter. My 8th grade daughter is in her third year of Confirmation and receiving the same lessons as my 6th grade son who is in his first year of Confirmation. Next year the cycle will start over and my then 7th grade son will be getting the same lessons my daughter did when she was in 6th grade.



These are the lessons taught in the 3-year cycle:

1st Year— The Lord's Prayer and The Apostle's Creed (2015-2016)

2nd Year- The Sacraments and the Ten Commandments (2016-2017)



## Confirmation

3rd Year- Martin Luther and Lutheranism (2017-2018)

The curriculum comes from Faith Inkubators which features its lessons in Faith 5 Journals that each student receives. The journals give simple ways to incorporate faith practice into family time and small group settings in the church, such as Confirmation class, where the students split into small groups of all boys or all girls for discussion. Continued practice enriches communication, deepens understanding, and promotes mental, physical, and spiritual health. The five steps are: Share your daily highs and lows, Read a Bible

verse or story, Talk about how the Bible reading relates to your highs and lows, Pray for each other's highs and lows, and Bless each other.



Pre-Confirmation Photo—Class of 2017

Students are to attend a minimum of 3 classes per month during the Confirmation year. Outside of class, students have other requirements. A minimum of 16 Worship Reports should be completed, this encourages attending worship services regularly. Students are also expected to complete at least 12 service hours during the Confirmation year. Half of these hours should be spent working in Bethel's food pantry. There are many other ways to earn service hours: acolyting, Hanging of the Greens, helping out at: Midweek Lenten and Advent dinners, Comedy



# EDUCATION

night, Easter egg hunt, Fish Fry, and other fellowship events, volunteering for Vacation Bible School and in the nursery, etc. If youth are involved in other activities outside of church and perform service hours there they can most likely count those hours for Confirmation class, too. Students are also asked to attend a monthly fellowship event organized by the adult leaders. The hope is that the Confirmation students will connect with each other and build their own community and that this community stays with them into Bethel's High School Youth Group.



Jessica Pearson putting necklace on a confirmand

Upon completion of the Confirmation program, 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will write their *Statement of Faith* paper to declare their faith and meet with the Senior Pastor and/or Youth Pastor to defend their paper. This year's Confirmands will be Confirmed on May 20 at the 11:11 am service.



Joe, Andrew, Pastor Al and Pastor Doug



**2018 CONFIRMATION  
MAY 20 — PENTECOST  
11:11 Worship Service**



## We Want Your Input

**Check out the display of  
adult education studies in the  
Narthex and Fellowship Hall  
during the month of June.**

What adult studies would you like  
to see on Sunday mornings?

**Browse - Discuss  
Suggest - Comment**

Let us know what you would  
like to study and learn!

Are you interested in being a study  
leader? Let us know that, too!

# FOCUS ON MINISTRY

## LIFE CELEBRATION DINNERS

By Lee Anne Burrow

What is a celebration of life dinner? Isn't it when we do a funeral for someone? Yes, but several years ago Pastor Doug shared with me that what we are really doing is celebrating the life of the person who has passed on. SO they are more often referred to as Life Celebrations and Life Celebration dinners. The name doesn't change the fact that someone or many someones are going through one of the most painful times in their life, the loss of a loved one.

In 2001 my Dad passed away. He had worked his way up in a company to a fairly high position after 42 years of service. The visitation was packed; we started greeting people at 3:30 p.m. and spoke to the last person at 10:30 p.m. Anyone that came was in line for at least 2 hours. As I stood with my siblings and mother, I noticed many members of Bethel in the line. One stood out. She was an older member who was very active in the church so everyone knew of her, but I didn't really know her. When she got to the front of the line, and we were able to speak, she shared with me that she had worked in a department that was totally dependent on my Dad's department passing the correct info to hers. She had tears in her eyes as she explained what a great man he was and how everyone loved Charlie, that he was dependable and she gave me a lot of insight on why my Dad was so successful. Her name was Marylyn. I discovered a few days later that nothing ever happened in the kitchen at Bethel, that Marylyn Webb didn't have a hand in. That meant funeral dinners.

After that visit I decided I wanted to start helping out at the Life Celebration dinners and get to know this lady, and why she came and stood in line for 2+ hours for a family that she really didn't know. I soon discovered that Marylyn Webb and Sarah Heighway organized all the Life Celebration dinners for Bethel. I realized Bethel was the house that Jesus had the last supper in and Marylyn and Sarah were Peter and John who got the meal organized. All the gospels have an accounting, but my favorite is Luke 22:10-12: He replied, "As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, and say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' He will show you a large upper room all furnished. Make preparations there." Bethel is the house, Marylyn and Sarah were the disciples as with all

the people that volunteered to help set up, prepare, serve and clean up. Believe me it takes more than 12 disciples!

You might be thinking, but Jesus hadn't left yet so it is different, but I have always felt that the same comfort is given by Bethel at this tragic time as Jesus was giving to his family (disciples). The disciples had a day to get ready, and Bethel's time is short to prepare. Bethel's goal and hope is to take one thing off the plate of the family. Make it a meal of fellowship, tell stories, and maybe even laugh a little. But more than that, it is a way for Bethel to say we love you, and we care for you, and we are here for you.

It takes many hands to produce a celebration dinner. Some people drop food off, set up tables, decorate, plan the meal, cook the meal, serve the meal, and clean up after, and it is always done with a loving heart. In the action of Bethel's Life Celebration Dinners we are, as a family of Christ, putting our arms around the loved ones. Bethel becomes the house with the large guest room, and all that help become the disciples that prepared it. That was 17 years ago and Marylyn has passed on, and I still think of her when I do one of the dinners, and what she taught me. Sarah, who went home to Jesus recently, was always willing to bring in her deviled eggs and or a pie, and the memory of her caring and generosity will be with me always.

Nowadays, I know I can always count on Risë Helgemo to be my partner in planning these dinners. (Jesus sent Peter and John.) The guest room has been updated and the disciples have different names but the purpose and the hope that is shared remains the same. Everyone that helps with a Life Celebration dinner is blessed to be a part of the lives of the families, even for an afternoon. They are truly the hands and feet of Christ.



### Life Celebration Dinners

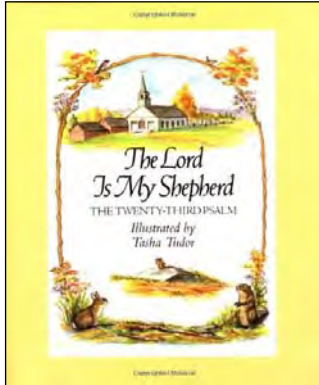
**Sarah Heighway went home to Jesus on April 13th. Life Celebration Dinners were one of Sarah's ministries at Bethel. We give thanks for Sarah's life, and for the blessings she shared in and through her life.**



# BOOKS OF INTEREST

Reviews by Connie Wooldridge

Reading level:  
Grades K-6



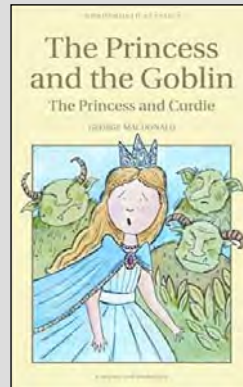
## THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD, THE TWENTY-THIRD PSALM

Illustrated by Tasha Tudor

Caldecott Award winner Tasha Tudor has created quiet, nostalgic water-color illustrations for the Twenty-Third Psalm (King James Version). Images for concepts such as “the shadow of death” and “enemies” are appropriate for the youngest listeners but can easily be expanded upon for older children by an adult reader. Books like this are a great way to commit Bible verses to memory and to understand those verses more clearly.



Reading level:  
Grades 3-6



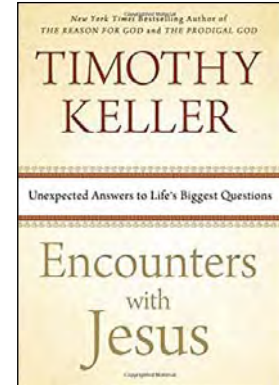
## THE PRINCESS AND THE GOBLIN

by George MacDonald

C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, and Madeleine L'Engle all loved the writing of George MacDonald and *The Princess and the Goblin* is one of his best. Eight-year-old Princess Irene is sent by her King-Papa to live in a large house on the side of a mountain. Her nurse Lootie is horrified when the princess befriends twelve-year-old Curdie, a common miner who disappears into the mountain tunnels each day with his pickaxe. Curdie is sure that the goblins, who live deep in the mountain, are plotting something evil, and he is determined to thwart their plans. Hidden in the plot are Christian issues about belief, trust, and what a true child of the King looks like. A perfect book to read aloud as a family.



Reading level:  
Adult



## ENCOUNTERS WITH JESUS

*Unexpected Answers to Life's Biggest Questions*

By Timothy Keller

Keller has “always appreciated skeptics’ arguments and the invaluable role they play in defining and clarifying what is unique about Christianity.” He’s bothered when Christians dismiss these questions condescendingly. At the church he planted near Central Park in New York City he warmly engages with these skeptics. This book summarizes the big questions that have come up in conversations with them: What is my purpose in life? What is a good life? Why is there so much wrong in the world? What can I do to make it right? It provides rich insights both for the skeptics we might meet and for our own inner skeptics who seem to ambush us at unexpected moments. Most of all, it’s an encouragement not only to get out there and engage with the unbelieving world but to take great delight in the adventure of talking to people about the God of the Bible.

# WORD

## MANY WORDS – ONE JESUS

Fill in the blanks in these Bible verses with the names, titles, and descriptions of Jesus from the word list following the verses. Words may be used multiple times!

How many can you do from memory?

1. I know that my \_\_\_\_\_ lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth. *Job 19:25*
2. The stone the builders rejected has become the \_\_\_\_\_. *Ps 118:22*
3. Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him \_\_\_\_\_. *Is 7:14*
4. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called \_\_\_\_\_ Counselor, \_\_\_\_\_ God, \_\_\_\_\_ Father, \_\_\_\_\_ of Peace. *Is. 9:6*
5. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my \_\_\_\_\_, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." *Matt 3:17*
6. Jesus answered, "How can the guests of the \_\_\_\_\_ mourn while he is with them? The time will come when the \_\_\_\_\_ will be taken from them; then they will fast. *Matt 9:15*
7. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All \_\_\_\_\_ in heaven and on earth has been given to me. *Matt 28:18*
8. Jesus said to them, "A \_\_\_\_\_ is not without honor except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home." *Mark 6:4*
9. Today in the town of David a \_\_\_\_\_ has been born to you; he is the \_\_\_\_\_, the Lord. *Luke 2:11*
10. In the beginning was the \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_ was with God, and the \_\_\_\_\_ was God. *John 1:1*
11. The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, who takes away the sin of the world! *John 1:29*
12. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the \_\_\_\_\_" (that is, the Christ). *John 1:41*
13. Then Jesus declared, "I am the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. *John 6:35*



14. When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the \_\_\_\_\_ of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the \_\_\_\_\_ of life." *John 8:12*
15. "Very truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, \_\_\_\_\_!" *John 8:58*
16. I am the \_\_\_\_\_; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. *John 10:9*
17. "I am the good \_\_\_\_\_. The good \_\_\_\_\_ lays down his life for the sheep. *John 10:11*
18. Jesus said to her, "I am the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die,; and whoever lives believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" *John 11:25-26*
19. Jesus answered, "I am the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_. No one comes to the Father except through me. *John 14:6*
20. "I am the true \_\_\_\_\_, and my Father is the gardener. *John 15:1*
21. Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus." *Acts 4:29-30*



# PLAY

## MANY WORDS – ONE JESUS

### "Who do you say I am?"

Mark 8:29

22. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as \_\_\_\_\_ of the living and the dead. *Acts 10:42*
23. And drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. *1 Cor 10:4*
24. Thanks be to God for his indescribable \_\_\_\_\_! *2 Cor 9:15*
25. For he himself is our \_\_\_\_\_, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, *Eph 2:14*
26. Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is \_\_\_\_\_, to the glory of God the Father. *Phil. 2:9-11*
27. Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our \_\_\_\_\_. *1 Tim 1:1*
28. For there is one God and one \_\_\_\_\_ between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people. *1 Tim 2:5-6a*
29. My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an \_\_\_\_\_ with the Father—Jesus Christ, the \_\_\_\_\_ One. *1 John 2:1*
30. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning \_\_\_\_\_ for our sins. *1 John 4:10*
31. "I am the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the \_\_\_\_\_." *Rev. 1:8*
32. I am the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. *Rev. 22:13*
33. They will wage war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will triumph over them because he is \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_s — and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers." *Rev. 17:14*

ADVOCATE	MEDIATOR
ALMIGHTY	MESSIAH
ALPHA	MIGHTY
AUTHORITY	OMEGA
BREAD	PEACE
BRIDEGROOM	PRINCE
CORNERSTONE	PROPHET
EVERLASTING	REDEEMER
GATE	RESURRECTION
GIFT	RIGHTEOUS
GOD	ROCK
HOPE	SACRIFICE
I AM	SAVIOR
IMMANUEL	SERVANT
JUDGE	SHEPHERD
KING	SON
KINGS	TRUTH
LAMB	VINE
LIFE	WAY
LIGHT	WONDERFUL
LORD	WORD
LORDS	

Answers may be found 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	5/20/18	Pentecost
Sunday	5/27/18	Holy Trinity Sunday
Sunday	6/3/18	2nd Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	6/10/18	3rd Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	6/17/18	4th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	6/24/17	5th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	7/1/18	6th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	7/8/18	7th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	7/15/18	8th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	7/22/18	9th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	7/29/18	10th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	8/5/18	11th Sunday after Pentecost

## EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

May 1, 2018 — August 17, 2018

- May 1 Baptism Class 7 p.m.
- May 2 Healing Service 7 p.m.
- May 10 Preschool Mother's Day Tea 9:00 a.m.
- May 20 Pentecost Sunday
- May 20 Confirmation at 11:11 Worship Service
- May 27 Holy Trinity Sunday
- June 5 Baptism Class 7 p.m.
- Jun 6 Healing Service 7 p.m.
- Jun 9-10 Congregational Annual Meeting
- Jun 15-16 Rummage Sale
- Jun 20-23 SERVE Noblesville
- Jun 24-28 Vacation Bible School
- Jul 5 Healing Service 7 p.m.
- Jul 7-14 Summer Camp
- Aug 1 Healing Service 7 p.m.
- Aug 13-17 Lutheran Week - NALC Convocation



### Answers to WORD PLAY

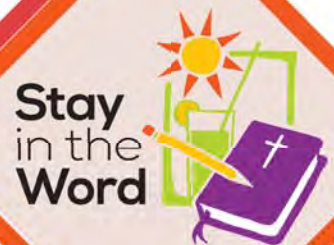
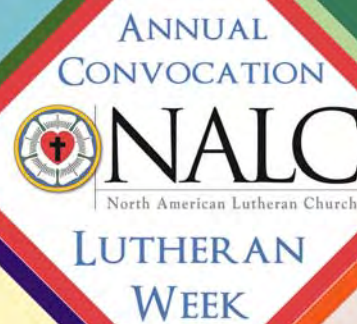
1-REDEEMER; 2-CORNERSTONE; 3-IMMANUEL;  
 4-WONDERFUL, MIGHTY, EVERLASTING,  
 PRINCE; 5-SON; 6-BRIDEGROOM;  
 7-AUTHORITY; 8-PROPHET; 9-SAVIOR, MESSI-  
 AH; 10-WORD; 11-LAMB, GOD; 12-MESSIAH;  
 13-BREAD, LIFE; 14-LIGHT; 15-I AM; 16-GATE;  
 17-SHEPHERD; 18-RESURRECTION, LIFE;  
 19-WAY, TRUTH, LIFE; 20-VINE; 21-SERVANT;  
 22-JUDGE; 23-ROCK; 24-GIFT; 25-PEACE;  
 26-LORD; 27-HOPE; 28-MEDIATOR;  
 29-ADVOCATE, RIGHTEOUS; 30-SACRIFICE;  
 31-ALMIGHTY, ALPHA, OMEGA; 32-ALPHA,  
 OMEGA; 33-LORD, LORDS, KING, KINGS.



Ezekiel 37:14, NRSV



# Events & Activities







## 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 WEEK OF THE MONTH

7:00 p.m. – Healing Service

Wednesdays in May & June, Thursday in July

### CONFIRMATION

May 20th

11:11 a.m. - Confirmation during Worship Service

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**NALC**

North American Lutheran Church