

FOOTPRINTS

Bethel Lutheran Church Believe—Belong—Become

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

IN THIS ISSUE:

Pastor’s column

Profile

Feature

The NALC

Vacation Bible School

Seasons & Holy Days

Church Music

Caring Corner

And more

**The wind blows wherever it wants.
Just as you can hear the wind but
can’t tell where it comes from or
where it is going, so you can’t explain
how people are born of the Spirit.”**

John 3:8 (NLT)

FOOTPRINTS



ON THE COVER:

John 3:8

Pixabay

FOOTPRINTS

Issue # 12

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), Jill Dietz, Pastor Doug Gast, Carole Kuhn, Trudy Kussow, John Patterson, and Pastor Al Schoonover.

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PENTECOST

PASTOR'S COLUMN

Handholds in a Crisis



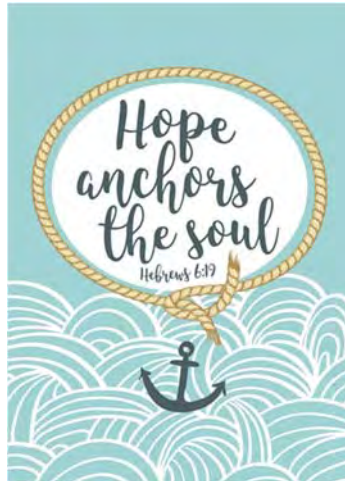
We have this hope as an anchor for the soul.

Hebrews 6:19

Gentlepeople of Bethel,

What an amazing last few weeks we've faced as a community and as a church! No one anticipated how these days would unfold, and the future seems equally unclear, though by the time you read this the shape of our return to "normal" may be emerging from the fog of physical distancing, stay at home mandates, and school closures. We have tried to respond to the needs of our church community and to our neighbors, and I am deeply grateful at how our Calling Team, Response Team, Church Council, and Staff have rallied together creatively to maintain and extend our ministry to meet these needs.

In the midst of the uncertainty and the many unknowns, the author of Hebrews reminds us there is an anchor for our soul – Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior – that will help us weather our current crisis, as well as any turmoil in which we might find ourselves. If history is an accurate guide, this isn't the last challenge we will face in our lifetime. While we may not see Coronavirus again like we have since January, there will undoubtedly be some other upheaval that will upset our carefully ordered world. Here are several handholds that have been helpful to me in this season; I pray they are for you, too.



Not everything you hear is true

Not everyone with an opinion on the Internet, television, and social media are subject-matter experts. Proverbs 13:16 reminds us, "The prudent person always acts out of knowledge." In other words, act out of knowledge and not fear. Make it a priority to get your facts from people who are trustworthy. And know when the time comes to turn off the television or step away from the computer. Seeking out one more bit of information or the latest update may not be helpful; in fact, it may increase your stress and anxiety.

This will pass

The Bible tells us there will always be trials. Believers are not immune from them. 1 Peter 4:12 says, "Dear friends, don't be surprised or shocked that you are going through testing that is like walking through fire." These are tough times, but they won't last forever. Circumstances may cause us to make changes in our ministry (like our move to online worship in the middle of March). But these changes won't last forever, either.



God is with us in this storm

This handhold comes from God's very name, "Emmanuel," which means "God with us" (Matthew 1.23). I love how this is embodied in the closing we've used during worship in March and April. It was from a sermon series many years ago, but its timeliness has been demonstrated again this past month:

I'll get through this. It won't be painless. It won't be quick. But God will use this mess for good. In the meantime, don't be foolish or naive. But don't despair, either. With God's help I'll get through this.

Regardless of the challenge, God will walk through every bit of it with us. We may feel alone at times. We may feel like no one understands the stresses you are experiencing, or the demands being placed on you. But you and I will never be alone.

Focus on what is unchanging

When crisis strikes, there will be many changes to our world, our community, and even in our church. It's safe to say we can't know ahead of time (or even as we go through the waters) the entire variety of changes we'll be forced to make. We may be called on to do things to serve our community and our congregation we have never dreamed of before. If we only focus on the changes and the uncertainty, it will seem as though everything is shifting under our feet, that nothing is stable.

It will be important to remain flexible, and to focus on what hasn't changed. The Bible says, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8 NIV). In the midst of all this change, we can count on that truth. We can also know that God's love for us has never changed. Don't let all the changes cause us to lose sight of everything that is still the same.

God wants to use us

From the very start, our leaders have tried to "look for the helpers" (thank you, Mr. Rogers!) and to be one of those helpers. It's not enough simply to survive; it's possible for us to thrive in times of crisis. Even with this incredible, mind-boggling situation, God has given us an opportunity to serve in ways we wouldn't have considered or that might not have been possible two months ago. God wants us to thrive. This is the difference between how we deal with pain as believers and how the world does. The church sees every need in the world as an open door for ministry.

What an exciting time to be the church at work in our world! I'm so grateful and honored to be serving Jesus with you!!

Pastor Al



PROFILE: Michelle Whitehead



by Carole Kuhn

Music, Music, Music!



Michelle playing Bethel's new digital piano

Michelle Whitehead has been organist here at Bethel since 2016, but began as “fill-in” organist in 2010. She began “living” music at a young age, growing up in the small town of Monroeville, Indiana, near Ft. Wayne. Her parents owned NAPA stores in Monroeville as well as Payne, Ohio, another small town about 20 miles from Ft. Wayne. She started music lessons in elementary school, leaning toward piano. However, organ lessons soon became dominant. At age 9, her church organist began giving her lessons, progressing in those lessons for several years. The teaching included hymns, liturgy and other music, enabling Michelle to participate in church services. Two other teachers gave her guidance over those early years also.

By high school, she began singing lessons, and then returned to taking piano lessons as this would help with music school auditions. The high school years also saw an expanded interest in music ability as she played alto and tenor saxophones in band, sang in concert and show choirs, and was a choir accompanist.



Ball State University was her choice to major in Music Education. There was no slow-down in her interests. She sang with the university and concert choirs, played saxophone with the summer band, and once again took organ lessons from a friend at Ball State who was studying organ performance.

Upon graduation from Ball State, she began a teaching career of her own in Yorktown, Indiana. She

taught music in three different buildings, dubbing herself a “traveling music teacher.” All in one day, she taught elementary music to grades 3 through 5; middle school choir, as well as high school choir and high school theatre. She was at Yorktown four years.

In 2007, Michelle joined Westfield-Washington Schools teaching general music at both the intermediate and middle schools the first year. After that year, and to the present, she began teaching solely at the intermediate school. Her schedule includes general music for grades 5 and 6, as well as choir for the same grades. Also, she directs an after-school musical theatre program. Michelle joined Bethel in 2007 and she and Neil were married here in 2008. She had met him back at Ball State.



Michelle, Leah, & Neil Whitehead



Whiteheads in one of the family's collection of Auburn cars.

Another “background of interest” for Michelle, and now for Neil and their daughter Leah, are certain

“old” cars. Her parents were born and raised in Auburn, Indiana, which is well-known as the home of the Auburn Cord Dusenberg Museum. When traveling north, passing through the Ft. Wayne area, you will see signs advertising this museum. Her father had a passion for old cars, finding and restoring them, especially Auburns. Their family trips were in a 1936 Auburn Sedan, many times with other Auburn and Cord families. Michelle’s father taught her to drive in a 1928 Ford Model A Roadster Pickup. They restored it when she was in high school, and she and Neil have that same car. When Michelle and Neil were married, her father’s 1931 Auburn Boattail Speedster was their “getaway” car!



1928 Ford Model A Roadster Pickup

Michelle and her sister usually host a car “show” for the Auburn, Cord, Dusenberg Club in June in Auburn. Her father started the idea in 1999. After he passed away, the girls took it on. Typically, they have around 50 people from all over the U.S. and Canada at the show, bringing their Auburns and Cords. The day is spent visiting local businesses and historical sites, sort of like a family reunion—having fun, “catching up” and driving around in the cars.



Leah at car show with one of the family’s Auburn cars.

Neil and Michelle’s daughter, Leah, is now 9 years old; she was baptized here by Pastor E. Dean. We’ve all seen how she too is taking on responsibilities here at Bethel. It all started when she was in kindergarten and began helping pack the Bethel school Backpacks each year. Then one day, it was announced someone was needed to help lead the Thanksgiving and Christmas basket donations. Leah commented after service that they could do that! So, Michelle and Neil agreed they would “support her.” Each year, Leah takes on a bit more on her own. We see her do the announcement when it’s time to begin. Leah will be in 5th grade at Westfield Intermediate this fall.



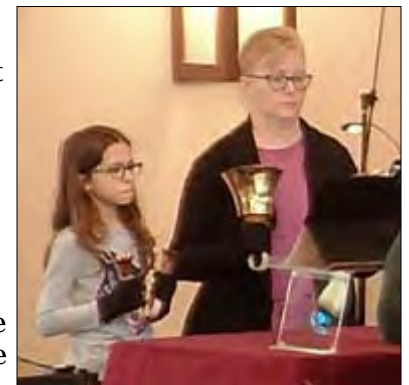
Leah leads Holiday Sharing Mission



Neil installing old Bethel cross

Neil is a very busy person in this family also. He is Maintenance Foreman at Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation. He is responsible for maintaining all Carmel Clay parks, recreation facilities, and the trails. He also helps out here at the church, most recently with the installation of the stone cross on the Peace Trail.

And yes...you do see Michelle and Leah in the Bethel Bell Choir at some of our services. Apparently this talent came under one of those music education times also! We are blessed to have so much talent in our church staff...and those who share their outside interests also. Not just Musical Chairs...how about Music and Cars!



Leah & Michelle play handbells



THE CHAPEL



THE KEPNER CHAPEL

*by Jill Dietz,
with help from Pastor Doug and Stan Renner*

Have you spent any time in Bethel's chapel?

Were you even aware that Bethel has a chapel?

If not, it's the first door on your left as you go down the hallway, just past the coat rack.



The Kepner Chapel was named after Talmadge (Tal) Kepner, and was given by his wife, Anna. Tal is a second cousin to Stan Renner, but was considered more of a Great Uncle to the family. Tal and family, including Stan are related to the Kepners, who were founding members of Bethel. Tal and Anna were long standing members of Bethel, and Tal was a 4th generation member.

Back on Jackson Street, at the end of the year, when finances were tough and the budget didn't balance, Tal would write a check to cover any deficiencies. There was a great discussion on how to cover the pews on Jackson Street. They did a fund-raiser, like we are doing with our current roof, where you could buy a

cushion. Tal finally stood up, after much discussion, and said, "I'll take them all." And he paid for the entire recovering of the pews. Some of that fabric is still on the pews here.

Tal lived to be 97 or 98. Anna was in her 90's when we were building this new building. Stan went to talk to her and asked if she wanted to make a donation to the building fund. She made the single largest donation in Bethel history, up to that time. Others had made sizeable donations, but to be paid over time. Hers was a single gift. She told Stan that she was old, so she might as well give it now. She asked Stan to write the check for her, as her handwriting had failed. He said his hand was shaking as he wrote that big of an amount.

The current building was already under construction and this space was designated for a library/conference room. When Anna gave the money, it was decided to change it to a chapel and name it after Tal. Anna gave the stained-glass windows, the carpet and the chairs for use in the chapel.

Speedway Lutheran Church came to help us out during construction, and they were largely instrumental in framing and dry-walling the chapel. They sent a group of about 6 men for a few Saturdays to get this job done.



The room has been many things in the past 22 years. It started as a chapel, then was turned into office space that held Pastor E. Dean, Tim Denton, Jay Miller and Doug Given. It was restored to a chapel, after the Education wing was added and the offices could be moved down the hall. It has been a music room, Sunday School room and conference room and it houses the choir robes and acolyte robes, in the closet.

THE CHAPEL



When we were discussing building a new church, a survey was done of the congregation, asking what things, in Jackson Street, were important to people. The items, in no particular order, were the altar, the stained-glass windows, the beams, and the pipe organ. The altar in the chapel was brought from Jackson Street and was refinished, for the move, by Dave Pickett. It is all one piece, with the back board attached to the altar. It never would have been big enough as the altar in the present sanctuary, so the chapel was the perfect place for it. The wooden stand in the corner of the chapel was in the narthex at Jackson Street and held the guest book. The Bible was a gift from a member, as was the Bible and the stand to the right of the altar. The candelabras are from Jackson Street, as is the cross. This cross is a special one, in that, when you turn it around, it holds a sculpture of Jesus on it. This side was

turned out on Good Friday and was shrouded in a black cloth. The kneeler and rail are from Jackson Street and that is original carpet. The original church pulpit still stands in the building on Jackson Street.



Stan hung the wallpaper in the chapel with Nancy Martz and Chris Cook. It was originally a flat ceiling, but was changed to be the vaulted ceiling to make it more like a chapel and to make it special.

It's not used very often, but is there whenever someone wants some quiet time to pray. An Adult Sunday School class is held in the chapel on Sunday mornings. It is used about 3 times a year for weddings and funeral services, and the Tuesday Night Bible group prays in the chapel at the start of their meetings every Tuesday. Pastor Doug did a wedding in the chapel in February. It's a perfect place for small, intimate services.

Next time you're at church, stop in and look at the chapel. Spend a few moments looking at the history that was brought from Jackson Street and more importantly, spend some time talking with Jesus. It's a beautiful place and a perfect place to find a quiet moment with God!



ASK THE PASTOR



IS THERE SOMETHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO ASK?

By Pastor Doug Gast

Q

Whatever happened to each of the apostles?



What Ever Happened to the Disciples After the Resurrection?

As I sit and write this article, it is four days before Easter. Jesus spent a lot of time investing in his 12 disciples. Over the three years together, the disciples heard Jesus teach with authority. They witnessed as he healed those who were sick and suffering and as he calmed the storm, fed the 5,000, and drove out demons. He modeled a life of servanthood and love. Following Jesus had been quite a journey.

But in this last week of Jesus' life, the intensity was turned up. They waved their palms as Jesus entered Jerusalem. They were there every day with Jesus in the temple, teaching and confronting the Jewish religious leaders. They were with him in the upper room as Jesus shared his last supper with them.

It all went south from there. In the garden, Jesus asked them to watch, instead they fell asleep. When the soldiers came to arrest Jesus, the disciples scattered. At the trial, none of the disciples were there to refute the charges. Only one of the disciples, John, stood at the cross with Jesus' mother Mary. None of the 12 disciples, helped bury Jesus, and for the next three days, they remained hidden behind locked doors. When the women came with the news that Jesus had risen and was alive, most of the disciples dismissed their news and thought it to be an idle tale. Even after the risen Christ made himself known to many of the disciples, Thomas, one of Christ's most sincere disciples, would not believe that it could be so. Even on the mountain, when Christ made his final appearance and gave them the Great Commission, most worshipped him, but Matthew tells us some doubted.

But then, 50 days after the resurrection . . . Pentecost happens. The Holy Spirit comes into their lives. They are moved out into the streets of Jerusalem. These disciples are absolutely transformed. They moved from doubting and fearful to dynamic and courageous in their witness to the resurrection. They went from being disciples (learners) to being apostles (those who are sent out). They were on a mission of calling the entire world to repentance and faith in the risen Christ. Even more impressively, none of those who claimed to have met Christ after his resurrection ever recanted. They were persecuted, tortured, even martyred, and right to the very end, they stayed true to their testimony. He is alive.

So how did the apostles die? I'll share a brief summary and a symbol of how they died. I find it to be very interesting, indeed.

The New Testament tells of the fate of only two of the apostles. Most of us know that **Judas**, who betrayed Jesus, when he realized what he had done, went out and hanged himself.



Reports and legends abound and they are not always reliable, but it is safe to say that the apostles went far and wide as heralds of the message of the risen Christ. An early legend says they cast lots and divided up the world to determine who would go where, so all could hear about Jesus. They suffered greatly for their faith and in most cases met violent deaths on account of their bold witness.



James, the son of Zebedee, was executed by a sword by Herod in about 44 A.D. King Herod was eager to win the favor of the Jews. Since the Jews were very interested in preventing Christianity from spreading, he believed persecuting Christians would please his Jewish subjects — and it did. James' death is recorded in Acts 12.



Peter and Paul: Both martyred in Rome about 66 A.D., during the persecution under Emperor Nero. Peter was crucified, upside down at his request, since he did not feel he was worthy to die in the same manner as his Lord. Paul was beheaded.



Andrew went to the "land of the man-eaters," in what is now the Soviet Union. Christians there claim him as the first to bring the gospel to their land. He also preached in Asia Minor, modern-day Turkey, and in Greece, where he is said to have been crucified.

Thomas was probably most active in the area east of Syria. Tradition has him preaching as far east as India, where the ancient Marthoma Christians revere him as their founder. They claim that he died there when pierced through with the spears of four soldiers.



Philip is believed to have had a powerful ministry in Carthage North Africa, and then in Asia Minor, where he converted the wife of a Roman proconsul. In retaliation, the proconsul had Philip arrested and cruelly put to death. Most traditions say he was beheaded or stoned to death or crucified upside-down, sometime around 80 A.D.



Matthew, the tax collector and writer of the first Gospel, ministered in Persia and Ethiopia. Some of the oldest reports say he was martyred, but they disagree about how and where it happened. The report that has the most acceptance states: "The scene of his labors was Parthia and Ethiopia, in which latter country he suffered martyrdom, being slain with a halberd in the city of Nadabah, A.D. 60."



Bartholomew had widespread missionary travels attributed to him by tradition: to India with Thomas, back to Armenia, and also to Ethiopia and Southern Arabia. He was probably martyred — but like many of the apostles, there are several ways it may have happened. The most accepted tradition is that he was flayed and then beheaded, which is why most art portraying him either shows him holding or wearing his skin or associates him with flaying knives. Other records of his death claim that in India, "He was at length cruelly beaten and then crucified by the impatient idolaters."



James, son of Alphaeus, is one of at least three men named James referred to in the New Testament. There is some confusion as to which is which, but this James is reckoned to have ministered to Syria. The Jewish historian Josephus reported that he was stoned and then clubbed to death with a fuller's club.



Jude It's traditionally believed that Jude was martyred in Syria on his missionary journey with Simon the Zealot. But it's unclear how reliable this tradition is because it comes from the account found in Acts of Simon and Jude, a questionable text full of legendary stories. According to *The Golden Legend*, Simon and Jude command demons to come out of idols and destroy their own images. Then the religious leaders kill Simon and Jude.

John is traditionally regarded as the only apostle to die of old age. Before Jesus died, he entrusted his mother Mary to the "beloved disciple" who is most widely believed to be John. Most say John and Mother Mary lived in Ephesus, where he wrote his three epistles. From there, John was exiled to the island of Patmos for preaching the gospel, where he received the revelation from Christ and wrote the Book of Revelation. Eventually, he made it back to Ephesus and died an ordinary death sometime after 98 A.D.



Matthias The apostle chosen to replace Judas. Matthias is *the* most obscure apostle, so it shouldn't be a surprise that we can't be very sure what he did or how he died. Some traditions claim he was stoned at the end of his ministry to cannibals in Aethiopia (Georgia). Another tradition claims that he was stoned by Jews in Jerusalem and then beheaded.

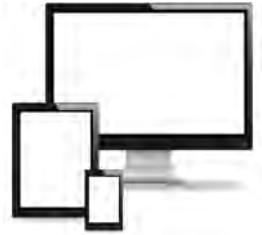


The willing deaths of the apostles does not prove the resurrection is true. But it does show the depth of the apostle's convictions. When I think of their conviction, I see men who lived deep in the faith of Jesus, who lived passionately with the faith directing all of life, and who staked everything, even their very lives, for the faith in Christ who was their all-in-all.

The apostles were devoted to the truth they experienced in the risen Lord. They did not invent the resurrection stories. They proclaimed the risen Christ to skeptical and antagonistic audiences with full knowledge they would likely suffer, if not die, for the beliefs. Evidence demonstrates they never wavered in their convictions. They banked their lives on the risen Jesus they had personally experienced. They gave their all because of the One who had given His all for them. We, too, can come to a personal experience of His resurrection by seeking after Him. Our knowledge is second-hand, for sure, but the Holy Spirit continues to affirm to us that everything the apostles tell us about Jesus in Scripture is true.



With God's help . . . and some tech . . . we'll get through this!

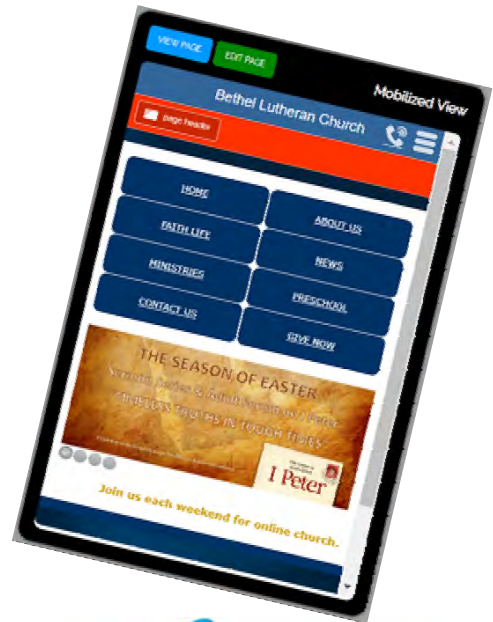


Bethel and its people are using various kinds of tech to communicate through the Covid-19 lockdown.

Join us on the web at:
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**BETHEL
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**CONFIRMATION
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I'll get through this. It won't be painless.
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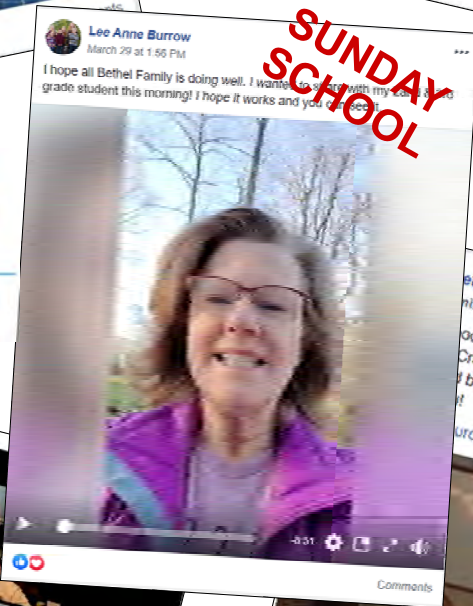
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SUNDAY SCHOOL



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SEASONS & HOLY DAYS

PENTECOST . . . The Church's Birthday

By Carole Kuhn

The Festival of Pentecost...the beginning of the Christian Church...is commemorated as the Church's birthday. Pentecost Sunday is celebrated 50 days after Easter, including Easter Sunday. This is to remember the 3000 who were baptized that day in Jerusalem.

As Jesus sat and ate with the Apostles before ascending into heaven, He had told them to remain in Jerusalem as they and many others would be "baptized with the Holy Spirit" and then able speak in many tongues to all who were gathered there to celebrate what was known as the Feast of Weeks.

On Pentecost, the mighty winds came and blew the Holy Spirit in flames of fire down on the Apostles and others giving them the ability to speak in many tongues so all could understand how God was blessing them. Christianity then spread throughout the Roman empire...thus the birth of the Christian church. The color red in paraments and vestments is used to remind us of the fire on that day. After the day of Pentecost, the focus of all is to be on the growth of the church by reviewing our own faith and sharing it with others. As we go through spring and summer, green is the color used for the season, as in the natural growth around us and to remind us of the growth given to our lives through Jesus' sacrifice.

After the day of Pentecost, there are other "Festival Days" throughout the Season of Pentecost, which is also known as "ordinary time." The first Sunday after Pentecost is known as **Holy Trinity Sunday** telling us how God has been revealed—Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The color for that day is white. **Reformation Sunday** is the last Sunday in October remembering Martin Luther nailing his 95 Theses to the church door. We celebrate what beliefs make us Lutheran, but remember the grief of the brokenness of the church. Red is the color of the day. **All Saints Sunday** celebrates Christians from all times and places. White is the color of the day.

The final Sunday of the Season, **Christ the King Sunday**, is also celebrated as the final Sunday of the Church year as we prepare to begin the next Liturgical year at Advent. Color for this day is white.

John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.
Acts 1:5 NLT

And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.
Acts 2:4 NLT

But everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.
Acts 2:21 NLT

LUTHERAN CHRISTIANS

WHO WE ARE - WHAT WE BELIEVE

By Gay Hanson

PRAYERS BEFORE MEALS

“SAYING GRACE”

*All Bible quotes are from
the New Living Translation (NLT)*

It might be called “saying grace” or “giving thanks” or “saying the blessing,” but ultimately, it is the belief that people should thank God who is the origin of everything.

Grace is defined by the Merriam-Webster’s online dictionary as: “a short prayer at a meal asking a blessing or giving thanks.”

The practice of saying thanks to God for a meal has a very long history and can be traced to early biblical times. In Deuteronomy 8:10, God says, “When you have eaten your fill, be sure to praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you.” In Psalm 136:25-26, King David gives thanks to God for food, “He gives food to every living thing. His faithful love endures forever. Give thanks to the God of heaven. His faithful love endures forever.”

Jesus gives thanks to God for providing meals. In Matthew 14:15-21 and 15:32-38 when Jesus feeds thousands of people, his first action is give thanks to God. He says grace at the Last Supper as related in Luke 22:19, “He took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” Even after his Resurrection, Jesus continues the practice as related in Luke 24:30, “As they sat down to eat, he took the bread and blessed it. Then he broke it and gave it to them.” The Apostle Paul continues the practice as related in Acts 27:35, “Then he took some bread, gave thanks to God before them all, and broke off a piece and ate it.”

In English, “giving thanks” became “saying grace” because of the Latin origin of the word “thanks” being *gratiarum action* or in Italian *grazie*.

While the word “grace” to Christians, especially Lutherans, means “unmerited love of God for all people,” it is also historically connected to “giving thanks” to God before or after a meal. This is not especially surprising as the food we eat is often given to us through no effort of our own. Food is a great gift that sustains us and keeps us alive, and God is the ultimate creator of it all, providing everything that we eat. Our food can be seen as a “grace.” It is therefore fitting that we call that process of giving thanks, grace.

There are many forms of “saying grace” from memorized phrases to more elaborate and personalized prayers. The important thing to remember is God is the giver of everything, and just as we all appreciate being thanked for the gifts we give, so God appreciates our thanks.

Make saying grace a habit in your household!





NALC

North American Lutheran Church

NALC
2020
Convocation
August 3-7

Every year, the North American Lutheran Church gathers for **Lutheran Week!** The week is more than a conference, more than a church festival and much more than a business meeting. The NALC Lutheran Week is all of that and more! This year's theme is *God the Father Creates*.

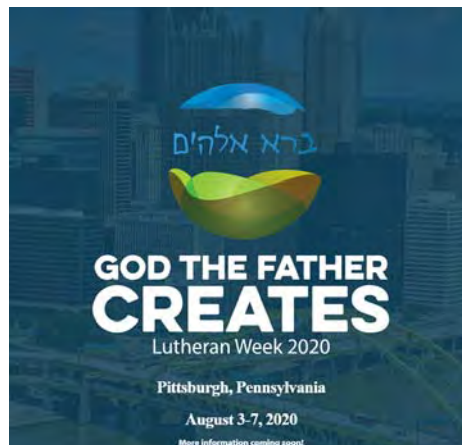
The 2020 Lutheran Week of the North American Lutheran Church will draw our attention to the person of God, the Father. Continuing the six-year cycle focusing on the persons and work of the Holy Trinity, the Braaten-Benne Lecture series, the NALC Mission Festival and Convocation will each aspire to point to the nature and being of God, the Father, who is creator of heaven and earth!

Lutherans will necessarily remember Martin Luther's Small Catechism, affirming the first article of the Apostle's Creed: *I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.* And the subsequent question: *What does this mean?* The Catechism explains: I believe that God has made me and all that exists. He has given me and still preserves my body and soul with all their powers. He provides me with food and clothing, home and family, daily work, and all I need from day to day. God also protects me in time of danger and guards me from every evil. All this he does out of fatherly and divine goodness and mercy, though I do not deserve it. Therefore I surely ought to thank and praise, serve and obey him. This is most certainly true. (*The Small Catechism*, Martin Luther, Augsburg/Fortress, 1979.)

At first glance, Luther's explanation of this article appears to focus attention on the "work" of God the Father, that He has made me and all

creatures, providing for us richly and daily with all that we need! The Father does all this, however, because of who He is—because it is His nature not only to create, but also to provide, and all this, He does, "*out of fatherly and divine goodness and mercy, though I do not deserve it.*"

Dr. Luther was always careful to emphasize that all we have and are, indeed, our justification and eternal salvation are not because of us and our words or deeds, but solely the proper work of God, growing out of the heart and being of God. For God the Father not only creates, but also redeems and sanctifies us, through the gift of His Son and Holy Spirit. Luther writes in the Large Catechism: He has created us for this very purpose, to redeem and sanctify us. Moreover, having bestowed upon us everything in heaven and on earth, he has



given us his Son and his Holy Spirit, through whom he brings us to himself. As we explained before, we could never come to recognize the Father's favor and grace were it not for the Lord Christ, who is a mirror of the Father's heart. Apart from him we see nothing but an angry and terrible judge. (Apostle's Creed, Article III, *Book of Concord*, Tappert, Fortress Press, 1959)

As we focus on the person, nature and being of God the Father, we understand Him fully through the Lord Jesus Christ, mirror of the Father's heart, revealed by the Holy Spirit, because of the Father's divine goodness and mercy! Join us for Lutheran Week 2020!

Any member of an NALC congregation is welcome to attend the annual convocation.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Vacation Bible School — June 28-July 2!

As of this date, this year's Vacation Bible school "ROCKY RAILWAY" is scheduled for Sunday June 28-Thursday July 2 (6:30-8:30p). However, the current Coronavirus pandemic is causing us to remain flexible with our plans. We will decide on May 10 whether we will be able to go ahead with our current plans for our usual week-long event, or if we will shift to a weekend-long alternate style program later in the summer or fall when restrictions on mass gatherings ease. Keep watch for more information in "Bethel Believes" and on Bethel's Facebook pages!

The VBS that's just the ticket!

Climb aboard for mountains of fun at Rocky Railway! On this faith-filled adventure, kids discover that trusting Jesus pulls them through life's ups and downs.

Experiencing God's Word



Rock out at Rocky Railway!

One of the best parts about Rocky Railway VBS— award-winning music! Fun songs kids will want to listen to again and again—sure to become new family faves!

Volunteers needed to help with VBS!
Contact Kris Lingenfelter at kris@bethellutheranchurch.com.

CHURCH HISTORY

PHILIPP MELANCHTHON — REFORMER



Philipp Melanchthon was one of the most important figures of the Protestant Reformation. In fact, many experts say it could never have happened without him. He was Martin Luther's best friend and favorite intellectual sparring partner. He was exceedingly intelligent. He attended Heidelberg University at the age of 12 and studied everything from mathematics and law to astronomy and philosophy. He had a particular

fondness for the Greek language and even changed his German name "Schwartzertd" (*black earth*) to the Greek equivalent: Melanchthon. By the time he was 21, he had published many works including a guide to Greek grammar (1518).

In 1518, he became the first Professor of Greek at the University of Wittenberg where he came under Luther's influence and switched to theology. Despite a 14-year age difference, the two men became fast friends. While Melanchthon's lectures would often draw 600 students at a time, he was known to be less charismatic than Martin Luther. He was, however, much more organized than his mentor, who could be emotional and impulsive. At a time of great turmoil in Christianity, Melanchthon stayed calm, cool, and collected, always favoring reason to passion and looking for areas of agreement with fellow Christians.

In 1530, when Luther was called to defend his controversial teaching, it was Melanchthon who produced the Augsburg Confession. Of the 28 articles in the Confession, the first 21 confirm the foundations of Lutheranism, while the last 7 detail the major differences between Lutheranism and the Roman Catholic Church. Sixteen years later, Melanchthon would lead the German Reformation movement after Luther's death. He is also known for reforming the German education system.

Philipp Melanchthon died in Lutherstadt Wittenberg in 1560 and was buried next to Martin Luther, determined to remain at his side even in death.

TIMELINE OF MELANCHTHON'S LIFE

1497 – Philipp is born in Bretten (Germany) on February 16th as the first son of armorer Georg Schwartzertd.

1508 – Studies Latin in Pforzheim where he lives with a relative, the sister of the humanist Reuchlin. She bestows upon him the Greek version of his last name – Melanchthon.

1509 – Student at Heidelberg University.

1511 – Receives his Bachelor of Arts degree in Heidelberg.

1512 – Studies in Tübingen, receiving his Master of Arts in 1514 and becomes a university lecturer (for beginners). He also writes a Greek grammar book during this time.

1518 – Appointed Greek professor in Lutherstadt Wittenberg thanks to a recommendation from Reuchlin. His inaugural lecture is on the reform of the education system and here he becomes friends with Martin Luther.

1519 – Melanchthon accompanies Luther to the Leipzig Disputation and receives a Bachelor of Theology in Wittenberg the same year.

1520 – Marries Katharina Krapp.

1522 – Luther's German translation of the New Testament is published, having been completed with Melanchthon's help.

1523 – Melanchthon, the driving force behind the reform at the University of Lutherstadt Wittenberg, is appointed rector of the university and introduces declamations.

1524 – On a journey to Bretten, Cardinal Campeggio tries (and fails) to turn Melanchthon against Luther. Meets with Duke Philipp of Hesse on the journey home.

1527 – Melanchthon attends the school and church inspection in Thuringia.

1528 – Melanchthon publishes Instructions for Inspectors, which features a preface written by Luther.

1529 – Melanchthon participates in the second Diet of Speyer and the Marburg Confessional discussion (debate on symbolic or actual presence of Christ in communion between Luther and Zwingli).

1530 – Diet of Augsburg: Melanchthon writes the Augsburg Confession.

1534 – Luther's translation of the Bible is complete, thanks in large part to Melanchthon's help and linguistic skills.

1536 – Melanchthon travels to Bretten and Tübingen (university reform).

1540 – Melanchthon falls seriously ill in Weimar.

1540 – Confessional discussions in Worms and Regensburg (Melanchthon – Eck).

1547 – Schmalkaldic War: Melanchthon flees to Zerbst and Nordhausen together with his family.

1557 – Melanchthon attends the Second Confessional Discussion in Worms and Heidelberg (university reform). Melanchthon's wife dies on October 11th.

1560 – Melanchthon dies on April 19th.



CHURCH MUSIC

HYMNS & SONGS

By Jill Dietz

“O Holy Spirit, Enter In”

“O Holy Spirit, Enter In” is hymn #786 in the ELW. It’s not under the Pentecost heading, but any song dealing with the Holy Spirit is what Pentecost is about. The lyrics were written by Michael Schirmer. Schirmer lived from 1606-1673 and had a variety of jobs, including being a wine cask inspector and a pro-rector and rector of the Greyfriars Gymnasium in Berlin. He retired due to health reasons and became a poet and was published. He wrote in German and Latin and this hymn is his only one to be translated into English. Along with poetry, he wrote a rhythmical version of *Ecclesiasticus*, a scriptural play and versions of some of the songs of the Old and New Testaments. Many of his hymns have passed into German hymnals. This hymn - “O Holy Spirit, Enter In” was first published in German in 1640 and was put into the Pennsylvania Lutheran Church Book in 1868.



Philipp Nicolai was the composer of the tune for this hymn and lived from 1556-1608. Since he passed away 2 years after Schirmer was born, it’s clear that the tune came first and Schirmer added the words at a later date. Nicolai was educated at Wittenberg University and was ordained as a Lutheran pastor in 1583. He was in conflict with the Roman Catholic town council and at one point fled from the Spanish army. He took an active part on the Lutheran side in the controversy involving communion. He battled with Calvinists who disagreed with him about the theology of the real presence of Christ in the Lord’s Supper. Nicolai, who lived in Hamburg much of his life and did many pastoral commissions there, was very well liked, very popular, a very influential preacher and a pillar of the Lutheran church. Even though he wrote many hymns, only four have been printed. During the great pestilence of 1598, Nicolai’s parsonage overlooked the court yard where many burials took place daily. Nicolai turned these scenes of great tragedy into hope as he focused on the joys of eternal life with God.

Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878) translated Schirmer’s lyrics from German into English. She lived from 1827-1878, some 200 - 300 years after Schirmer and Nicolai. She was known to stick as closely to the original manuscripts as possible, while doing her



“O Holy Spirit, Enter in”

Text: Michael Schirmer, tr. Catherine Winkworth

Tune: Philipp Nicolai

O Holy Spirit, enter in,
And in our hearts your work begin,
And make our hearts your dwelling.
Sun of the soul, O Light divine,
Around and in us brightly shine,
Your strength in us upwelling.
In your radiance life from heaven
Now is given overflowing,
Gift of gifts beyond all knowing,

Left to ourselves, we surely stray;
Oh, lead us on the narrow way,
With wisest counsel guide us;
And give us steadfastness
That we may follow you forever free,
No matter who derides us.
Gently heal those hearts now broken;
Give some token you are near us,
Whom we trust to light and cheer us.

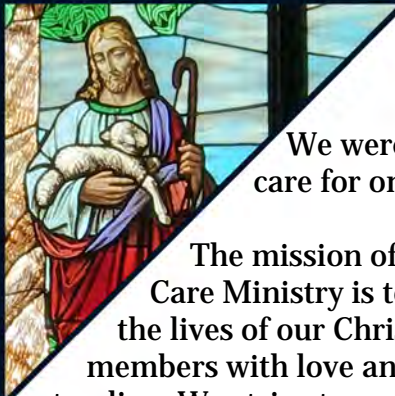
O mighty Rock, O Source of life,
Let your good Word in doubt and strife
Be in us strongly burning,
That we be faithful unto death
And live in love and holy faith,
From you true wisdom learning.
Lord, your mercy on us shower;
By your power Christ confessing,
We will cherish all your blessing.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Hymn #786

translations of hymns. Though some have been altered, many of her original translations are still used in our hymnals today. She was a pioneer in promoting women’s rights and encouraged higher education for women. Winkworth is known for being the most popular of translators of German hymns and her versions are the most widely used among all the translated hymns from German to English. She was deeply faithful and faith-filled and this enabled her to translate the hymns with refinement and tenderness, which others, at the time, were unable to do. Winkworth translated this hymn into English in 1863.

“O Holy Spirit, Enter In” was adapted from a tune written for Psalm 100 in 1538, and Nicolai composed his version and published it in 1599. The hymn version contains equal rhythms, as opposed to the original version, which was more varied rhythmically and contains harmonies of Bach. Bach used this tune in some of his cantatas and many Lutheran composers have used this tune as well.

CARING CORNER



We were created to care for one another.

The mission of the Bethel Care Ministry is to reach into the lives of our Christian family members with love and understanding. We strive to exemplify Christian Caregiving through the ministry of presence, nourishment, Christian education, and prayer. People who are united by Jesus Christ form the *body of Christ*, a community that comes with both benefits and responsibilities.

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.” Galatians 6:9-10

The COVID-19 crisis has created interesting challenges and amazing opportunities to serve one another in our church family, our neighborhoods, and our communities. The Bethel Care Ministry team has grown during this crisis to include new members yearning to do good for one another. Unable to visit those who are in nursing homes and who are secluded in their homes, we see the Christian family at Bethel springing into action in new and innovative ways. A call team has formed, checking in with Bethel members regularly to ask how they're doing, discuss prayer needs, pray. We've learned to use social media and electronic video conferences to connect with each other and to worship together. Members have done grocery

Caring Corner

By Kim Radant



shopping for people who may be at higher risk from Covid-19. Meals have been dropped off on the porches of members secluded because of the virus. One member even assisted another with a plumbing emergency!

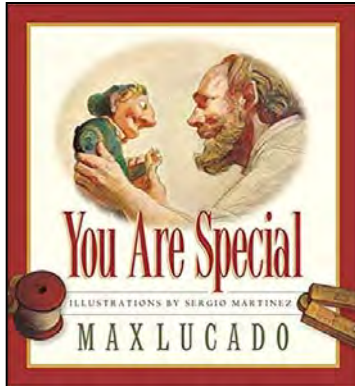
Our ingenuity to create ways to connect and to care is inspired by the Holy Spirit and our belief in Jesus and the Easter promise. A pandemic virus cannot and will not steer us away from our Christian worship or our good deeds to one another. If anything, COVID-19 has strengthened a resolve in each of us to worship God and care for one another and our Christian family. We may be socially distant, but our hearts and spirits have never been closer.



BOOKS OF INTEREST

By Trudy Kussov

**Reading level:
Read-aloud picture book**



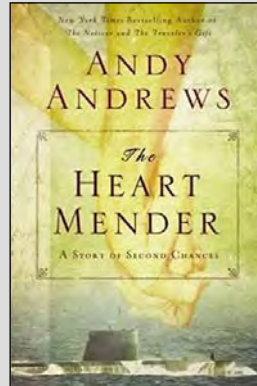
YOU ARE SPECIAL by Max Lucado

Lucado creates an allegorical world of wooden people, Wemmicks, all carved by one man, Eli, but all having individual personalities. The people are allowed to label each other, whether good or bad. The story centers on Punchinello who is very distressed to have only bad labels. He goes to see Eli, who assures him that the only opinion that needs to matter to anyone is his, Eli's, opinion. Eli assures him that he deeply loves everyone that he has made, including Punchinello, and that labels only stick to you if you let them.

We can see that Eli represents God, and that Lucado is portraying him as patiently waiting for us to come to him. When we come to him we are assured of the great love he has for us. We are reminded of his grace, grace that we have "simply because we are his children and he wants to shower us with affection."



**Reading level:
Young Adult/Adult**

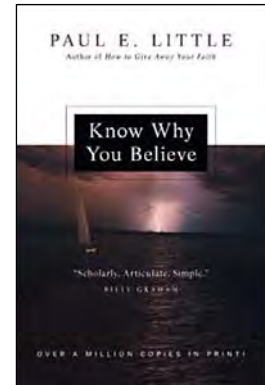


THE HEART MENDER By Andy Andrews

This book of fiction brings to life a part of WWII History that is not well-known. In 1942 German subs were active in the Gulf of Mexico to sink U.S. vessels carrying goods and fuel. Due to friction on board the sub, Josef Landermann, a German sailor, is shot but escapes overboard and washes up on a beach in Alabama. Helen Mason, who has been widowed by the war, finds him and though enraged at first takes pity on him and takes him to her home, where he heals. The story is basically true, and the story of how Andy Andrews learned of it is also fun to read. The Christian message is woven into the story very skillfully, not at all contrived. A very enjoyable book.



**Reading level:
Adult**



KNOW WHY YOU BELIEVE By Paul E. Little

Our young adults go off to college, and we find that they either deeply question or reject entirely the faith that they learned at home. Paul Little has been closely involved with college students for many years, both working on staff at Intervarsity Christian Fellowship and as associate professor of evangelism at Trinity Divinity School in Illinois. In this small book he discusses the questions that believers often face and gives answers and explanations that can help them verbalize the reasons for their beliefs. Often we as parents and relatives have spent years practicing our faith, living it, and worshipping with other believers; it may have been a long time since we questioned it. This book can serve as a reminder of why we came to the conclusions we did, and thus enable us to engage in meaningful dialogue about them. The book is well annotated, so it is possible to read more on any given subject. It also has a study guide at the end, inviting further thought that may be useful in spontaneous discussions with those who are questioning and seeking.

HIDDEN BOOKS—FIND THE HIDDEN BOOKS OF THE BIBLE THERE ARE 26 TO FIND IN THE LETTER!

<p>Dear Sir/Madam,</p> <p>The Bible is a remarkable book. Within this letter there are 26 books of the Bible hidden. Can you find them all? Have a go at it using a pen or pencil highlight the ones you find or click with a mouse.</p> <p>The Bible was written by God, using many authors from all sorts of backgrounds, having many different jobs. God tells us the story of his nation Israel and His son, Jesus Christ, making sure it has been preserved for us through the ages for us to read today.</p> <p>The Bible outlines the right way to lead our lives, as well as containing many historical accounts. Moses led Israel through the Red Sea, at the battle of Jericho trumpeters marched round the walls for seven days, Judea saw great wars and captivity, Abishag gained David as a husband, the Pharisees would act superior to everyone else, perhaps almsgiving for example, but Jesus kept giving them a most stern rebuke. Jesus also performed many miracles, after receiving the Holy Spirit upon his baptismal achievement, with his first miracle being turning the water into wine for the groom at the wedding, maybe it was a nice Spanish Rioja? Mesopotamia was an important region in Biblical history, with Ur and Babylon in that area, as was Sudan I elsewhere read.</p> <p>When studying the Bible it is helpful to look out for any Bible echo. Search for them whenever you read as you will see some fascinating things, particularly when reading the letters to the various churches, or ecclesias. Testing what you hear against the Bible is also very important to show if it is true, for example if someone suggests Jesus was born in Suez rather than Bethlehem, you would use the Bible to check its accuracy. The same applies if you think Paul ate locusts, David played a banjo eloquently for Saul, Barnabas went on missionary work to Dijon, a horse carried Jesus into Jerusalem or Lazarus died of swine flu, keep going back to the Bible as you can learn a lot from answers to your questions. There is no need to put being academic ahead of everything else though as Jesus said it is most important to love one another, in a humble spirit. Jesus gave his life for us and when we are in a spiritual rut, his love will give us the comfort we need.</p> <p>Sincerely, the Rev. E. Lation</p>	<p>Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy Joshua Judges Ruth 1 Samuel 2 Samuel 1 Kings 2 Kings 1 Chronicles 2 Chronicles Ezra Nehemiah Esther Job Psalms Proverbs Ecclesiastes Song of Solomon Isaiah Jeremiah Lamentations Ezekiel Daniel Hosea Joel Amos Obadiah Jonah Micah Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah Haggai Zechariah Malachi</p>	<p>Matthew Mark Luke John Acts Romans 1 Corinthians 2 Corinthians Galatians Ephesians Philippians Colossians 1 Thessalonians 2 Thessalonians 1 Timothy 2 Timothy Titus Philemon Hebrews James 1 Peter 2 Peter 1 John 2 John 3 John Jude Revelation</p>
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From: biblepuzzles.com or biblepuzzles.org.uk
Used with permission. 2020

Answers may be found on Page 22.

PLAY

Bible Dingbats

What Bible word or phrase does each Dingbat represent

1.



2.



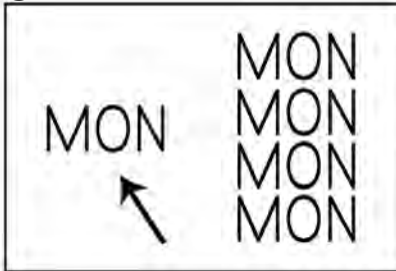
3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



9.



10.



11.



12.



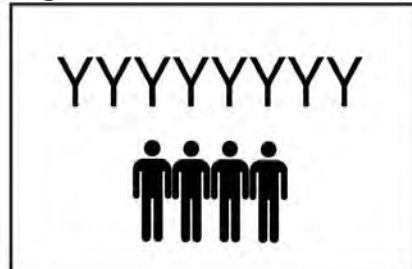
13.



14.



15.



Answers may be found on Page 22.

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	5/3/20	4th Sunday of Easter
Sunday	5/10/20	5th Sunday of Easter
Sunday	5/17/20	6th Sunday of Easter
Thursday	5/21/20	Ascension of our Lord
Sunday	5/31/20	Pentecost
Sunday	6/7/20	Holy Trinity Sunday
Sunday	6/14/20	2nd Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	6/21/20	3rd Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	6/28/20	4th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	7/5/20	5th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	7/12/20	5th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	7/19/20	6th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	7/26/20	7th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	8/2/20	8th Sunday after Pentecost

Answers to Hidden Books—p. 20

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Sincerely, the Rev. E. Lation

Ruth
Kings
Ezra
Esther
Job
Psalms
Ecclesiastes
Daniel
Hosea
Joel
Amos
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Haggai
Malachi

Matthew
Mark
Luke
Acts
Romans
Titus
James
Peter
Jude
Revelation

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

May 1, 2020 — August 2, 2020

NOTE: Some event may change dates or be canceled depending on church re-opening. Watch Bethel Believes or the Bethel Facebook page for up-to-date information.

May 6	Healing Service 7:00 p.m.
May 10	Mother's Day
May 17	Confirmation at 11:11 a.m.
May 21	Ascension Day
May 31	Pentecost
Jun 7	Holy Trinity Sunday
Jun 12-13	Campout at White River Campground
Jun 20-21	Rummage Sale
Jun 24-27	SERVE Noblesville
Jun 27-28	Congregational Meeting
Jun 28-Jul 2	Vacation Bible School
Jul 3	Bethel Night at Symphony on the Prairie
July 5-11	High School Church Camp
Aug 3-7	Lutheran Week—Pittsburgh

BIBLE DINGBAT ANSWERS

1. Daniel in the Lions' Den (Dan 6), 2. See Eye to Eye (Isa 52:8), 3. Coat of Many Colors (Gen 27), 4. Sermon on the Mount (Matt 5), 5. Solomon (2 Sam 12:24), 6. Noah's Ark (Gen 7), 7. Crystal Clear (Rev 21:11), 8. High Priest (Heb 5:1), 9. Ten Commandments (Ex 20), 10. Good News (Prov 25:25), 11. Eternal Life (John 3:16), 12. Fainthearted (Deut 20:8), 13. Heavy Heart (Prov 25:20), 14. Forbidden Fruit (Gen 2:16-17), 15. Wise Men (Matt 2:1)

Events & Activities



The collage features the following events and activities:

- SERVICE OF HEALING**: Represented by an icon of hands holding a chalice.
- CONFIRMATION**: Represented by a dove icon.
- Ascension OF THE LORD**: Represented by an icon of Jesus ascending into a cloud.
- Pentecost**: Represented by a flame icon.
- Holy TRINITY SUNDAY**: Represented by a triangle containing a cross, hands, and a crown.
- Church Campout**: Represented by an icon of trees and a tent.
- Heartland Mission District**: Represented by a map of the region with a cross and the NALC logo.
- RUMMAGE sale**: Represented by an icon of various household items.
- SERVE: Noblesville**: Represented by a stylized 'S' logo with the tagline 'CONNECTING COMPASSIONATE NEIGHBORS'.
- Bethel Lutheran**: Represented by the church's logo and tagline.
- Congregational Meeting**: Represented by a circular logo.
- VBS**: Represented by the **ROCKY RAILWAY 2020** logo with the tagline 'JESUS' POWER PULLS US THROUGH'.
- SUMMER LUTHERAN HILLS LUTHERWILD CAMP**: Represented by a circular logo with the text 'LUTHERAN HILLS LUTHERWILD' and 'LUTHERAN OUTDOOR MINISTRIES INDIANA - KENTUCKY'.
- ANNUAL CONVOCATION NALC**: Represented by the NALC logo and the text 'North American Lutheran Church'.
- LUTHERAN WEEK**: Represented by the text 'LUTHERAN WEEK'.
- Stay in the Word**: Represented by an icon of a book and a sun.
- WORSHIP THE LORD!**: Represented by an icon of a musical instrument.



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

1st WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

7:00 p.m. – Healing Service

Church is still happening!

Join us online at:

BethelLutheranChurch.com

Facebook.com/BethelLutheranChurchNoblesville

Bethel Lutheran Church

20650 Cumberland Road

Noblesville, IN 46062

317.773.4315

www.BethelLutheranChurch.com



NALC

North American Lutheran Church