

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

Seasons & Holy Days

Church Music

Missions

And more



FOOTPRINTS



ON THE COVER:
Nativity—Pixabay

FOOTPRINTS

Issue #14

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, Carol Jacobs, Carole Kuhn, Trudy Kussow, John Patterson, and Pastor Al Schoonover.

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ADVENT

PASTOR'S COLUMN

PASTOR AL SCHOONOVER

What's in a Name?!

Gentlepeople of Bethel,

In October, our niece, Joy, and her husband Dan, welcomed their daughter into the world and into their hearts. Joy's delivery was the end of a several years-long journey through the wilderness of infertility. In celebration, they decided to name her Karis Faith Mei Sing. They chose this name for two reasons.



Her birth is a huge grace moment in their life, and the name Karis (rhymes with "Paris") means "grace." Her English middle name "Faith" reflects how her birth is a testimony to faith: the couple's faith in God and in God's faithfulness to give them (and all believers) the desire of their heart (Psalm 37:4). As Joy and Dan wrote in their birth announcement: "Through our years of infertility and struggle, the one constant we had to rely on was the graciousness and faithfulness of God. And now, our beautiful daughter will be a testament of that. We are so blessed!" Second, the other aspects of Karis' name reflect her heritage. Dan's family is from China, and Mei Sing is a Chinese phrase which means "beautiful faith." Such a big name for such a special little girl!

Of course, my relatives aren't alone in naming their children a personally significant name. Parents do it all the time. They may be honoring another relative after whom the child is named, or the name itself might convey a special message or memory. I remember an episode from the 1960's television show "The Dick Van Dyke Show" where the father creates his son's middle name as a compromise. During the pregnancy, many of the relatives had each insisted stubbornly that the son should be given the name *they*wanted. Since he hated



the name *they*wanted. Since he hated

to disappoint anyone, he used the first initial of each suggested name to create his middle name, "Rosebud."

During Advent, our eyes turn naturally to another birth and to another name. This child is no compromise; He is the fulfillment of God's promises. Unlike a sentimentally chosen name, however, this child's name conveys both power and purpose. During His lifetime and ever since, we are healed by the power of His name. Our sins are forgiven by the power of His name. The enmity among humans is stilled and the gulf between Creator and creature is bridged by the power of His name. It is the name above all other names, *for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved* (Acts 4:12). At this name, *every knee shall bow — in heaven and on earth and under the earth — and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father* (Philippians 2:10–11).

I read something recently about the fourth century Roman emperor Diocletian. He led a persecution against the Christian community. At one point, he had a medal fashioned and built a column to celebrate the triumph of his persecution. On the column he had engraved the phrase, *Extincto Nomine Christianorum* — "the name of Christ has been extinguished." What self-deception! Over time, most of the Roman emperors have been forgotten, faded into the mists of history. But the blood of the martyrs has flowed throughout the world, keeping alive this name that is above all names: Jesus. God saves. Immanuel. God with us. This is the one about whom we often sing in worship on Saturday nights:

*Jesus, name above all names
Beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.
Emmanuel, God is with us.
Blessed Redeemer, Living word.*

Come and see this Advent season the One who is born in Bethlehem, the one who would be born again in us. There is reason for despair and discouragement this year. The stress at times has been unrelenting. As a result, it would be easy to believe that the brokenness of this world is overwhelming, and even overcoming us. But the promise is as true for us as it is for the martyrs and believers of every age: *The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it* (John 1:5).



Serving Jesus with you!
~ Pastor Al

PROFILE: *Carole Kuhn*

By Carole Kuhn



Over the Years....MANY of Them!

Over the years, I've become known as a "people person"... in that I enjoy being around people and talking and laughing...enjoying time with others. Or, as some friends and family might say, I like to jabber! That's why I've enjoyed meeting with, talking with, writing about, people here at Bethel! Then, the idea was presented to profile myself! I literally bent over laughing...



Carole 1958

then discovered, it was a serious proposal! One of my sons stated "Well, you won't have trouble making an appointment for an interview!" He is a teacher at Fishers High School...always prepared to guide his mother! And his daughter chimed in, supporting another son's proposal, "We'll write it!" Does that give you an idea of my family?

I grew up and have always been Lutheran....and yes, various synods. I was born in Anderson, Indiana, in an area with gravel roads all around our country property and lots of pets, including Bootsie, my pet cow! I was baptized and confirmed at the Lutheran church in Anderson and in later years married there. Our confirmation classes were three years with only three or four weeks off in the summer. Then we were "presented" to the congregation for confirmation but were literally "quizzed" in front of the congregation! We all took deep breaths and hoped we came up with the correct answers...I don't remember anyone flunking though!



Carole's brother - William Allen

from high school and went to

I had an older brother... 13-plus years older than me. When I was about 3, he had a motor scooter with a riding cart attached to the side that he would put my little chair in and take me for rides! When he was 17, he graduated high school a term early and joined the Navy – it was WWII. He went on to become a Frogman and in later years a SEAL...spent most of his life there...30 years. Our oldest son also graduated a year early from high school and went to the Army at 17

beginning in ASA (Army Security Agency), to military intelligence, then operations. I was invited to the WWII Memorial Dedication and all our children and grandchildren went with me....was a wonderful family time and a memorial event. Then, last year, the youngest son and wife asked me to go with them to Pearl Harbor...they had been to the 75th Anniversary and knew it would mean a lot to me...I'll never forget the trip.

I've always loved to write stories. In grade school I wrote my version of the poem about Paul Revere — "Listen you hipsters and you shall hear, of a real gone guy called Paul Revere!" My Dad laughed. My Mom was probably not impressed! She was a bit strict, and she read books a lot. I feel blessed to have received influence from both directions...humor and concentration!

I kept busy growing up, piano lessons (my Dad listened to gospel music on the radio and played guitar), Girl Scouts for 12 years, swim team in high school...synchronized swimming like the Esther Williams movies at that time. I quit piano when my Mom commented about my playing one day, "I sure wish you would learn to play decently!" I had a large upright piano with a steel sounding board. We did not know Mom was going deaf...that sounding board must have wreaked havoc with her ears!



Girl Scout Carole

A high school teacher who taught English Literature insisted I should become a writer. I hadn't thought of that. But I went on to business school in Ft. Wayne and on graduation, worked for a medical insurance company, proof-reading and then doing some writing.

At age 21, I was asked to go to California by a gal who was later to be my sister-in-law. I got a position at the University of California Santa Barbara in the Office of Public Information. It was one of my all-time favorite positions. It included overseeing the front office, writing, and proofreading anything being published. The main writer and I would cover lectures, go back to the office, and write copy for publishing in local papers and also TV news. One of the guest speakers



Carole 1959-60 Office of Public Info

one year was Aldous Huxley who wrote "Brave New World." Fascinating person....he was there for a while for lectures and debates.

Marriage, in Anderson, back to California to live in Ojai but work for insurance adjustors in Ventura. The husband was a custom homes and

small business designer...so you went with the tide. Back to Ft. Wayne, we had 2 sons. I wrote articles for church and was at home mostly! Expecting child #3 in 2 months or so, we were asked to move back to California...sigh. What a trip! The daughter was born in Ojai. She went on to study music and medical areas...she now oversees the Hematology department of the clinical lab at Lutheran Hospital, Ft. Wayne and also is choir director at their Lutheran church.

I began trying to write just before we left Ft. Wayne that time, and had a syndicate interested. I put them off until after the birth...and when I finally got back to them, they were "testing" another writer, and she "made it" — Erma Bombeck! Well, keep the faith and keep going!

Back to Ft. Wayne, and we welcomed our fourth child, a little boy on Halloween! He still tells people he is our TREAT! Then we moved to a small town in Ohio...the husband's hometown. I decided to try something different in writing and the newspaper there was very positive about it...a column for nearly nine years called "The Husband's Wife." It was family stories and included events in the town, schools, etc. And that was my longest siege of writing.

I've always enjoyed the activities at church...from being on council to helping in Sunday School. Attending retreats were a way to slow down and count my blessings. The Ohio church was active in Habitat for Humanity and I enjoyed that. Also, the women's Bible study groups have been a mainstay. I participated and led groups and will always feel it increased my faith through negative times to remember to pray, alone and with others.

In later life, I also did more traveling with 2 trips to Ireland (Scotch/Irish ancestry as well as English/ Native American) and 1 trip to Spain to help "teach" communication English to those working mainly for U.S. companies. In Ireland, one of the best tours was at Ballintubber Abbey with their "Way of the Cross" trail...inspiring walk.



Carole on her 75th Birthday with her "children"



Carole on her 75th Birthday with her grandchildren

Basically, I have been very blessed with a wonderful family, friends, and also pets. My current pet is Roxie, a Golden Retriever who likes to do a 1 1/2 mile trot 5 days a week! There are rough spots in anyone's life, but I try to look for the positives as much as possible. My parents went through WWI, The Great Depression (and had enough furniture paid for to get a loan to keep the house), the polio epidemic and on and on. Our past year of the virus has certainly been mind-bending and hard on all in a variety of ways. But I have family ... 4 children and spouses, 5 grandchildren...and they all let me know they care though we mostly have been apart.



Roxie

My favorite Bible verse says it all: Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV) "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future..." That was in a letter to the exiles in Babylon. Sometimes one might "feel like" you are in exile...take a deep breath and pray...keep a positive outlook. And it doesn't hurt to sit down and have a good crying spell now and then! Peace.

COLUMBARIUM



Drone view of site



Beginning



"Big Boy Toys"



Sidewalk and Patio in



Columbarium Delivery



Columbarium Installation



Installation Complete



Bethel Columbarium

BUILDING A LEGACY

October 14, 2020

Dear Bethel family and friends,

It has been 5 months since David died. It has been over 6 months, April 10, 2020, when he walked out to the ambulance with shortness of breath from covid-19. April 11, 2020, Easter morning, he was placed on a ventilator and transferred to IU North's ICU. I received a call that morning that I tested positive for covid-19. I stayed symptom free. My daughter Betsy and her family also had symptoms of covid-19 around the time we were sick. The 5 of them eventually tested positive, too. That is when our roller coaster ride began. Many of you received the daily updates when David was hospitalized. My faith in God and the Holy Spirit provided scriptures, thoughts and words to share to keep you informed. I received much peace from sharing. I am so grateful that I could journey with you during that roller coaster ride. You all helped me be strong, and I felt so blessed by your care and concern.

My next challenge was my fall on July 6, 2020. I broke bones in my cheek, my nose, my left elbow and right wrist. I ended up in Methodist trauma unit where I had plates and screws placed in my left elbow and right wrist. After 3 months of not driving and needing much help I can say, "Life is becoming more normal, and it is going to be OK." My faith and trust in God have gotten me through all of this. Thank you, God.

Our family and I could not have made it through this very difficult time if not for all your prayers, love, cards, calls, flowers, food, Blue Moon, wind and whatever was needed from all of you. I still feel the prayers as I learn to live my life without David, such a blessing.

After David died, I felt the need to support the columbarium project so he would have his final resting place on earth at Bethel. I asked his memorials would go to the Memorial Garden and Columbarium. I cannot thank Jeff Reising, the committee, and all who have worked so hard on the garden enough. I am so grateful to all of you who chose to be donor sponsors, purchased niches, and who gave so generously to David's memorial fund. You all made this beautiful site outside the east narthex window happen. Thank you, thank you!! Cannot wait to see the two columbaria on October 20th. Look forward to the dedication on November 1st. David was on the committee, too. He will be looking down and feeling so proud of Bethel's new memorial garden.

If any of you are interested in purchasing a niche or want to give to David's memorial fund, we would be grateful. You can contact me at 317-509-0756.

I know many of you did not expect David to die, and it is hard to believe. I know he is at peace and that gives me comfort. Psalm 118:24 reads, "This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it." I know David would want us to rejoice and enjoy life. His big smile is shining down on us.

Peace and Joy,
Jane Nee

Check out the video on the Columbarium on the Bethel website.



CELEBRATING & HONORING OUR 80+ MEMBERS!

Tom Alford
Gayle Anderson
Phyllis Anderson
Bob Beeman
Carl Behrendt
Clara Behrendt
Maury Coperhaver
Jim Diamond
Joy Diamond
Dee Evans
Jeanne Gast
Nancy Hansen
Vic Hansen
Edna Hecht
Jean Holmes
Irene Kinyon
Paul Krebs
Carole Kuhn

Trudy Kussow
Paul Lake
Dale Lubs
Dale Martz
Bill Mikulski
Mary Jo Mikulski
Jim Nightenhelser
Jerry Ottinger
Judith Ottinger
Pete Sackers
Shannon Schneider
Duke Schuller
Myron Storms
Al Stowell
Roxanna Stowell
Jenny Turnage
Jane Whitmore
Joyce Windhorn

But the godly will flourish like palm trees and grow strong like the cedars of Lebanon. For they are transplanted to the LORD's own house. They flourish in the courts of our God. Even in old age they will still produce fruit; they will remain vital and green. They will declare, "The LORD is just! He is my rock! There is no evil in him!" *Psalm 92:12-14*

For I am sure of this very thing, that the one who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus. *Philippians 1:6*

STEWARDSHIP 2021

Excel in the Grace of Giving

“But just as you excel in everything ... in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us ... see that you also excel in this grace of giving.” 2 Corinthians 8:7

In his letter to the church in Corinth, the Apostle Paul wrote, *“But just as you excel in everything ... in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us ... see that you also excel in this grace of giving”* (2 Corinthians 8:7). Preceding this verse, he tells the Corinthians about the generosity of the Macedonian people who gave so willingly to the distressed Christians in Jerusalem. Paul is seeking contributions from the people in Corinth. He wants them, as he wants us, to **excel in the grace of giving**.

Why Christians Give

In the beginning God gave, and he continues to give. God's character is to give. Out of his love, God gives humanity a beautiful and majestic place to dwell. Our heavenly Father loves us so much that he holds nothing back from us. *“He who did not spare his own son, but gave him up for us all ... how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?”* (Romans 8:32).

To give and to keep on giving is the essential nature of God, who is love. All that we are, have, and hope to be are gifts from God.

Acknowledging God's ownership is the basic principle for Christian giving. King David said, *“The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it”* (Psalm 24:1). When we give our gifts to God as grateful and faithful stewards, we are merely returning to him what he has already given to us. Paul asks in Romans 8:7, *“What do you have that you did not receive?”*

Wholehearted and unconditional giving has its source in God who himself gave unreservedly. Because of the awesome love shown to us at the cross, we give. God, abiding in us, enables us to give, for, through Christ, we have his very nature, a giving nature. We become more Christ-like as his love for us and within us opens our clenched fists and breaks down our natural desire to put ourselves first. Then we can experience the joy of giving and **excel in the grace of giving**.

Do You Excel in the Grace of Giving?

Scripture shares some giving principles on how we can excel in the grace of giving.

We excel in the grace of giving when we give to God first. In Proverbs 3:9 we read, *“Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of your crops.”* God desires that we honor him with the first portion of what we receive. From the blessings that we receive, we are to give him the first part of our incomes. We are to honor our commitment to God before buying the things we desire. Our great God is dishonored by leftovers (Malachi 1:6-14).



We excel in the grace of giving when we give generously.

Generous giving implies that we will give not just a minimum but freely as we receive. *“Freely you have received, freely give”* (Matthew 10:8). God blesses us so we can provide for our own needs and be a blessing to his church and those around us. Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 9:11, *“You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.”*

We excel in the grace of giving when we give cheerfully.

2 Corinthians 9:7 reads, *“Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”* As we grow as disciples, as we understand more and more what God has done for us in Christ, as we see that Jesus gave his very life, we are prompted by the Holy Spirit to respond cheerfully by sharing the resources that God has given us. When God's people give faithfully from willing and loving hearts, God is honored, and we **excel in the grace of giving**.

We **excel in the grace of giving** when we give worshipfully. When Paul described the sacrificial giving of the Macedonian saints he said, *“And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will”* (2 Corinthians 8:5). Once our hearts belong to the Lord, the giving of our money follows naturally. Through us, the Lord supplies the needs of our churches as they seek to spread his Word, and, through us, those in need are served.

Continued on page 22



NALC

North American Lutheran Church

2020 Vision

From NALC website



At the 2020 NALC Convocation, Bishop Dan Selbo released the 5-year plan for the North American Lutheran Church. Called 2020 Vision, the plan is made up of the following 10 objectives.

1 - Disciple-Making Cultures

A church body committed to developing disciple-making congregations and cultures.

Goal: More than 200 congregations intentionally developing disciple-making cultures by 2023.

2 - Congregational Multiplication

A body of believers committed to increasing our mission outreach and congregational multiplication efforts.

Goal: Engagement of every NALC congregation in active and proactive outreach efforts by 2022.

3 - Pastoral Support

A denomination in which every congregation receives regular and consistent pastoral support.

Goal: Pastoral support for every congregation by 2021.

4 - Continuing Education

A continuing education emphasis that supports the ongoing development of all NALC pastors and lay leaders.

Goal: Expansion, coordination and promotion of available NALC continuing education opportunities, beginning in 2021.

5 - Continental Restructuring

A strategy for continental restructuring that is able to expand with denominational growth.

Goal: Review recommended restructuring strategy and commit to a comprehensive restructuring effort by no later than the 2021 Convocation.

6 - Seminary System

A denomination with the strongest and most highly respected Lutheran seminary training system in North America.

Goal: Upgrade the structure, program and recruitment of our seminary over the next four years.

7 - Technology & Communication

A communications strategy focused on forming identity, unity and testimony across our church body.

Goal: Identify, train and resource communication specialists in every mission district, ministry, committee and vision component of the NALC by August 2023.

8 - Ecumenical Relationships

A denomination in which our international and ecumenical relationships strengthen our shared commitment to the Great Commission, the Great Commandments and the Church catholic, and which enhance our partnership on the congregational level.

Goal: Review our current international and ecumenical relationships and clarify the goals for each of our partnership commitments by the end of 2021.

9 - Financial Strength

A church body with the financial strength to support its God-given vision.

Goal: A balanced budget that fully supports the vision priorities by 2022.

10 - Strategic Planning

A Strategic Planning Team (SPT) that continually prays for and works to develop the next steps for our God-given vision and future.

Goal: Annually review and revise the 2020 Vision to ensure that our denominational priorities remain consistent with our shared calling in Jesus Christ.

For more information, go to

<https://thenalc.org/vision/>.

MISSIONS



Lutheran Military Veterans & Family Ministries, Inc.

Helping veterans let go of their past, engage in the present, and have hope for the future.

Our Mission

LMVFM is a Christian non-profit (501c3) faith-based ministry. We are dedicated to serving military veterans, military contractors and their families in need of care and assistance, regardless of their faith or religious affiliation. We offer resources, assistance and training to congregations and other care providers to assist veterans, military contractors and their family members. In order to keep Christ at the center of this mission, LMVFM does not solicit or accept government funding.



Mission 1 “Direct Care”

1. Provide free counseling, general assessments, assistance with obtaining care and resources necessary to the veteran, their family members, as well as military contractors. LMVFM does not provide clients with financial resources, but we do assist our veterans with obtaining the resources they need.

2. Unlike the VA who actively exclude many veterans who do not meet specific economically driven criteria, LMVFM serves any veteran who comes to us in need. If a person has served one or more days in uniform or as a member of the military contracting community, they as well as their family members are eligible for our care.

Mission 2 “Training and Assistance” for civilian caregivers

1. We provide training programs for civilian care providers, therapists, counselors, clergy, and just about anyone that wants to be better equipped to work with veterans and their families.

2. We provide members, congregations, groups and other supporters with the most current information on a wide range of issues that affect our military community members. Much of the information reported on by the press is grossly inaccurate and unfortunately driven by the political agenda which has found its way into the media “spin-cycle” of the DoD public affairs office.

3. We assist congregations in the development of their mission outreach programs to veterans and their families.

4. We provide resources to congregations and groups regarding various military issues.



Bethel has supported this Christian mission outreach to veterans, their families, and their caregivers since 2013.

Please remember and pray for those who serve and have served our country in the armed forces and for those who serve them through this mission.

SEASONS & HOLY DAYS

WE THREE KINGS ★ THREE WISE MEN ★ THE MAGI

by Carole Kuhn

Were there only “three kings” following a star on the trek from the East to the birthplace of the new “King”? Where did the different names come from?

The season of Epiphany commemorates the manifestation (appearance) of Christ... reaching out as Savior to all...Gentiles as well as Jews. These kings, or wise men, following a star to see this new “King” were actually Gentiles....sages or priests from an ancient Persian religion...non-Jews, non-Christian.

They were Babylonians and Medo-Persians, well-educated and treated as high-ranking officials. Many were experts in religion, history, medicine, astronomy, astrology, and magic (Magi—term from the original Greek version of the New Testament). Thus the title “wise men or sages.” They had studied Old Testament scriptures for hundreds of years and knew it was possible a prophecy had been fulfilled. (Numbers 24:15-19)

The song “We Three Kings” has led many to believe that there were only three men traveling from the East. However, that belief may be due to the three gifts that were presented to Jesus...the gold, frankincense and myrrh. Gold was to honor Jesus as King, frankincense represented His priestly role and myrrh was an anointing oil when preparing for burial....His later sacrificial death. There is no Biblical reference to there only being three men. During the 3rd century, the star seekers became known as kings. Then in the 6th century, they were given names that had actually been the names of Noah’s three sons. Again, no Biblical reference.

The Magi traveled from the East...not the Far East. It is suggested from perhaps Arabia or modern Iran, but still a great distance. When they came to Herod, king of Judea, they said they were seeking a child born king of the Jews. Their story upset him since he didn’t know there was another king in the area. He was Jewish, but not popular among the Jewish people as he was considered brutal...in order to please his allies in Rome. He asked his “scholars” if they knew of a new king. Searching scriptures they agreed there was to be a king born in Bethlehem. (Numbers 24:17) So Herod asked the Magi to let him know if they found this king so he also could worship him.

But, the Magi “...on coming to the house.” (Matthew 2:11) were then warned in a dream not to return to tell Herod. This evidence from the Bible indicates that Jesus was not a baby, but perhaps nearly 2 years old and would be the reason Herod ordered baby boys through age 2 to be killed when the Magi did not return. (Matthew 2:16)

One Bible verse speaks to the fact that the Magi, Gentiles, were some of the first to recognize and worship the King of Kings for who He was. (John 1:11) One suggestion is His “light” pierced their dark paganism.

So we sing a song “We Three Kings” and that helps remind us of the story of Jesus’ birth. As far as how many “kings, wise men, Magi” there were seems irrelevant, just a tradition, not textual.

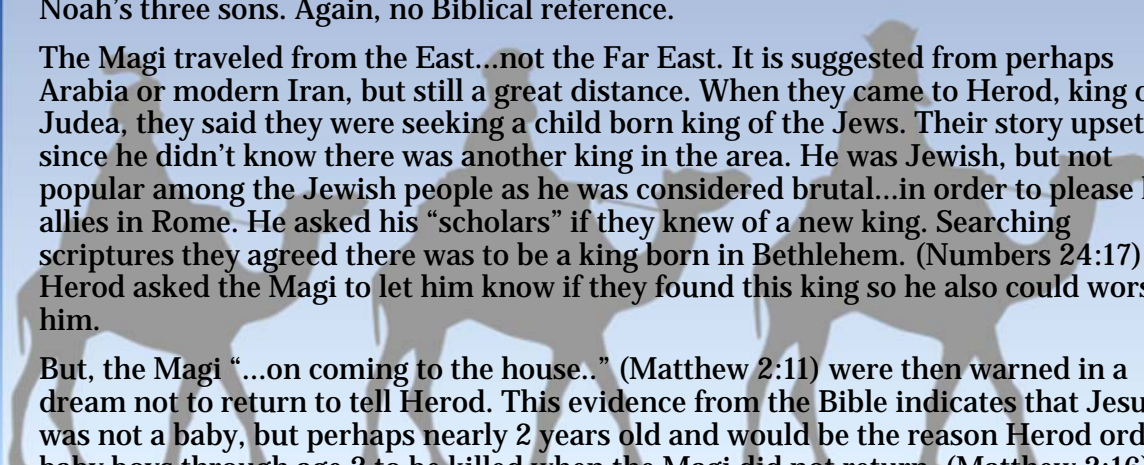
**I see him, but not here and now.
I perceive him, but far in the
distant future.**

**A star will rise from Jacob;
a scepter will emerge from Israel.**

Numbers 24:17 (NLT)

**Jesus was born in Bethlehem in
Judea, during the reign of King
Herod. About that time some wise
men from eastern lands arrived in
Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the
newborn king of the Jews? We saw
his star as it rose, and we have come
to worship him.”**

Matthew 2:1-2 (NLT)



LUTHERAN CHRISTIANS

WHO WE ARE - WHAT WE BELIEVE

ADVENT WREATHS

Advent is the beginning of a new Church year. It encompasses the four Sundays and weekdays leading up to the celebration of Christmas, and it is a time to prepare our hearts and minds for the celebration of our Lord's birth on Christmas.

One of the most common ways Christians mark the weeks of Advent is with an Advent wreath.

The idea of the Advent wreath dates back to German Lutherans in the 16th Century who adapted a folk tradition of northern Europe of having lit candles on a wheel-shaped bundle of evergreens. Evergreens and the circular shape symbolized ongoing life, and the candles were the "light" in the darkness.

It wasn't until the 19th Century that the modern Advent wreath took shape. Credit for this is usually given to Johann Hinrich Wichern (1808-1881), a Protestant pastor in Germany and a pioneer of doing urban mission among the poor. During Advent, children at the mission school *Rauhes Haus* that Wichern founded in Hamburg would ask every day if Christmas had arrived. So in 1839, Wichern built a large wooden ring using an old cartwheel and put 24 small red and 4 large white candles on it. One of the small red candles was lit every weekday and Saturday during Advent; and then on Sundays, a large white candle was lit. The custom became popular among Protestant churches in Germany and evolved into the



Advent wreath as designed by Wichern

smaller wreath with four or five candles we know today. In the 1920s, Catholics in Germany began to adopt the custom, and in the 1930s, the custom spread to North America.

The wreath and candles are full of symbolism tied to the Advent and Christmas seasons. The wreath itself, made of various evergreens, symbolizes continuous life. The circle of the wreath with no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life we have in Christ.

The individual evergreens that make up the wreath even have their own meanings. The laurel signifies victory over persecution and suffering. The pine, holly, and yew signify

immortality, and the cedar signifies strength and healing. The pine cones that may decorate the wreath symbolize life and resurrection. As a whole, the wreath is to remind us of both the immortality of our souls and God's promise of everlasting life to us through Christ.

The candles have their own significance. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent, and one candle is lit each Sunday. Traditionally, three of the candles are purple because the color violet is a liturgical color that signifies a time of prayer, penance, and sacrifice. Most Lutheran churches, **Bethel among them, have moved to using three blue candles instead of purple ones. Blue is said to be the color of hope and waiting, which aligns with the meaning of the Advent Season. Blue also recalls the color of the night sky before daylight returns.**

The first candle, which is purple or blue, symbolizes hope. It is sometimes called the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. It represents the expectation felt in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

The second candle, also purple or blue, represents faith. It is called the "Bethlehem Candle" as a reminder of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

The third candle is rose or pink and symbolizes joy. It is called the "Shepherd's Candle," and is rose or pink because rose is a liturgical color for joy. The third Sunday of Advent is sometimes called Gaudete Sunday, from the Latin word meaning "rejoice ye" and is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus.

On the fourth Sunday, the last purple or blue candle is lit to mark the final week of our wait for the birth of Jesus. This final candle, the "Angel's Candle," symbolizes peace. It reminds us of the message of the angels: "Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased." (Luke 2:14 NLT)

A white candle may be placed in the middle of the wreath and lit on Christmas Eve and Christmas. This candle is called the "Christ Candle" and represents the life of Christ. The color is white for purity — because Christ is our sinless, pure Savior.

Using an Advent wreath is an excellent way to prepare our minds and hearts for the coming of our Savior Jesus at Christmas!



ASK THE PASTOR



IS THERE SOMETHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO ASK?

By Pastor Doug Gast

Why is the name of Jesus . . . the name ABOVE ALL NAMES?

Often as I am driving past Riverview Hospital in Noblesville, I will glance at the electronic billboard they have out front. Sometimes it displays the addition of a new doctor to the Riverview staff. Sometimes it is announcing an upcoming event that is hospital-related. But often the sign welcomes the birth of a new child into our community. Brightly lit is the name, birthdate and weight. I give thanks for the healthy birth of each of these children. But what stops me in my tracks is the names that these children are given. I go, “Yikes! That child is going to have to go through life with that handle.” There has been an evolution in names. I come from an era where John and William, Cathy and Mary were the common names. A few years ago it was Joshua and Jennifer. In 2020, the top two boys names were Oliver and Liam and top girls names were Charlotte and Ava.

This year, during Advent, we will be focusing on “Jesus . . . Name Above All Names” as our theme. I love it! That title comes directly from Philippians 2:9-11 where Paul proclaims . . . *“Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor, and gave him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow. . . and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.”* I did a little research and found that the name Jesus occurs 973 time in the King James Version and 913 times in the American Standard Version. In the Revised Standard Bible, which is the one I grew up with, the name Jesus is mentioned 924 times. No matter what version of the Bible you read, the name Jesus is there a lot. The Bible writers had no problem naming the name of Jesus. Nor should we.

New parents Mary and Joseph did not have to come up with a name for the child Mary was carrying. An angel of the Lord, appeared to Joseph and told him to name the baby Jesus. The name Jesus was an ordinary name at that time. Just five letters and two syllables. You would have thought God would have given this special child a unique name. He could have been called Healer, Water Walker, Storm Calmer, Miracle Man, Five Thousand Feeder, or something like that. He was certainly all that and more.

The angel told Joseph, “Call him Jesus because He will save His people from their sins. The name Jesus means “he saves,” or “he will save us.” First-century Hebrews living under Roman occupation often named their children Jesus, meaning “he saves” as a cry to God to deliver them.

But in this Jesus, the name will take on a whole new meaning. Jesus will proclaim a new kind of freedom that God was bringing to the whole world. In His death and resurrection, we receive the forgiveness for our sins and the hope and promise of abundant life here and life eternal with Him in heaven. He was born into this world with the specific purpose and mission to be the one who would bring life and salvation to our darkened and hurting world.

Just to be clear, Jesus’ last name is not “Christ.” Christ is a title, the Greek equivalent to the Hebrew word Messiah. He was probably more commonly known as Jesus of Nazareth, or Jesus bar Joseph – Jesus son of Joseph. . . or maybe even Jesus, the Carpenter. He does have one other name that is cherished by us as Christians . . . and that is the name Emmanuel, which means “God is with us.” Both are go-to names. Both convey power and meaning – especially when we are going through a tough time. Both are holy and unique to Jesus, our Emmanuel.

I see a lot of people today have two, three or even four middle names. Jesus also has some very descriptive middle names that are familiar and held high by Christians. Let me name a few and I invite you ponder them all. Lord . . . Master . . . Rabboni . . . Logos (the Word) . . . Son of Man . . . Son of God . . . Alpha and Omega . . . Lamb of God . . . Son of David . . . New Adam/Second Adam/Last Adam . . . Light of the World . . . King of the Jews . . . Living Water . . . Resurrection and the Life . . . Bread of life . . . Great High Priest. These are just some of the descriptive names and titles that are all encompassing in this name . . . Jesus.

No wonder the Apostle Paul called Jesus “the name above all names.” No one has ever been, is, or ever will be like this Holy Child, born to humble faithful parents, laid in a manger in a stable, and worshipped by the lowest and the highest . . . shepherds from nearby and Wisemen from far away.

One other thing I know is that because we are baptized in the name of Jesus, we all share a common middle name – Christian. We are Christians bonded in the saving love and abiding presence of Jesus in our hearts and lives. As 2020 draws to a close, and we look forward to 2021, not knowing what the future holds, we remember Emmanuel – God is with us. We never travel alone. Jesus is always there with us, holding our hands, and walking with us. And we call him Jesus, name above all names.

A Blessed Christmas to all!
Pastor Doug

CHURCH HISTORY

REFORMERS — John Calvin

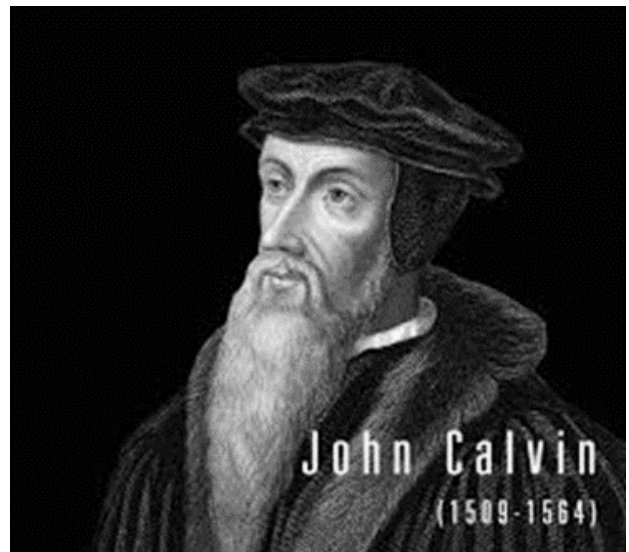
By Jill Dietz

This month we are going to focus on another one of the many reformers: John Calvin. John lived from 1509-1564 and was a French theologian, pastor and reformer. He developed a Christian theology that was called Calvinism, which included such ideas as predestination and the absolute sovereignty of God in human salvation. Various congregations and churches look to Calvin as the chief theologian of their beliefs.

Calvin's father intended for John to become a priest and while serving as a bishop to the clerk of his church, he found favor with an influential family who sent him to college in Paris. He studied Latin and philosophy. He then transferred to The University of Bourges in 1529 to study Humanist Law, where he began studying the New Testament. He broke from the Roman Catholic Church somewhere between the years of 1529 and 1533.

Calvin published the first edition of his *Institutes of the Christian Religion* in 1536. This work was a defense of his faith, a statement of the position of the reformers and an instruction book for anyone interested in Christianity. He left France, and met William Farel, another reformer, in Geneva. In 1537, he became a pastor there, although he had no pastoral training. During this year, he and Farel presented their ideas of organization and worship to the city council. This document described how, and how often, Communion should take place, ideas about excommunication, ideas about confession of faith, congregational singing during liturgy and revision of marriage laws. The council accepted the document immediately. A controversy arose when the council ordered the two ministers to use unleavened bread for communion on Easter. In protest, they refused to serve communion at all and a riot broke out. They were asked to leave Geneva. This led to Calvin leading a church of French refugees in Strasbourg in 1538.

Calvin published his second edition of the *Institutes* in 1539. In 1540, he returned to Geneva to work for reform and published the *Catechism of the Church of Geneva* in 1552, with an earlier version of this largely based on Luther's Large Catechism.



Although his thoughts and authority on the church, were largely contested from the years between 1546 and 1555, that authority was uncontested in his final years. He enjoyed an international reputation as a reformer, separate from Martin Luther, whom he got along with initially. They had a falling out over the interpretation of the Eucharist.

In 1559, Calvin opened an institute for children's education that was divided into 2 parts; the grammar school eventually became the College Calvin, one of the college prep schools of Geneva and the advanced school became the University of Geneva. From 1555 to 1562, while working on this institute for children, Calvin also put many resources into spreading the reformation into France.

Calvin worked on his final revision of the *Institutes* in 1558. He passed away in 1564 at the age of 54. His body lay in state for one day, but so many people came to see him that the reformers were afraid they would be accused of fostering a new saint's cult, so he was buried in an unmarked grave. He did not live to see the international success of his ideas, but Calvin's ideas spread throughout Europe and continued to spread throughout the world including North America, South Africa and Korea. Calvin is recognized as a Renewer of the Church in Lutheran churches on May 27th.

CHURCH MUSIC

HYMNS



By Carol Jacobs

“Jesus, Name Above All Names”

A young girl named Naida Hearn in North Palmerston, New Zealand, never thought she would write a song that would become beloved worldwide.

Born in 1931, she attended a Methodist Sunday School as a youngster. During her own personal Bible study time, she decided to study all the names of Jesus and their meanings. She made a list of them. In the early 1970's she brought that list to her family's washhouse one day. As she was working, she placed the list on the windowsill in order to see it.

“While I was doing the family washing, the Lord gave me the first line of a song. I began singing, ‘Jesus, name above all names.’ I continued and sang the whole song just as you hear it today. I just opened my mouth and all of the words came out, the melody and everything. I just sang it.”

“I left the washhouse and went down into the sitting room and worked the song out on music paper. I then said, ‘Lord, is that OK? Is it all right like that?’ Yes, it was all right. I then went back to the washing. It was just that simple. It was a straight-out lead from the Holy Spirit, absolutely. I can't say I thought about this or I thought about that; I just started on ‘Jesus, name above all names,’ and it carried on all by itself.”

Not long after the song was sung at her church, though she didn't remember exactly who it was that sang it. The song spread through New Zealand and then was carried by missionaries all over the world. It quickly became a favorite of many people.

Naida said, “The spirit impressed on me that it was to be sung as a love song. It's all about him. You should sing it softly, slowly and reverently. This is what he wanted.”

Jesus, Name Above All Names

Hymn # 115 from *Other Song Book*
By Naida Hearn

Jesus, name above all names
Beautiful Savior, Glorious Lord
Emmanuel, God is with us
Blessed Redeemer, Living Word
Jesus, name above all names
Beautiful Savior, Glorious Lord
Emmanuel, God is with us
Blessed Redeemer, Living Word

Lord I praise your name
Jesus name above all names
Jesus, name above all names
Beautiful Savior, Glorious Lord
Emmanuel, God is with us
Blessed Redeemer, Living Word
Blessed Redeemer, Living Word
Blessed Redeemer, Living Word



I AM
SAVIOR

Advent &
Christmas
2020

ADVOCATE

SON OF GOD

LAMB OF GOD

GOOD SHEPHERD

SON OF THE MOST HIGH

SON OF MAN • THE WAY

BREAD OF LIFE • THE DOOR

THE WORD • KING OF KINGS

ALPHA AND OMEGA • SACRIFICE

LIGHT OF THE WORLD • MESSIAH

CHIEF CORNERSTONE • SON OF GOD

ONE WHO SETS FREE • HOLY SERVANT

HEAD OF THE CHURCH • BRIDEGROOM

WONDERFUL COUNSELOR • MIGHTY GOD

EVERLASTING FATHER • PRINCE OF PEACE

GREAT HIGH PRIEST • RESURRECTION AND LIFE

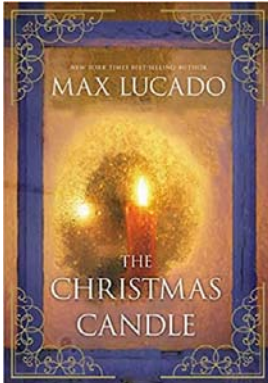
IMMANUEL

JESUS

BOOKS OF INTEREST

Reviews by Trudy Kussov

Reading level: read aloud
children through adults



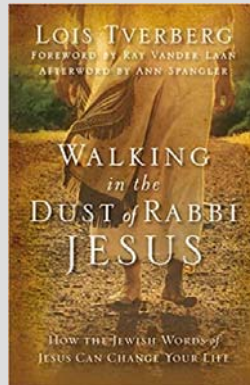
THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE

by Max Lucado

This delightful Christmas story by our well-known author of insightful books, Max Lucado, will warm your hearts as you look forward to Christmas. In your imagination, journey back to a simpler time, 1864, in a small, country village in England where nothing unusual ever happens, except at Christmas-time. At regular intervals through a few centuries an angel mysteriously appears in a lowly candlemaker's shop and miraculously reveals the bountiful love of God.



Reading level:
Teens through Adult



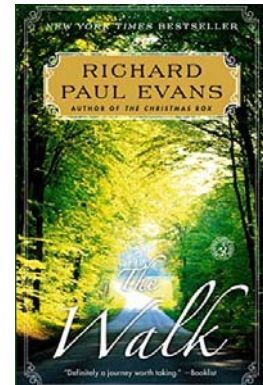
WALKING IN THE DUST OF THE RABBI JESUS

How the Jewish Words of
Jesus Can Change Your Life

by Lois Tverberg, PhD

This slim book is a very interesting read, as it takes us into the culture where Jesus grew up and lived and taught. It would be a good companion for anyone studying the Bible. Lois Tverberg has been writing and teaching about Jesus' cultural background for 15 years. She has found that looking at Jesus' world can make Jesus' words spring to life as we see Him as his contemporaries saw Him. Knowing the meaning in His own time of the idioms and expressions He used, gives us a deeper insight into the meaning of what He said. Tverberg reveals the complexity of meaning in the Hebrew sources of some of the words in our translations. We get a glimpse of the power in Jesus that caused the disciples to leave everything and follow Him. Tverberg imparts her knowledge in a lively, readable way.

Reading level:
Adult



THE WALK

by Richard Paul Evans

Evans has written many novels that have become international bestsellers, and has received many awards. He is renowned as a superb storyteller. This book is the beginning of a series of stories about a man who lost everything — his job, his home, and his deeply loved wife — in a short space of time. Close to giving in to despair, he decided instead to leave behind everything he has known and walk across America, from Seattle to Key West, Florida. The adventures he has and the people he meets enrich his life emotionally and spiritually and will inspire yours.



CHRISTIAN

YOUTH & SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT



Sunday School — begins at 10:00 a.m. Children are grouped into classes by age/grade and go directly to their rooms where they meet their teachers. They are dismissed to parents at 10:55 a.m.

Nursery — Because of COVID and out of an abundance of caution for our youngest disciples and their families, we are unable to offer a staffed nursery currently. We will evaluate this monthly and reinstitute this important ministry as soon as it is feasible.

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

1st-5th Grade — Over a three-year cycle, students learn the basic stories and Lutheran concepts in preparation for Confirmation during Middle School. The curriculum used is “Sunday Schoolhouse” from Sola Publishing.

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



Confirmation — Class for Middle School students (grades 6-8) that strives to move faith from the head to the heart through a highly interactive experience that includes both large group presentation and small group discussion. Following class, we attend worship together. Once a month, we will continue our time together after worship with a large group fellowship activity. Our goal is to develop a sticky, life-long faith through a combination of engaging learning events, regular fellowship activities, and frequent service opportunities in and beyond the congregation. “Join us in the Fellowship Hall.” Contact Pastor Al for registration information. Email pastoral@bethellutheranchurch.com or call the church at 317-773-4315.



MIDWEEK: High School Youth Ministry
Wednesdays 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Our High School (grades 9-12) youth ministry meets upstairs in the Student Center. A typical night involves hanging out, eating Oreos or something awesome, listening to music, playing games, watching a video, discussing the important and the not-so-important things and wrapping up the evening with Highs and Lows. We welcome everyone (members and friends alike), and we encourage each other throughout the week. We have been known to go on trips, mission work, summer camp and Boundary Water Adventure journeys. High School life is too hard to do it alone, so we try and do it together. Contact Leaders Gary & Val Kitkos at gkitko@sbcglobal.net or Kris Byerley at kbarbie105@yahoo.com for more information.



Baptism

Class
This class is for parents who wish to have their child(ren) baptized. During this session, we explore what happens when we come to the font and what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. We review the expectations placed on parents and the support they can expect to receive from the church. Email Pastor Al at pastoral@bethellutheranchurch.com or call the church at 317-773-4315 for more information.



First Communion Class

Children in 4th grade and up learn about God’s promises and the importance of Holy Communion. Classes are usually held during Lent after the Sunday School hour, and culminate with the Rite of First Communion on Maundy Thursday. Contact Pastor Al Schoonover at pastoral@bethellutheranchurch.com or call the church at 317-773-4315 for more information.



Discovery: Becoming a Disciple of Jesus

Sundays — To Be Determined

Participants will grow deeper into the life of discipleship during this interactive and engaging “new disciple” orientation as we explore key aspects of our Lutheran Christian faith, including how God has wired each of us to be ministers rather than simply members of the Church. Contact the church office (773-4315) or one of the pastors to register.

ADULTS — Winter 2020-2021

Sunday Adult Classes

Starts Nov 30

Jesus, Name Above All Names

Companion study to the Advent Sermon Series on Jesus, Name Above All Names. We will look at the name of Jesus in His role as Son of God, Son of Man, True Light & Messiah, and Savior.

The Gospel of Mark

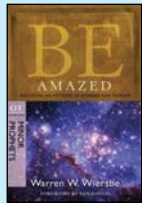
Beginning in Advent, our Gospel readings in worship will come (mostly) from Mark's gospel. Each of the four gospels tell the one story of Jesus. However, it is helpful to step back from our individual weekly readings to focus on Mark's unique message. We will explore the who, when, and why behind Mark, how the evangelist begins and ends this gospel, the one parable that is unique to Mark, as well as some other stories that are central to this gospel and found elsewhere, including Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection. Come and see, Sunday mornings during the Discipleship Hour!



Starts Jan 10

The Minor Prophets

The study will use Warren W. Wiersbe's studies of the Minor Prophets: **Be Amazed**, **Be Heroic**, and **Be Concerned**.



Prepare to be awed by our God. While viewed by Biblical scholars as the Minor Prophets, the insights and messages found in these Old Testament books are anything but minor. The Minor Prophets offer a unique, firsthand view of how our all-powerful God wants a connect and relationship with His people—us!

Wednesdays on Zoom

Starts Jan 13

Always Be Prepared to Give an Answer



"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect..." 1 Peter 3:15 NIV

Topics may include:

- Is the Bible reliable or corrupted?
- Does truth really exist?
- Are miracles possible?
- Why did Jesus have to die on the cross?
- Did Jesus believe he was divine?
- Is the Trinity 3 gods?
- The case for the Gospel
- Is the resurrection true?

Ongoing Sunday Adult Classes

Ask the Question — Chapel

Led by Lu Olp



The Church ought to be a safe place where we can bring our faith questions. In fact, a healthy faith questions and pushes for greater understanding, and a healthy church embraces those questions without feeling threatened or attacked. Join us with your cup of coffee and sweet treat as we discuss the questions you bring to the table.

Loose Links—Library

Led by Suzy Patterson



A group of Christian friends who discuss, question, and banter around day-to-day life situations and use the Bible, their own "common sense," and humor to help each other out. New participants welcome!

During the Week

Sausage and Scripture—Saturdays at 7:30 a.m.

Men's Breakfast and Bible Study

The group is not currently meeting but is looking to get started up again. For more information, please contact Jason Pearson (317-289-3986).

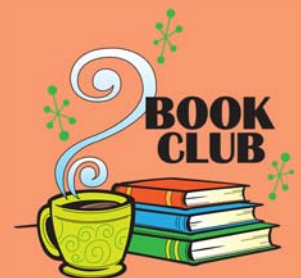
Women on Wednesdays—Wednesdays at 9:15 a.m.

Women's Bible Study. Contact Mary Jo Mikulski with questions (260-403-5525).

Monthly Bethel Book Clubs for Women

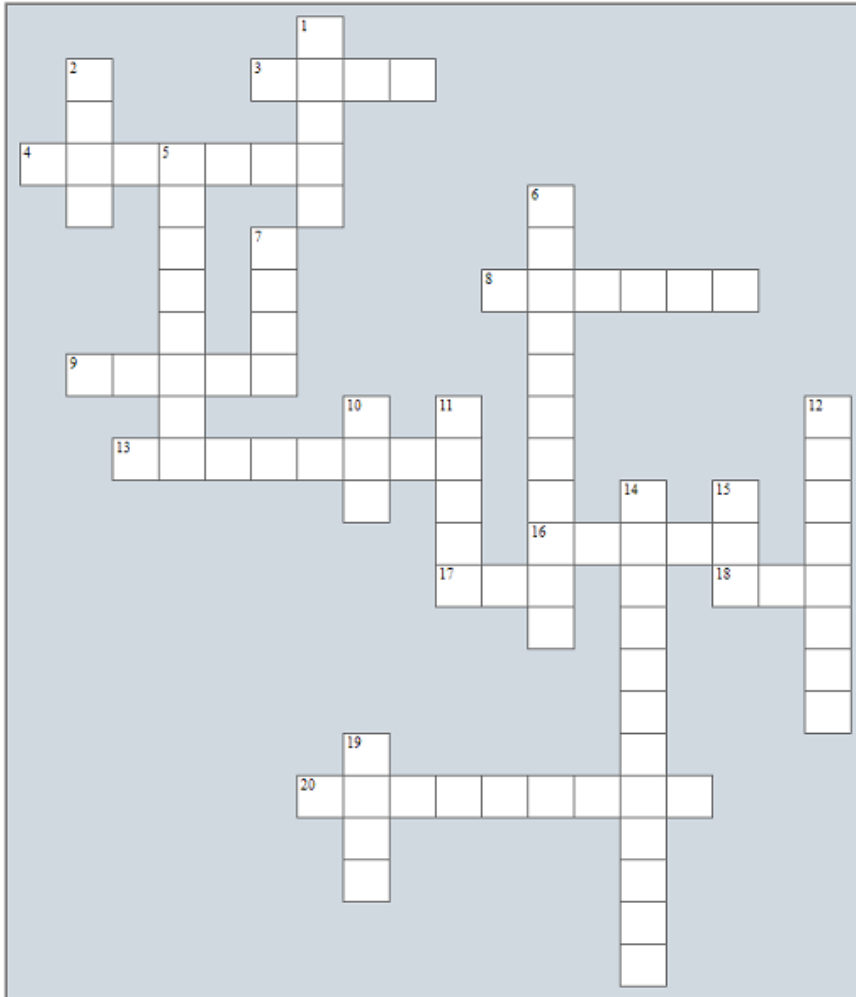
One group meets the **first Tuesday** of the month at 7 p.m. in various homes for fellowship and discussion. For more information, including that month's meeting location, contact Risë Helgemo (317-877-8416).

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



WORD

Jesus—Name Above All Names



Across

3. He is Lord of all lords and _____ of all kings.
4. Andrew went to find his brother, Simon, and told him, “We have found the _____” (which means “Christ”).
8. So then, since we have a great High _____ who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe.
9. Jesus replied, “I am the _____ of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”
13. My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an _____ who pleads our case before the Father.
16. I am the Alpha and the _____, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.
17. Glorify your _____ so he can give glory back to you.
18. For the Son of _____ came to seek and save those who are lost.
20. This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a _____ to take away our sins.

Down

1. Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, “I am the _____ of the world. If you follow me, you won’t have to walk in darkness, because you will have the _____ that leads to life.”
2. So if the Son sets you _____, you are truly _____.
5. I am the good _____. The good _____ sacrifices his life for the sheep.
6. The stone that the builders rejected has now become the _____.
7. In the beginning was the _____.
10. Jesus told him, “I am the _____, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.
11. And she will have a son, and you are to name him _____, for he will save his people from their sins.”
12. The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him _____ (which means ‘God is with us’).
14. Jesus told her, “I am the _____ and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying.”
15. Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, before Abraham was even born, _____!”
19. The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look! The _____ of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

Answers may be found on page 22.

THE BIRTH OF JESUS WORD SEARCH



BiblePuzzles.org.uk

- | | | |
|--------------|-------------|-----------|
| ANGELS | GOD | PROPHECY |
| BETHELEHEM | GOLD | SACRIFICE |
| BIRTH | HEROD | SAVIOR |
| CENSUS | HOLY SPIRIT | SHEPHERDS |
| CHRIST | IMMANUEL | SON |
| DAVID | JESUS | STAR |
| EAST | JOSEPH | SWADDLING |
| EGYPT | KING OF THE | CLOTHES |
| ELIZABETH | JEWS | THRONE |
| FLOCKS | MANGER | TIDINGS |
| FRANKINCENSE | MARY | VIRGIN |
| GABRIEL | MYRRH | WISEMEN |
| GIFTS | NAZARETH | |

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	11/1/20	All Saints Sunday
Sunday	11/8/20	23rd Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	11/15/20	24th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	11/22/20	Christ the King Sunday
Wednesday	11/25/20	Thanksgiving Eve Service
Sunday	11/29/20	1st Sunday of Advent
Sunday	12/6/20	2nd Sunday of Advent
Sunday	12/13/20	3rd Sunday of Advent
Sunday	12/20/20	4th Sunday of Advent
Thursday	12/24/20	Nativity of Our Lord
Friday	12/25/20	Nativity of Our Lord
Sunday	12/27/20	First Sunday after Christmas
2021		
Sunday	1/3/21	2nd Sunday after Christmas
Wednesday	1/6/21	Feast of the Epiphany
Sunday	1/10/21	Baptism of Our Lord
Sunday	1/17/21	2nd Sunday of Epiphany
Sunday	1/24/21	3rd Sunday of Epiphany
Sunday	1/31/21	4th Sunday of Epiphany
Sunday	2/7/21	5th Sunday of Epiphany
Sunday	2/14/21	Transfiguration of Our Lord

Continued from page 9

Jesus said in Matthew 25:40, *“I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.”* In giving, God is the point of origin and destination, the beginning and the end, the Alpha and Omega.

Scripture is full of people who **excelled in the grace of giving**. The Widow of Zarephath gave the last of her flour and oil to God’s prophet Elijah. King David gave vast amounts of gold and silver to the building of the temple. When the Lord changed Zacchaeus’ heart, he gave half of what he owned. The widow in the account of the Widow’s Mite gave all she had. Just as God’s grace and love changed the hearts of these people, he is changing our hearts.

Human nature is prone to tight-fistedness rather than generosity. God’s grace, however, transforms human nature! Like the Widow of Zarephath who gave the last of her flour and oil, we place our dependence on our Lord who *“richly provides us with everything”* (1 Timothy 6:17) so that we are eager to **excel in the grace of giving**.

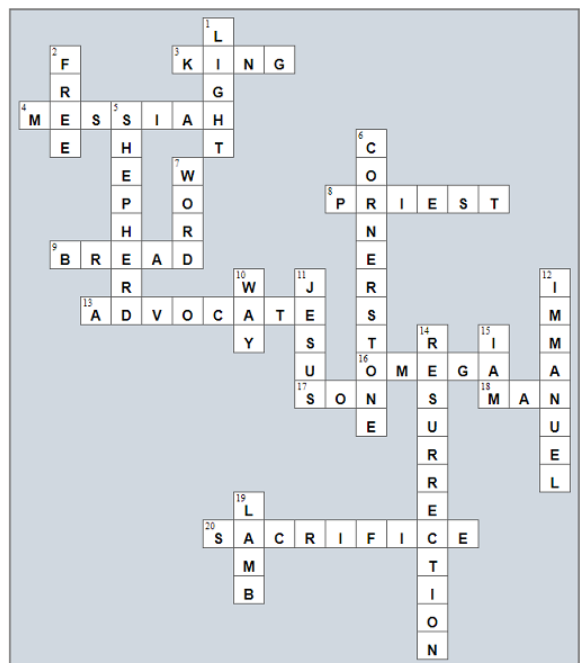
EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

2020

- Nov 1 All Saints Sunday
- Nov 1 Blood Drive 8:30a —12:30p
- Nov 4 Healing Service (online only)
- Nov 7 Respite Ranch 10:00a— 6:00p
- Nov 7-8 Commitment Weekend
- Nov 7-8 Budget Forums-Sat. after service, Sun.10:00a
- Nov 15 Congregational Meeting 10a
- Nov 15 Holiday Grief Workshop 2p-4p
- Nov 21 Thanksgiving Food Basket Distribution
- Nov 25 Thanksgiving Eve Service 7p
- Nov 28 Hanging of the Greens
- Dec 2 Midweek: Meal 6p-7p Worship 7p-8p
- Dec 2 Healing Service (online only)
- Dec 9 Midweek: Meal 6p-7p Worship 7p-8p
- Dec 12 Christmas Food Basket Distribution
- Dec 16 Midweek: Meal 6p-7p Worship 7p-8p
- Dec 20 Sunday School Christmas Program 10a
- Dec 24 Christmas Eve Services: Family 4p, Carols & Candlelight 7p and 10:30p

2021

- Jan 6 Healing Service
- Jan 6 Feast of the Epiphany
- Feb 3 Healing Service



Events & Activities



WORSHIP THE LORD!

All Saints' Day

SERVICE OF HEALING

Bethel Lutheran
Believe + Belong + Become
Congregational Meeting

Thanksgiving Food Baskets

Thanksgiving Worship

Hanging of the Greens

Advent
Sundays & Midweek

Christmas Food Baskets

Bethel Angel Tree

Children's Christmas Programs

Foy to the World
Christmas Eve Services

EPIPHANY



WEEKEND WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SATURDAY

5:30 p.m. – Casual Worship

SUNDAY

8:45 a.m. – Classic Worship

10:00 a.m. – Christian Education Hour

11:11 a.m. – Praise Worship

Communion will be celebrated at all services.

OTHER WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

Healing Service—7:00 p.m.

THANKSGIVING EVE

November 25 — Worship Service 7:00 p.m.

ADVENT MIDWEEK MEAL/WORSHIP SERVICES

Wednesday, December 2, 9, 16

Meal—Bring Your Own—6:00 p.m./Worship Service 7:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

Sunday School Christmas Program 10:00 a.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24—Worship Services

Times to be determined—please check the website or *Bethel Believes*.

Bethel Lutheran Church

20650 Cumberland Road

Noblesville, IN 46062

317.773.4315

www.BethelLutheranChurch.com



NALC

North American Lutheran Church