

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 – Jennifer Johnson

Nativity Scenes

25 Yrs of Advent Devotionals

The NALC

Seasons & Holy Days

Church Music

Focus on Ministry

And more



Silent Night, Holy Night

FOOTPRINTS



ON THE COVER:

Nativity Scene from Israel
Courtesy of Pastor Doug & Terri Gast

FOOTPRINTS

Issue #6

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), Pam Dodane, Pastor Doug Gast, Carole Kuhn, Sarah Manro, John Patterson, Pastor Al Schoonover, and Connie Wooldridge.

*Photos are public domain (such as from Pixabay), belong to Bethel, or are used by permission of the photographer. Clipart is original or used under license from ChurchArt.com. Crosswords created with free EclipseCrossword app.
Original material © 2018 Bethel Lutheran Church.*

CONTENTS

	PASTOR'S COLUMN	3
	PROFILE: JENNIFER JOHNSON	4
	NATIVITY SCENES	6
	STEWARDSHIP	8
	ADVENT DEVOTIONALS	10
	NALC: CONVOCATION RECAP	12
	ASK THE PASTOR	13
	SEASONS & HOLY DAYS	14
	LUTHERAN CHRISTIANS: BAPTISM	15
	CHURCH HISTORY	16
	CHURCH MUSIC	17
	CARING CORNER	18
	MISSIONS: SAN PEDRO MISSION TRIP	19
	CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	20
	FOCUS ON MINISTRY	22
	BOOKS OF INTEREST	23
	WORD PLAY	24
	CALENDAR & EVENTS	26
	WORSHIP TIMES	28





SEASON AFTER PENTECOST

PASTOR'S COLUMN
PASTOR AL SCHOONOVER

Managing Change

Gentlepeople of Bethel,

As I write this, our weather has finally changed into fall. Early October gave us unseasonably summer-like weather. This morning, I saw a light dusting of frost on our backyard. Karen and Amy are off school for fall break, and we have a houseful of family visiting from California. We enjoyed a fire in our fireplace last night and made s'mores. What a treat!! I know I'll be grumbling about the gloomy and cold weather in March ("Will it EVER warm up?!" and "Oh, goodie, ANOTHER snow storm!"), but right now I am loving the crisp air and start of fall colors.

Whether we are talking about the weather or technology or our own lives or the culture around us or even the church, we are surrounded by change. It is unavoidable. Depending on our context, some change can be quite delightful; however, other aspects of it may leave us disoriented and unsettled. And some – like getting married or having children or retiring from a job – may do both!



In the next six months we will face many such changes in our lives, both individually and as a church. We can deny the reality of the change. Or we can minimize the stress of change and work on strategies that will help us remain flexible and adaptable to change. But we can't remove it from our lives completely. To try would be to insulate us from the very experiences that shape us into the person (and the church) that we are. So how do we manage the changes that we face in this life? It begins by distinguishing between onto what we can hold tightly and what we should hold loosely in this life.

We can hold tightly to our identity as Christians and as someone whom God loves unconditionally, forever. Our God is *gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness* (Ex 34.6). The words God spoke to Jesus at his baptism are the ones we heard as well: *You are my son (daughter), my beloved, with you I am well pleased*" (Lk 3.22). Therefore, nothing in this life we may face will ever separate us from that love, *neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love* (Rom 8.38).



We can also hold tightly to our purpose as a church. While Bethel's specific ministry activities have changed over time, our fundamental purpose has not. The "Great Commandment" and "Great Commission" set our direction:

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. And one of them, a lawyer, asked Jesus a question to test him. "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets." (Mt 22:34–40)

And Jesus came and said to the disciples, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Mt 28:18–20)

Our identity and our purpose are the bedrock on which our lives and perspectives can be built securely. Over time, our health will change, where we live may change, our church membership may change, the pastor(s) serving us may change, even the activities we support as a congregation may change. But our identity as Christ-followers, God's claim on our life, and our purpose as a church never does.

We also recognize that our faith calls us to live a life of change, of transformation, in which we are always growing more fully into the likeness of Jesus Christ. Paul reminds us of this when he writes,

We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love. (Eph 4:14–16)

As we see our faith journey this way, we will find ourselves open to other changes as well. As we realize we haven't

"arrived" yet in our final perspective on faith or "finished" our transformation into the full likeness of Jesus in this life, we will find ourselves better able to grow, to adapt to new situations, and to handle the spiritual and personal challenges that we will face.



Serving Jesus with you!

Pastor Al



PROFILE: *Jennifer Johnson — Bethel Member*



Relationships...does anyone think about the meaning of that word anymore? “Relating” to family, friends, business? Or, is it a word and its meaning that will be withdrawn from today’s and future dictionaries? Do we take time to really think about what can make relationships better, particularly in

the business world?

Do you remember having fears of not being included ... in grade school? Being termed “Mrs. Beasley”? And then to find out you had a talent that others enjoyed...like singing? That it made others maybe “relax” when you did sing, then... and in later years? Maybe you decided to study that “art.” One of our members went through all of this...feeling left out...wondering... learning what abilities she had...and utilizing her gifts to make herself more comfortable in those early years. Today, she utilizes her talents to help others learn to network, even in their workday worlds.

Jennifer Johnson has enjoyed being a professional vocalist for over 30 years--for more than 20 years a vocalist throughout the Indianapolis area. *Music for the Jennerations* is known to many in the Seniors market where she is usually featured. Her husband, Philip, is right in there with her taking care of sound systems and being her firm support. She also sings with the Indiana Gospel Music Association.



Graduating from Bowling Green University in Ohio with an Elementary Education degree, and a music minor, she found herself in the insurance world for many years...but it wasn’t quite her cup of tea. Also through the years she

sang with bands and participated in community shows, everything...30s and 40s music in the shows. She even “opened” for “Moody Blues” the year they were at Deer Creek. At some of her business meetings, it was obvious that beginning a meeting with music was relaxing, and had people communicating more easily. Around 2010, she decided to combine her music enjoyment with the thought that others could relax and network and have better relationships within the business world.



Maybe you’ve heard Jennifer sing at one of our Bethel services and just relaxed and enjoyed those moments. Sharing her talent led to a place in her life that she fully enjoys now, reaching others through her TV show *Jennifer to the Rescue*.



The “rescue” combines networking, relationship development and entertainment all to help businesses grow and succeed. One of her favorite quotes is from Maya Angelou, “People forget what you said but they never forget how you made them feel.”

“Jennifer to the Rescue”

By Carole Kuhn

Jennifer belongs to a group of people in business who “network” together to help each other and those who ask for help in building their businesses. Her main thrust is to help others see that successful business growth can be had not by how many contacts you make but how you really connect with those contacts. That can be as easy as sending a card to one who works for you or attends a meeting...even a plate of brownies can show you care, and remember that person! Meetings can very often “feature” music as a way to relax and begin to connect during that time. “Everyone needs people to help them succeed (Networking). Everyone remembers those who make them feel special (Relationship Building). And finally, everyone remembers things that are enjoyable (Entertainment).”



Jennifer’s enthusiasm for her work is obvious when you talk with her. Reaching out and helping others is clearly her goal. As she puts it “We strive to create a partnership with every customer we serve.” We here at Bethel know the positive relationship she shares with us through her music. And, yes, in a conversation with Jennifer, you may be lucky enough to have her burst into song!

Jennifer@totherescuein.com (317) 513-6823

Jennifer’s website is: www.totherescuein.com.



Or, maybe you’ve even been to a meeting where she might have “opened” the meeting by singing...and then “relaxed” as you enjoyed the music. That is the thrust of her TV show. She interviews people from all types of businesses or those referred to her by one of those associates. A side effort the past seven years is a “network” as she calls it...people from various businesses who gather to exchange ideas on **how** to “network,” sharing knowledge and fellowship. A percent of the dues of this group goes to non-profits.

About once a month, Jennifer interviews local people on Internet TV. Bethel pastors and members have been invited to do this, and recently, Pastor Al was interviewed.



Jennifer’s program appears every Tuesday at 12:00 noon at <http://www.hamiltoncountytv.com/> or on YouTube.

PASTOR DOUG'S

Nativity Scenes

Nativity scenes date back many centuries. St. Francis of Assisi is credited with creating the first one in 1223 at Greccio, Italy. For St. Francis, it was an attempt to place the emphasis of Christmas upon the worship of Jesus rather than on gift giving or secular celebrations.

The first nativity scene was staged in a cave near Greccio and was a “living nativity” with humans and animals cast in the various roles. A description of this first scene was written by St. Bonaventure in his *Life of Saint Francis of Assisi* written around 1260.

These nativity reenactments became very popular, and they spread through the Christian world. Within 100 years, every church in Italy was supposed to have a nativity scene at Christmastime. In time, statues began to replace live figures, and the scenes could become very elaborate.

Over the years, local customs evolved, and today, nativity scenes are still a common part of the Christmas celebration inviting the viewer to remember the true meaning of Christmas is the Christ child in the manger!



Pastor Doug and Terri Gast have been collecting Nativity scenes for decades—not surprising for a Christian pastor and his wife!

Some of the scenes are simple and some very complex and decorative. Some are wood and some are ceramic—some are metal and some are glass. They all emphasize the true meaning of Christmas—the Christ Child!

Here you see a sample of their collection.

Do you have a Nativity scene or two or . . .



Nativity scene made in Israel



NATIVITY SCENES

By Gay Hanson



Willow Tree Nativity Scene



STEWARDSHIP

By Tom Foreman

What's next →

Life is full of milestones, almost from the day we are born. We inherently set daily goals which are typically followed by the thought... what's next? During school years the most common goal was often graduation. Almost as quickly as this goal was expressed to anyone else, the follow up question spilled out... what's next? We begin dating a certain someone for an extended period of time and friends (or to-be in-laws) whisper in our ear... what's next? Sometimes change comes to us unexpectedly, at times with heartache, even for these milestones our thoughts gravitate to... what's next?

This common drive for moving on to the next step as soon as a milestone is achieved can be invigorating! But it also reflects a leap of faith, stepping into the unknown, realizing that when it comes down to it, none of us exactly know for sure what is next. This is a time for prayer, pausing to listen to God, doing our best to let His will speak through us.

In Hebrews 13:8 we are reminded that even in times of change, God will remain our constant, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

As we celebrate 20 years in the current Bethel building, we also celebrate the many milestones that have been met. Hearing stories of the construction process and the involvement of MANY members in the construction of the building bring up thoughts of how it must have felt to work together toward those milestones.

God's mission for Bethel went far beyond the walls that were erected, windows that were placed, and roof that provided protection for the elements, when those were completed surely someone asked... what's next? Answers to that question included the first service, first communion, first baptism, first new members, first wedding, first memorial service, and countless more. Through all of these milestones and the changes, the purpose of the Church and the gathering of the

Church was the same, to worship and celebrate the unchanging and faithful God.

While the Bethel building has housed countless milestones over the years, we are reminded that even a Church can show age. As we prepare to tackle the next 20 years as a Church family, we must also take care of the structure God has blessed us with. During the 20th anniversary celebration and the weeks following, we will be accepting an offering to a designated fund for the replacement of the aging roof. The property team has obtained quotes that indicate a full replacement of the roof and servicing of related portions of the structure will cost approximately \$120,000.



While this is a significant repair and certainly a substantial investment, it does provide a moment of reflection. Pastor Doug and others still have vivid memories of installing the shingles that are on the roof. While council has determined that the installation of the new roof should likely be left to the professionals, the designated fund will allow anyone to "Buy a Shingle." During the construction phase, the motto was likely "many hands make light work", the current

campaign follows the same train of thought. Much like those who were originally involved in the construction of the Church daydreamed about the milestones God would lead them toward once the building was complete, this investment is a reminder for us to think of the long-term future of Bethel.

So, what's next for Bethel? As we celebrate 20 years, this should be a question we all pursue. Bethel has been blessed with amazing staff, volunteers, members, and visitors. While we celebrate recent milestones, we should also focus on what God has in mind for Bethel for the next 20 years. In an effort to humbly open our hearts and minds, church council is requesting prayerful responses to a brief survey. We want to know what God has placed on the hearts of all of those that have an interest in what's next at Bethel. The survey is intentionally brief, diverse, and allows for open-ended input.

God is the same 20 years ago, as today, as 20 years from now. Thank you for all you do to allow God's mission to shine through Bethel... what's next?



1 Shingle - \$5.50

1 Package \$110 (20 shingles)

1 Square - \$330 (100 sq. feet)

1 Roof - \$120,000

These amounts include installation

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS



The word Advent means “coming”, and Advent is the season in which we consider all the ways that Jesus comes to us: as a baby at Bethlehem, on a donkey in Jerusalem, into our hearts and lives today, and in glory on Judgment Day. Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas and lasts until Christmas Eve. The first day of Advent is a type of New Year’s Day, the first day of the church year for Christians, and we should celebrate it as such. The remainder of Advent is a time of waiting and preparation.

The 2018 edition of the Advent Devotional will mark 25 years of Bethel disciples sharing their thoughts, prayers, insights, and faith with each other as preparations are made for Christmas and the celebration of the coming of the Christ Child.

Over the years, themes have included:

“Christmas is . . .”

Hope is on the Way – Christmas hymns

Christmas is Here!

The Gift of . . .

Born a Child . . . and Yet A King

Re: Jesus

A Baby Changes Everything

Making Room for Jesus

Yet, In Thy Dark Street Shineth

Singing the Christmas Story

The Scriptures have been the inspiration for the written devotionals as have the Advent and Christmas hymns. The contributions are as rich and varied as the people and families that have written them.



The theme for 2018 is: **Christmas . . . A Good Time.**

Throughout Advent, we will hear, read, and experience how *Christmas is a Good time . . .*

For Waiting

For Giving/Receiving

For Hope

For Family

For A Savior

For Rejoicing

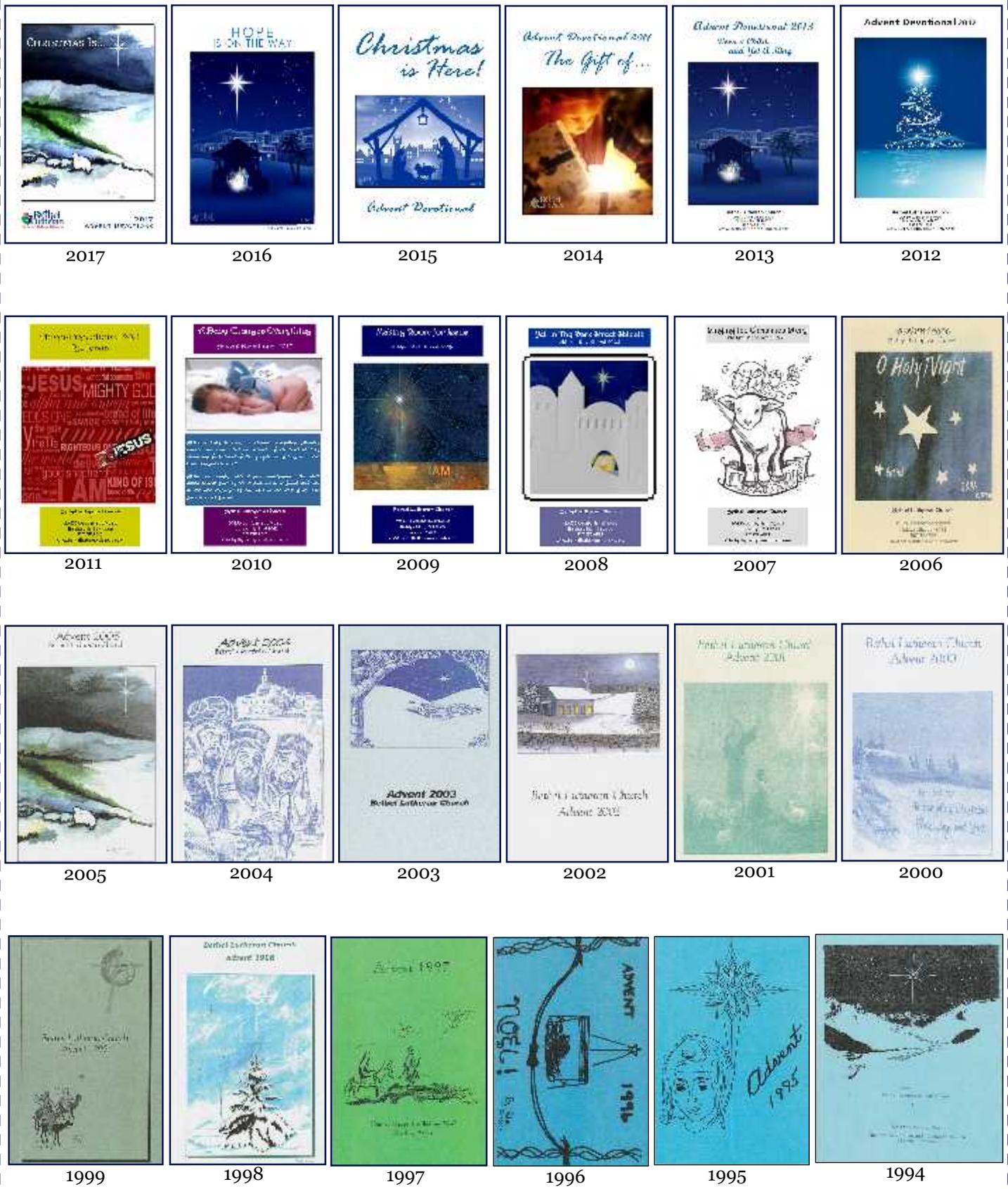
For Reflection

To Be Amazed

To Know God Is With Us

Many thanks to all who have volunteered over the years to make the Bethel Devotional possible. We hope and pray that this year’s edition is a valuable resource to you during the time of preparation and hope that leads to the great proclamation of Christmas: **“For unto you is born . . . a Savior who is Christ the Lord.”**

25 Years of Sharing the Hope



2018 Convocation

From NALC website

About 600 delegates and visitors gathered August 15-17 in Denver, Colo., for the 2018 Convocation of the North American Lutheran Church around the theme, “The Holy Spirit: Calling, Gathering, Enlightening, Sanctifying.”

The Mission Festival began with a focus on discipleship. Featured speakers Sherry Weddell and Katherine Coolidge of the Catherine of Siena Institute in Colorado Springs, Colo., talked about ways congregations can form intentional disciples. The Mission Festival also featured a variety of breakout sessions to equip members for mission.

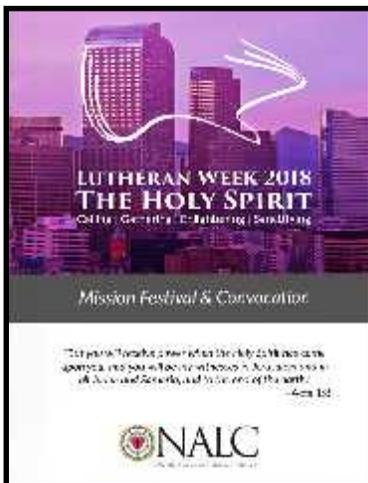
Pastor Gemechis Buba, Assistant to the Bishop for Missions, offered presentations at the Mission Festival and Convocation sessions. He told inspiring stories of God’s work in providing buildings for some NALC mission congregations serving Oromo people.

Bishop John Bradosky will not be seeking reelection as Bishop of the NALC when his term expires in 2019. The Bishop talked about “passing the baton” of the office of Bishop and pointed out the need for all of us to “pass the baton” of faith and discipleship.

To prepare for the nomination and election process for Bishop, a packet of information was provided to congregations including a booklet of prayers encouraging NALC members to engage in a year of prayer and discernment leading up to the election at the NALC Convocation August 7-9, 2019, in Indianapolis, Ind.

Elections: Richard Jansak of Hendersonville, N.C., and Pastor Melinda Jones of Summerville, S.C., were elected to four-year terms on the Executive Council. Pastor John Moffett of Ashland, Ohio, and James Gale of Washington, D.C., were elected to the Court of Adjudication. Ralph Wold of Red Deer, Alberta, and Pastor Rolf Bjornstad of Sherwood Park, Alberta were elected to the NALC Canada Section Governing Board. Pastor Wendy Berthelsen of Midlothian, Texas, Pastor Dennis Di Mauro of Herndon, Va., and Pastor Phillip Gagnon of St. Albert, Alberta, were elected to six-year terms on the North American Lutheran Seminary Board of Regents.

The North American Lutheran Seminary will be seeking a new president. The Rev. Dr. Amy Schifrin, president of the NALS, has been serving as both president and semi-



nary faculty. She will continue as full-time faculty and transition out of her position as president after the 2018-2019 school year or when someone is called as president.

2019 budgets were approved. The Convocation approved a \$2.1 million Operating Budget for the NALC. Budgets were also approved for NALC designated funds: \$589,000 for the Theological Education Fund (which includes the seminary); \$175,500 for the Great Commission Fund; and \$89,000 for the Disaster Response Fund. Most of the budgets anticipate spending some cash reserves.

A resolution regarding ecumenical consultation between the NALC and the Roman Catholic Church was approved. The resolution inviting the Roman Catholic Church into conversation and cooperation was proposed by the NALC’s Commission on Theology and Doctrine.

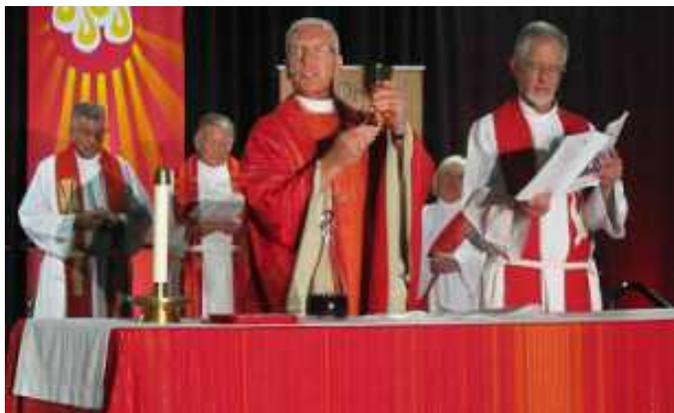
A new NALC Global Worker, James Puotyual, who will serve in South Sudan, was commissioned at the Convocation.

Stuff the Tonka Truck for NALC Disaster Response received more than \$11,000 worth of gift cards to assist those recovering from disasters. The effort was organized by the Women of the NALC.

Reports of the work of the NALC’s staff, teams, task forces, ministries and ministry partners were warmly received.

Events preceding the Convocation were the Braaten-Benne Lectures in Theology, Women of the NALC Annual Gathering, Discipleship Coaching workshop and the Ventures in Youth Ministry Symposium. The Convocation and the events preceding it comprise the NALC’s annual Lutheran Week.

Documents, photos and videos from the Convocation and other events of Lutheran Week are posted at www.lutheranweek.com.



ASK THE PASTOR



IS THERE SOMETHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO ASK?

By Pastor Doug Gast

Question: What Would Jesus Say About/On/Through Today's Social Media?

Social media has swept our world by storm . . . a fast moving storm at that. Everywhere, everyone is blogging, emailing, snap chatting, Instagramming, Tweeting, and lest I forget - Facebooking. You don't see anyone without phone in hand sending messages, making sure that friends and family get your latest "selfie." When our phones ding, we start to salivate and feel guilty if we don't immediately check it and respond. And if for some reason, I forget my phone or leave it somewhere the anxiety level reaches fevered levels.

Often times I find myself lamenting that I was born about 20 years too soon, because I have been dragged into the social media world kicking and screaming. In fact, I just figured out that a *tweet* is something you do on Twitter. About 20 years or so ago, my day began when I would make a pot of coffee, turn on my computer, go through the mail, and write out things on my "Things to Do List," and then get on with the day. Now I get to church, make a pot of coffee, open my computer to email, and spend the next hour going through and trying to answer the 68 emails that have accumulated overnight. Social media has changed our world dramatically.

It startled me the first time someone told me that the computer capability of my phone is greater than the computer on the spacecraft that sent the first astronaut to the moon. That is a lot of power right there in the palm of your hand. And there are not too many days when social media doesn't create a storm or two as well. When we receive a communique, it is hard not to just impulsively respond with the first things that come to mind.

Thinking about social media made me wonder if Jesus would want to weigh in when it comes to social media. Obviously Jesus lived in a time when the greatest social media system was the Roman roads that connected the empire from one end to the other. The Roman road network allowed the Roman military to move easily and swiftly to quell an uprising or unrest in one of their vast provinces. But it was also a travel route for commerce and communication from one place to another.

I am pretty sure Jesus would say that when it comes to social media, it may be a new time, but the same values and principles He taught on earth still apply. Here are 7 things Jesus said that still apply today and maybe even more so in our technologically advanced world.

1. "Be wise as serpents and innocent as doves." He shared this with his disciples as a word of counsel and warning. Jesus lived in a world filled with deception, darkness, and meanness of every sort. There are so many good things that social media can bring to the table. Pictures of family moments, words of inspiration and encouragement and prayers are all good. But there is stuff to be wary of which can lead to no good. But Jesus was wise enough to know that not everyone uses the things of life for beneficial purposes. Discernment is all important. As Jesus would note elsewhere, "we are in the world, but we not of the world."

2. "Do unto others, as you would have them do unto you." Treating others as we want to be treated carries over into our social interactions - even in cyber space. Our moms and dads were right when they told us that if we can't say something nice, we shouldn't say anything at all. Kindness is a fruit of the Spirit, and so is self-control. We have choices. Dismiss, delete, disregard the hurtful things that come your way, and make sure you are not fueling the anger, nastiness, and hurtful, hateful reactions that are so easy to perpetuate.

3. "Don't forget, my name is Emmanuel," which means "God is with us." I think Jesus is always reminding us that we are never alone. He is "with us" in every moment of every day . . . in every situation and in every experience. But he is Emmanuel and is with us when we are sitting at our computer as well. Imagine him sitting next to you as you type. Before you hit "send," ask him if this meets with his approval.

4. "What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs." (Matt 10:20) How many people have regretted something they have posted on line. We don't just communicate with an individual. Once something is out there, it is out in the world, and it is out there forever. It is like we are shouting it from the rooftops for everyone to see. Jesus would caution us to pause before we hit "send." There are no take backs. "No my bad . . . sorry. I really didn't mean it." Weigh your thoughts and words before you type them and hit "send."

5. "All you need to say is simply 'Yes' or 'No;' anything beyond this comes from the evil one." When it comes to social media, Jesus would tell us to keep it simple. Keep it short. There are times and places for long involved treatises, but social media is probably not one of them.

6. "Watch and pray so that you do not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." (Matt 26:42) "Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." (Mark 11:24) The first thing many folks do in the morning is check in with Facebook. I think Jesus would say you might want to consider checking with your "Faithbook" first, which is the Bible. Reflect on God's Word and then ask the Holy Spirit to guide us in reading what has been posted to us and what we post and the time we spend doing both, which could bring some dramatic changes in our relationships and responses.

7. "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." This is a part of the great command of Jesus . . . to love others as he has loved us. I hope that everyone who crosses our path would sense, feel, and see the love and spirit of Christ shining through us. Jesus would say, "You have a great opportunity as well as a challenge to make your social media express my love through you."

This may not be everything Jesus would say to us about our time and involvement in social media, but I think it serves as a reminder that the word of our Lord has application to our personal life and our social lives even when our social lives extend to the far reaches of the world. How do you think Jesus would interact with others on social media? Just shoot me an email and I will try to respond as fast as this old brain allows.



SEASONS & HOLY DAYS

ISAIAH
9:2

ADVENT - CHRISTMAS - EPIPHANY

by Carole Kuhn

Advent is a special season in the Christian world--a time to get ready to remember and celebrate the special blessing of Jesus' arrival on Christmas. It is known as the First Advent; Christians await the Second Advent which will be when Jesus returns. The definition of the word Advent is "coming" or "arrival" and begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day. In Old Testament times, Christians used Advent as a time to wish for Christ's "coming" for redemption from the evils of tyrannical rulers and empires. Years later, the season was one for fasting and penitence for sins. In today's world, it is more of a time of joy and happiness as we wait for the Messiah's return. The season's color is blue denoting Christ's royalty.

Christmas—when we celebrate Christ's birth. Why the particular date of December 25 is used has been debated over the centuries. We know there was not a consistent system for keeping time in the first century and also how there were mistakes in later calendars and calculations of time. But it is known there was a pagan celebration of the winter solstice on December 25, marking the change of seasons. It is thought that in the fourth century, Christians who refused to celebrate the pagan holiday, chose that date to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Traditionally, white is the chosen "color" for the celebration, depicting joy for Christ's birth. (John 3:16)

Epiphany commemorates the travel of the Wise Men as they followed the star to Bethlehem to worship the baby Jesus. The term Epiphany means "manifestation"—declaring Christ was born. Epiphany begins at sundown the day before January 6, celebrating the Wise Men arriving in Bethlehem. The celebration color is green.

A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

Isaiah 40:3-5

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:14

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn..

Isaiah 60:1-3

LUTHERAN CHRISTIANS

WHO WE ARE - WHAT WE BELIEVE

The Baptism of Our Lord



On the first Sunday after Epiphany, the Lutheran church celebrates the Baptism of Our Lord. The baptism of Jesus is recorded in all four Gospels. In Jesus' Great Commission, he commands his disciples (and us) to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...."

Baptism is a sacrament—a means of grace instituted by Jesus using water and the Word. The rite of Holy Baptism in the Lutheran Book of Worship states: "In the waters of baptism we are reborn children of God and inheritors of eternal life. By water and the Holy Spirit we are made members of the Church which is the body of Christ."

Lutherans baptize all ages, but believe that it is appropriate and right to baptize infants and children because baptism is a gift of God.

A person only needs to be baptized one time to receive the gift of salvation. Sometimes to recall or commemorate our baptism, since many of us were baptized as infants and don't remember it, we do something special. Often that is done on the day that we remember the Baptism of our Lord.

One year, Pastor Doug brought water from the Jordan River and made the cross with it on the forehead of anyone who desired it. To this day, a measure of water from the Jordan River is added to the font for all baptisms at Bethel.



Baptismal Candles

In 2013, the church gave baptismal candles and holders to all who desired them on the Sunday of the Baptism of Our Lord. The story of the candle holders goes back many years before.

Around 1990, Delmar Bealer (Jill Dietz's grandfather and Phyllis Anderson's father) made baptismal candle holders for his church in Rock Island, Illinois. The church decided they could not use them, so he offered them to Bethel. Pastor Doug readily accepted! Grandpa Delmar made the holders for each child being baptized for about 8 years. When he passed away, Andy Dietz took over making them. Andy has made them since November 1998.



Around November 2012, Pastor Doug asked Jill if Andy would consider making 400 of these candle holders—enough to give one to every person at Bethel to commemorate their own baptisms, while

also commemorating Jesus' baptism. Jill agreed for Andy. Andy and Jill helped give them out on January 13th, 2013 to the deep appreciation of all who received them!

Over the years, Andy has made approximately 800 candle holders! Thank you Andy and Jill for this important ministry and tradition of Bethel!



CHURCH HISTORY

BETHEL IN THE 1930s

By Gay Hanson

The 1930s was a very active time at Bethel with much going on in addition to regular worship.

In the early 30s, Pastor Homer Lindsay served as the choir director of a relatively large choir which sang from the balcony. Because the choir loft was so full for one notable performance of a cantata, Pastor Lindsay directed from a platform suspended outside the balcony railing!



During this time period, the Adventists occasionally joined with Bethel in giving musical programs. This combined group made beautiful music and provided an opportunity for fellowship with other denominations. The choir has been very active over the years and has contributed much to the worship life of the congregation.

The Luther League was very active in the 1930s. They met on Sunday prior to the evening church services; a business meeting and party were held once a month at a member's home. In October of 1935, the State Luther League Convention was held in Cicero. Bethel was always represented at district meetings which were held as far east as Richmond and in places such as Ovid and Crossroads. The women of the host church served a meal to all



at no charge. It has been mentioned that at one of the meetings, the boys put an auto bomb on Rev. Don Elder's car. It sounded like a cannon!

In the early 30s while Pastor Lindsay was here, there was a very active basketball league in which Bethel participated. The Bethel team traveled as far as Wittenberg College in Springfield, Ohio, to play their freshman team. The team played often in Indianapolis. There was also an active softball league.



One of the most vivid memories of this period was the yearly trek to church camp. Leaving after worship service on Sunday by car pool or sometimes by school bus, the group motored to

Oakwood Park on Lake Wawasee. For a week each summer the local Lutheran youth gathered with other Lutheran youth from all over the state. They rented a two-story cabin near the big Auditorium; additional rooms were available in the Oakwood Hotel. Some of the cabin names were "We Like It," "Paws (Paw prints) and Rest," and "Dew Drop In."

Sunday evening vespers at the Auditorium marked the beginning of the camp. Morning devotions began each day, followed by classes until about noon. After returning to the cabin for lunch, quiet hour, and study time, most of the afternoon was left free. Free time was spent boating, swimming, sunning, and going to Syracuse. Other choices were nature hikes, choir practice, parties with other cabins, and preparing skits for stunt night. A yearly ritual was for the older boys to try to take the clapper from the bell that was rung before sessions. Monday night was banquet night at the Hotel. Each evening campers assembled for vespers with one evening service held outdoors overlooking the lake. Also, there was one sunrise service.



Parents and church members would donate food for the week. The Nighthelmer kids would take a sugar-cured ham. On the days they fixed the ham, the savory aroma attracted campers from miles around! Two mothers or other ladies from the church would go along to do the cooking. The kids took turns at K.P. – washing dishes, going to the grocery, checking for mail, setting tables, and filling water glasses at meal times.



CHURCH MUSIC

HYMNS

By Gay Hanson

“Silent Night” or “Stille Nacht”

Silent Night is the most popular Christmas hymn or carol of all time. The lyrics were written by Father Joseph Mohr and set to music by Franz Guber in 1818.

There are a number of variations on how the hymn came to be written. They all center around the small Church of St. Nicholas in Obendorf, Austria on Christmas Eve of 1818, and about a priest who would not let a broken organ spoil the Christmas Eve Service.

In one story, the inspiration for the song came from a band of roving actors that visited Obendorf with their Christmas play. In another telling of the story, Father Mohr remembered a poem he had written two years earlier after finding out that organ was broken and asked a church organist, Franz Gruber, to set it to music. The third variation and most frequently told story is how Father Mohr, upon finding out that the organ was broken, was distraught that Christmas Eve service might be ruined, sat down quickly and wrote the verses – and then took them to Franz Gruber, who composed the music.

No matter how the composition came about, it represents a determination to celebrate Christmas! Some facts are lost in the mists of history, but Father Joseph Mohr did write the words, and Franz Gruber did compose the music. The hymn was first sung on Christmas Eve in 1818 in the Church of St. Nicholas, Obendorf, and the original accompaniment was a guitar. All stories agree with these facts.

The hymn was spread through the area when Karl Mauracher came to repair the organ and heard the story. He obtained a copy of the hymn, and as he went about his business, he made the hymn and the story known to other churches in the area.

Then a family of glovemakers – the Strasser family – obtained a copy. As they traveled the area selling gloves, their children would sing songs to entertain and draw attention to their merchandise. They sang the hymn at the Leipzig fair, which spread it still further afield.

In 1838, “Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!” was published in a German Catholic hymnal, and in 1839, another musical family from Austria brought the song to the United States when they sang it at Trinity Church in New York City. German immigrants also brought the song with them when they moved to America and sang it in their churches.

By the time of the Civil War (1861-1864), “Silent Night” had been translated into English and was a Christmas favorite for both the North and the South.

The carol has been translated into about 140 languages and remains the best known and loved Christmas carol in the world!



German lyrics

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht,
Alles schläft; einsam wacht
Nur das traute hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht,
Hirten erst kundgemacht
Durch der Engel Halleluja,
Tönt es laut von fern und nah:
Christ, der Retter ist da!
Christ, der Retter ist da!

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht,
Gottes Sohn, o wie lacht
Lieb' aus deinem göttlichen Mund,
Da uns schlägt die rettende Stund'.
Christ, in deiner Geburt!
Christ, in deiner Geburt!



*Silent Night,
Holy Night*

English lyrics - 1859

Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light;
Radiant beams from thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.



CARE MINISTRY

By Jane Nee

Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord.

James 5:13-14

Revisit “The Shack” with Care Ministry

Last spring Kim Radant and I from Care Ministry did a class on the book, “The Shack.” It was a study from clips of the movie with shared scripture and questions for discussion. We had a good group and good discussion. Everyone ended up enjoying the book and the movie.

The “Missy Project” was suggested to encourage others to read the book. Missy was the little girl in the book who was kidnapped and murdered. Her death was the basis of the story, which caused Mackenzie Philips, her father, great sadness. We are sharing this article on “The Shack” and our groups comments so we can inspire you to read the book and/or see the movie.

In 2007 when William “Paul” Young’s book was published there was much controversy. Since then he has sold over 20 million copies. Many of you may have chosen not to read it because God, “Papa,” was an African American woman and the Holy Spirit, “Sarayu,” was a young Asian girl. Jesus was who we think of as a Middle Eastern man who did woodworking. Many readers found this confusing and had difficulty relating to this storyline. With time and more background on the author and the story, many have learned this book has much insight into the Triune God’s presence in our lives. After studying this book our group is sharing its thoughts on “The Shack.”

We all enjoyed the book and also the movie and felt it was excellent. We would recommend reading the book first, then watching the movie.

We all know God loves us but in reading “The Shack”, you truly feel the “powerfulness” of God’s love and how His love healed Mack’s great sadness. It made me realize even more how important God’s love is for me and in my relationships. This world would be a better place with more love and forgiveness. *Jane Nee*

J Enjoyed how Holy Trinity functioned as one, three roles one message. Stressed the importance of forgiveness. When you don’t forgive it affects you and your relationships. Felt one of best books I have read. *David Nee*

J Book was fascinating, powerful and inspiring. Depicted the Trinity in an unusual and unique way. Interesting to watch transformation of Mack as he came to terms with loss and anger through forgiveness and love. *Terri Gast*

J Interesting depiction of the Holy Trinity helped gain an understanding of the 3 persons of the Trinity. One of the recurrent themes was God’s love for us and presence in our

lives even in very difficult time, which is a valuable reminder for me. Movie truly captured the essence of the book. *Merri Everett*

J Had trouble relating to the characters who played God because of image in mind of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit were so different. Was confusing but very enjoyable. Movie was very thought provoking more than book. After the class would like to re-read and watch the movie again. *Gary Melby*

J Mack suffered on of the greatest tragedies a person can encounter, a loss of a child. A deep depression follows and causes him to doubt his faith in God. He is invited to the shack. Through a series of events he learns forgiveness and an understanding of God’s love. The message of “The Shack” is that God has a plan and even though we don’t understand His plan, we must have trust and faith in His guidance. *Doug Bosworth*

J Wow, what a book and movie was even more powerful. No matter where your walk is with or without God, we all have trials-accidents, divorce, health issues. So how do we deal with them? If we are of faith it is a part of our walk with Christ. Mack’s journey brings us into his journey and how he is introduced to the Trinity- God, Jesus and Holy Spirit. God uses this author and his story to influence, educate and answer questions we ask on our faith walk. It is a keeper in my library, as a reference and motivation to stay centered and to live life using the gifts He gave me to show His love to others. *Jim Hogle*

J What had the most impact on me in reading “The Shack” is the constant theme of relationships. The relationship of the three- in- one, the Holy Trinity, as three separate beings with different purpose but they are all still one. Also, the constant reminder of our own personal relationship with God. *Sarah Manro*

If you chose not to read the book maybe you will decide to read it and find the hope, love, forgiveness and a life lived in simplicity and joy. We all have our “shacks”- broken dreams, broken heart, secrets, and great sadnesses. Let God open the door to your shack, so you can face it and let it go.

“Taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him.” Psalm 34:8

Dear God, yes, we all have our own grief, broken dreams, damaged hearts and our own shack. We pray through you we can find grace and the abiding presence of Papa, Sarayu and Jesus. Fill the emptiness inside us with joy and love. Help us forgive and love with a self-giving love. Amen



MISSIONS

MISSION TRIP TO IGLESIA SAN PEDRO

By John & Suzy Patterson

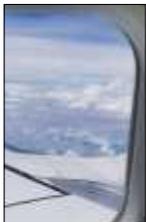


John & Suzy Patterson

In May, Bethel commissioned Suzy & me to go be "A Blessing Beyond Bethel" on a mission trip for a week to Pastor Eddy Perez's church,

Iglesia Cristiana San Pedro, our mission partner in Miami, Florida. Our mission was to evaluate our sister church's Audio/Visual Worship System needs and determine how Bethel could best help improve their system.

When we discovered that a May trip would actually be possible for Pastor Eddy and for us, we finalized all of our travel plans.



Smooth flight.

We flew into Ft. Lauderdale and then drove safely to Miami, but en route, we discovered 2 important facts... Miami drivers apparently choose to not use their turn signals; it warns other drivers to quickly close-up gaps between cars and not miss a momentary opportunity to improve their traffic position by 1-car length. Speed limits... merely suggestions! We did enjoy the nice new Nissan Sentra rental car, very responsive, great brakes and extremely comfortable to drive.



Riding in style in Miami, FL.

Most of you have met Pastor Eddy & wife, Yuddy, while on their visits to Bethel, and know that they lead a Hispanic congregation in Miami, FL and that they came from Cuba. What you may not know, is they are very gracious hosts, and treated us to every possible homemade authentic Cuban meal and several area Cuban restaurants. I was pleased to discover that Cuban food is very tasty, but surprised to learn that it is not hot or spicy. Each meal is carefully measured by heaping plate-full. I'm pretty sure that I gained 5 lbs.



Pastor Eddy & Yuddy Perez

Pastor Eddy was eager for us to join their weekly small group study which rotates between various homes. This interactive group centers on the gospel reading for each up-coming week and then Pastor Eddy makes adjustments to his message based on their questions & answers. I was extremely impressed with



We joined in their weekly small group study.

the group's diversity and ages. Most of them came from Cuba, Nicaragua, Honduras, or other Central American countries, each has their own unique story on their travels to Miami and to the church. Some of the youngsters spoke fluently in 2 or more languages and consistently asked deep well thought-out questions & answers. And although Suzy had been taking Debbie Nielsen's Spanish Class, one of the youngsters quickly jumped in as our translator. Obviously, Suzy & I didn't understand too much (sorry Debbie), but many of the elders in the group spoke very broken English and even struggled with translations. We shared our Bethel Stories and a glimpse into our personal spiritual journeys. Very neat... It's an awesome group. A definite win Pr. Eddy!

I was asked when we returned, "How was your vacation?" I quickly corrected them that it was in fact a Mission Trip and not a vacation. We typically got up at 7a and often finished up and then returned to the hotel by about 10 or 11p. Pastor Eddy is truly a wonderful host,



Suzy recharges on the return flight home.



but we did keep focused on our mission; brief tours of the city, mixed with trips to the church, back to the house for meals, trips to various stores acquiring equipment and then back to the church for installation. Two new HD flat screen TV's with cabling & switches, a new iMac computer to run the new ProPresenter worship software. Also a new MacPro

laptop to run the new software for Pastor Eddy's out-of-state conference talks. The new system replaces their old small projector screen, laptop & PowerPoint software.

The new A/V system looks much like Bethel's narthex TV's, one on each side, plus their iMac computer to run the



Volunteer running the new iMac worship computer.

worship software to one side, the keyboard & the lectern in the middle and the baptismal font out in the center of the narthex. The congregation sits on both sides of the narthex. Pastor Eddy and his two daughters, Elizabeth & Debra, wasted no time in jumping into programing for the very first weekend of songs & scripts. Actually, the girls had to kind of wait for Pastor Eddy to 'wear off' some of the "new" first, but they were totally successful and the new system ran perfectly for Sunday worship!



Sunday worship on new TVs.

El Señor es mi Pastor
//El Señor es mi Pastor,
Nada me faltará;
El Señor es mi Pastor,
Y en pastos delicados,
El me hará descansar.

The new A/V system looks much like Bethel's narthex TV's, one on each side, plus their iMac computer to run the



Pastor Eddy Gives Message.



Elizabeth & Suzy lead a Sunday worship song.

The Iglesia Cristiana San Pedro congregation expressed their warm heartfelt gratitude to Bethel for this wonderful gift. And Suzy & I give thanks & praise to Bethel for sending us on this Mission Trip. The new system and our travel expenses, were completely paid through Bethel missions—thank you, Bethel!



The congregation sings.

CHRISTIAN

YOUTH & SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT



Sunday School — Children ages Kindergarten through 5th grade begins at 10:00 a.m. Children go directly to their rooms where they will meet their teachers). They are dismissed to parents at 10:55 a.m.

Nursery — Infants and toddlers under 3 are welcomed into our staffed nursery between 8:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. on Sundays. Our Nursery Attendant Brenna Taitano will read Bible stories, play, and love on our youngest members while their parents attend Adult Education classes or worship.

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

K-5th Grade — Children are grouped into Sunday School classes by age/grade. Over a three-year cycle, students learn the basic stories and Lutheran concepts in preparation for Confirmation during middle school.

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

Confirmation class for Middle School students (grades 6-8) strives to move faith from the head to the heart through a highly interactive experience that includes both large group presentation and small group discussion. Following class, we attend the 11:11 a.m. service to worship together. Once a month we will continue our time together after worship with a large group fellowship activity. Our goal is to develop a sticky, life-long faith through a combination of engaging learning events, regular fellowship activities, and frequent service opportunities in and beyond the congregation. Join us upstairs in the Student Center. Contact Youth and Family Minister Joe Rudy at joerudy@bethellutheranchurch.com for registration information.



MIDWEEK: High School Youth Ministry

Our High School (grades 9-12) youth ministry meets upstairs in the Student Center. A typical night involves hanging out, eating Oreos or something awesome, listening to music, playing games, watching a video, discussing the important and the not-so-important things and wrapping up the evening with HI's and Low's. We welcome all (members and friends alike), and we encourage each other throughout the week. We have been known to go on trips, mission work, summer camp and Boundary Water Adventure journeys. High School life is too hard to do it alone so we try and do it together.



Baptism Class

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



First Communion Class

Children in 4th grade and up learn about God's promises and the importance of Holy Communion. Classes are held during Lent after the Sunday School hour, and culminate with the Rite of First Communion on Maundy Thursday. For more information, speak with Kris Lingenfelter or email her at: kris@bethellutheranchurch.com.



Discovery: Becoming a Disciple of Jesus

Sundays — Jan. 13 to Feb. 3, 2019

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

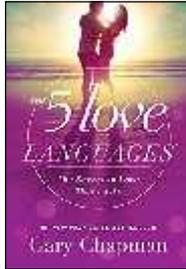
EDUCATION

ADULTS — Fall 2018

Oct 7 – Dec 16

5 Love Languages

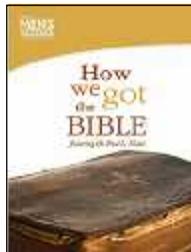
Exploration of Gary Chapman's book, *The 5 Love Languages*. Come and see how words of affirmation, quality time, receiving gifts, acts of service, and physical touch can be used to convey affection in our marriages and our significant friendships. In a friendly, often humorous style, Chapman unpacks each one in this nine-week, video-based discussion.



Oct 21 – Dec 16

How We Got the Bible

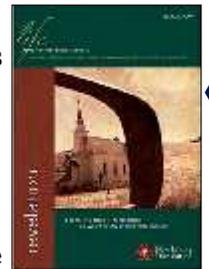
This Bible study will survey the historical development, textual transmission, and publication history of the Bible as it has come down to us through the centuries. With special emphasis on God's divine activity through the Spirit-inspired authors of the Old and New Testaments, this study will show how the Bible is His book, His Word — revealed to man that they might know the way of salvation as revealed by the prophets and made real in the flesh through the life, death, and resurrection of God's son, Jesus Christ.



Beginning Jan 6th

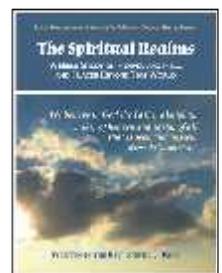
Revelation: Breaking the Code

Revelation—13 lessons that give us hope as we face an uncertain future. Whether you are teaching a class, leading a small group, or just looking for a challenging personal study, Life Application Bible Studies are for you. With thought-provoking questions, complete lesson format, the full text from the Bible, and the most extensive commentary available in a Bible-study booklet, these study guides give you everything you need to understand God's Word and apply it to your life.



The Spiritual Realms

The Spiritual Realms is a nine-session Bible Study series on Heaven and Hell and places beyond this world. Specifically, the study looks at the many "place names" that are found throughout Scripture, referring to spiritual realms of existence that underlie and comprise the universe God created. This Bible Study series is a challenging one, in that it explores realities of existence beyond what we know and experience every day. The study not only addresses matters of life, death, heaven and hell, it steadfastly affirms that Jesus Christ is at the center of all these things.



Ongoing Sunday Adult Classes

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

The Church ought to be a safe place where we can bring our faith questions. In fact, a healthy faith questions and pushes for greater understanding, and a healthy church embraces those questions without feeling threatened or attacked. Join us 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 & Tree Rudy

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

Gospel of Mark—Fellowship Hall *Led by pastors*
Bible study based on the week's passage from Mark



During the Week

Sausage and Scripture - Fellowship Hall

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

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

Bible Study Fellowship -Tuesdays for Women. For more information contact: Cynthia Jesudason (317-626-5867) cynthiajesudason1@comcast.net

Monthly Bethel Book Clubs for Women

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

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

FOCUS ON MINISTRY

Care Ministry—Grief

By Sarah Manro

On October 24, 2017, my beloved Grandma Rose passed away at age 91. Grandma and I were very close. Of her eight grandchildren, I was the only granddaughter and this gave us a special connection.

I enjoyed visiting and spending time with Grandma whenever I could. She lived in Minneapolis so I didn't get to see her as often as I would have liked, but we talked on the phone frequently. The last year of her life, I was able to visit her 5 different times which was pretty extraordinary.

Grandma had pulmonary fibrosis and the last year of her life especially, her health declined steadily. Around Memorial Day my mom and her sister moved Grandma into an assisted living facility. Every time I spoke to Grandma on the phone she'd tell me she didn't know if she'd make it to my next visit. During my kid's fall break that October, we planned to go to Minnesota to see Grandma and the rest of the family. The urgency to see her felt so strong that when we drove into the city after being on the road for more than 10 hours, we went straight to her apartment. She was so happy to see us and it felt so good to be with her! Her nurse, the visiting pastor from her church, and several of her friends and our family members told me she was holding on just to see me again. Two days after we got there she was moved into hospice. We had to leave to drive back to Indiana because the kids' break was ending. Saying goodbye to her and leaving her hospice room was the single hardest thing I've ever done. She died two days later.

A week and a half later we were back in Minneapolis for Grandma's funeral. I never felt so prepared for a person's death as I did Grandma's. Her death was not sudden, it was not a surprise, there were no questions of "why" or "what happened." But the emptiness and sadness that death brings was definitely there.



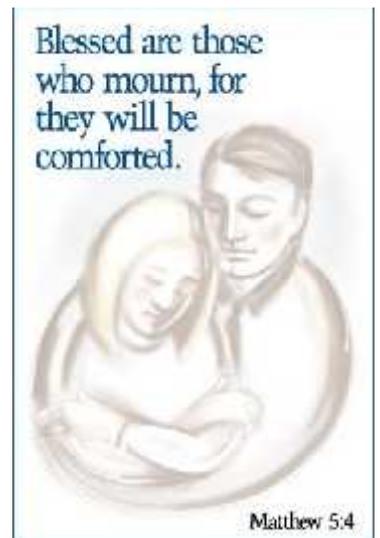
A short time after Grandma died, I received a letter in the mail from Bethel. It was from Pastor Doug informing me that the Care Ministry had a Holiday Workshop planned to "discuss

what we might experience as we enter the holidays and cope with grief." My first thought was that living in Indiana, I hadn't actually spent a Christmas with Grandma in several years so this year would probably not be that different and since I felt so prepared for her passing I really thought I was in a good place and didn't need this workshop. But that little voice in the back of my head reminded me that I didn't really know how I'd feel once Christmas, the first Christmas without her, was actually here and maybe attending the workshop wasn't such a bad idea.

The workshop was given by Brenda Kenyon, a licensed Social Worker and Grief Counselor from St. Vincent Hospice. The letter from Pastor Doug said the workshop would be a time for learning and reflection. And it was just that - and a wonderful experience!

What surprised me most about it was how many other Bethel members, some I knew and many I didn't, had also lost loved ones this year that I didn't know about. It gave me a feeling of togetherness. Sometimes grief can make you feel very lonely. This was a room filled with very sympathetic and understanding people. We all lose people we love, and we all react to it in our own way. This workshop helped validate those feelings and gave us ideas to honor and remember our loved one throughout the holiday season while finding a way to enjoy this typically happy time of year. I love that our church has programs like this to help us!

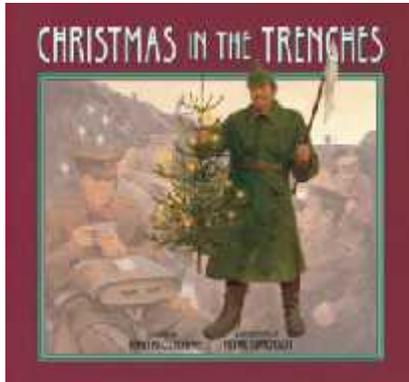
This year's workshop is scheduled for Sunday, December 9th from 2-4 p.m. at church. If you have lost a loved one this year, I highly encourage you to consider attending the workshop, even if you think you don't need it. If you have questions, please contact Jane Nee or Kim Radant from our Care Ministry team.



BOOKS OF INTEREST

Reviews by Connie Wooldridge

Reading level:
Ages K-3



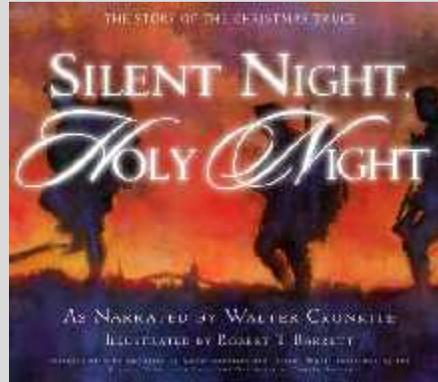
CHRISTMAS IN THE TRENCHES

by John McCutcheon; illustrated by Henry Sørensen

After dinner is eaten and Christmas presents opened, a young boy and girl ask their grandfather to tell them about his very favorite Christmas. His favorite Christmas, Grandpa tells them, was spent far from home when he was a soldier fighting in the trenches during the Great War. He tells them the story of the Christmas Truce of 1914, when soldiers who had been shooting at one another spontaneously laid aside their weapons and met in the middle of No Man's Land to celebrate Christmas. The oil on canvas illustrations in somber colors provide the perfect backdrop for splashes of light (sun, moon, candles on trees), a perfect parallel to the miraculous light of peace that shone in the middle of a brutal war. The book includes a CD of the author reading the story, a recording of *Silent Night*, and a recording of the author's folksong *Christmas in the Trenches*.



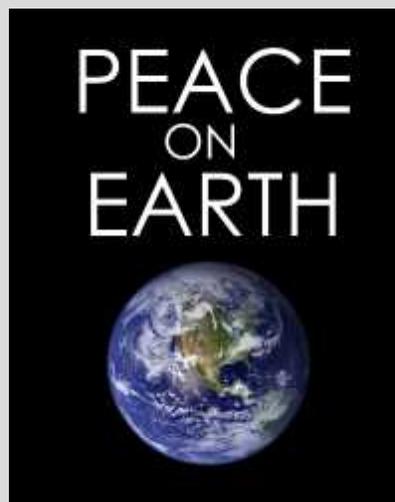
Reading level:
Grades 3-6



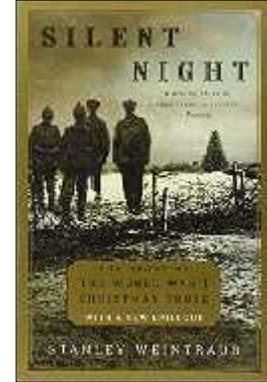
SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT; The Story of the Christmas Truce

Narrated by Walter Cronkite;
Illustrated by Robert T. Barrett

Paintings, tiny photographs of World War I soldiers, and direct quotes from eye-witnesses ground this story of the 1914 Christmas Truce in reality, making the peace that suddenly broke out along the Western Front all the more miraculous. The book includes a CD of Walter Cronkite reading the story accompanied by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir.



Reading level:
High School/Adult



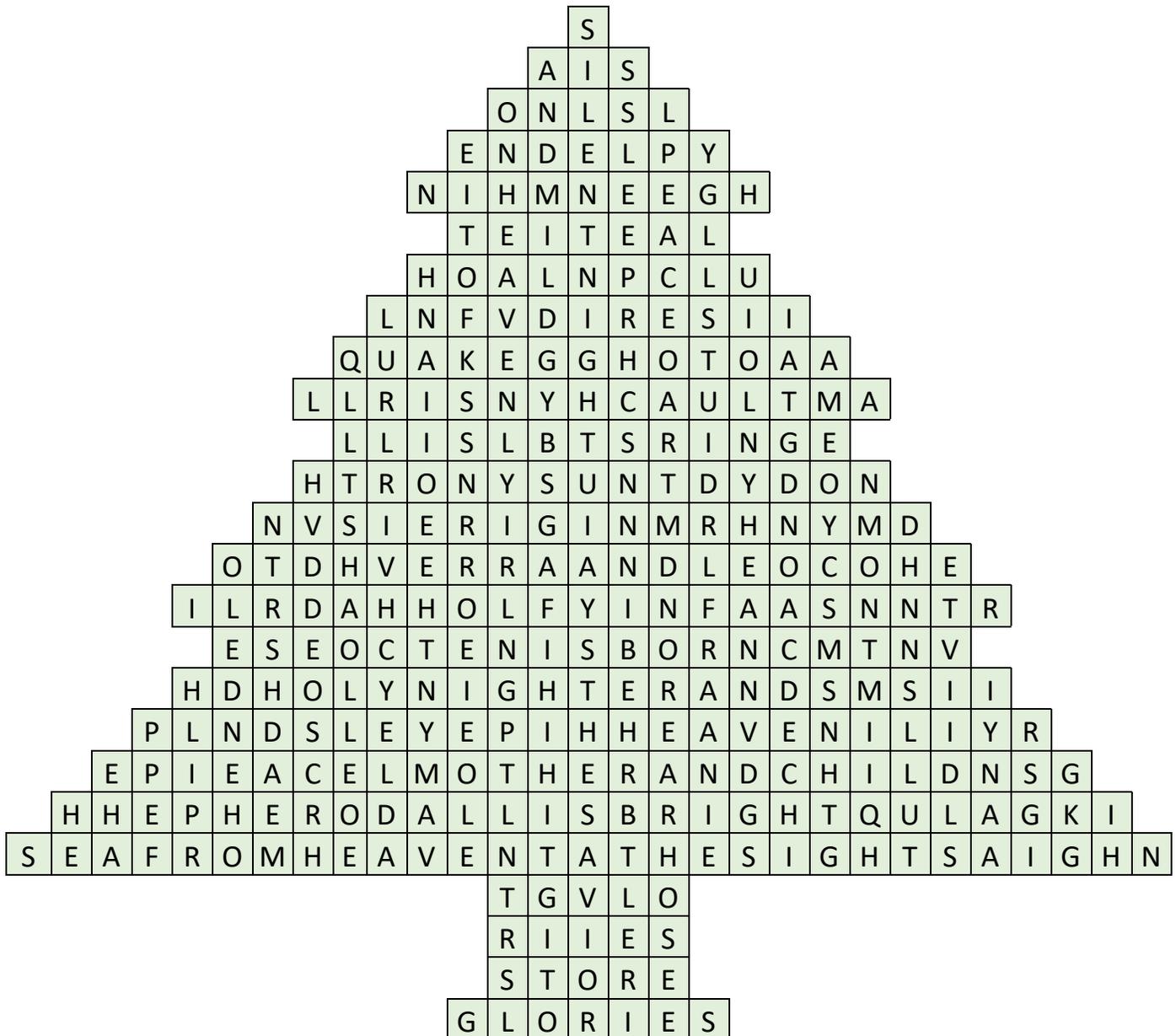
SILENT NIGHT; The Story of the World War I Christmas Truce

By Stanley Weintraub

It was late December, 1914. Along the battle line that cut through France, hopes that the war would be a short one had been dashed. On one side of "No Man's Land" were the British and French; on the other, well within shouting distance, were the Germans. Both sides were weary, both longed to be celebrating Christmas at home rather than in muddy trenches. Suddenly, in various encampments up and down the battle line, strange things began to happen. In one place, the Germans hurled a boot into a British trench and it "exploded" with sausages and chocolates. In another place, a sign popped up: "You no shoot. We no shoot." All along the front line, men began to venture out into No Man's Land, exchanging gifts, singing, and giving one another haircuts. With scholarly precision and great passion, Weintraub chronicles the miraculous and entirely factual event known as the Christmas Truce of 1914.

WORD

Silent Night Word Search



SILENT NIGHT
HOLY NIGHT
ALL IS CALM
ALL IS BRIGHT
ROUND YON VIRGIN
MOTHER AND CHILD

HOLY INFANT
SO TENDER
AND MILD
SLEEP
IN HEAVENLY
PEACE

SHEPHERDS
QUAKE
AT THE SIGHT
GLORIES
STREAM
FROM HEAVEN
AFAR

HEAVENLY
HOST SING
ALLELUIA
CHRIST
THE SAVIOR
IS BORN

Note: There are no space used in the puzzle—words run together

Answers may be found on page 26.

PLAY

Seasonal Match

Match the correct answer with the question.

1. What is the liturgical color of Advent?
 - A. Blue
 - B. Green
 - C. White
 - D. Red
2. What is the liturgical color of Christmas?
 - A. Blue
 - B. Green
 - C. White
 - D. Red
3. What is the liturgical color of Feast of Epiphany?
 - A. Blue
 - B. Green
 - C. White
 - D. Red
4. What is the liturgical color of Season of Epiphany?
 - A. Blue
 - B. Green
 - C. White
 - D. Red
5. What do the blue candles in the Advent wreath represent?
 - A. Light, Darkness, Night
 - B. Gold, Frankincense, Myrrh
 - C. Hope, Peace, Love
 - D. Crown, Star, Angel
6. What does the pink candle in the Advent wreath represent?
 - A. Joy
 - B. Light
 - C. Gift
 - D. King
7. What else can the candles in the Advent wreath represent?
 - A. Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
 - B. The Gospels
 - C. The Evangelists
 - D. Prophecy, Bethlehem, Shepherds, Angels
8. What does a fifth candle in the Advent wreath represent?
 - A. Mary and Joseph
 - B. The Angels
 - C. The Wise Men
 - D. Christ
9. What does the circular shape of an Advent wreath represent?
 - A. Eternal love of God
 - B. Coming of the Savior
 - C. Peace on Earth
 - D. Light in the World
10. What is the meaning of "Emmanuel"?
 - A. Wonderful Counselor
 - B. Mighty God
 - C. God With Us
 - D. Prince of Peace
11. Who announced the Birth of Jesus?
 - A. Wise Men
 - B. Angels
 - C. Shepherds
 - D. Innkeepers
12. Who was first to hear of the Birth of Jesus?
 - A. Wise Men
 - B. Angels
 - C. Shepherds
 - D. Innkeepers



Answers may be found on page 26.

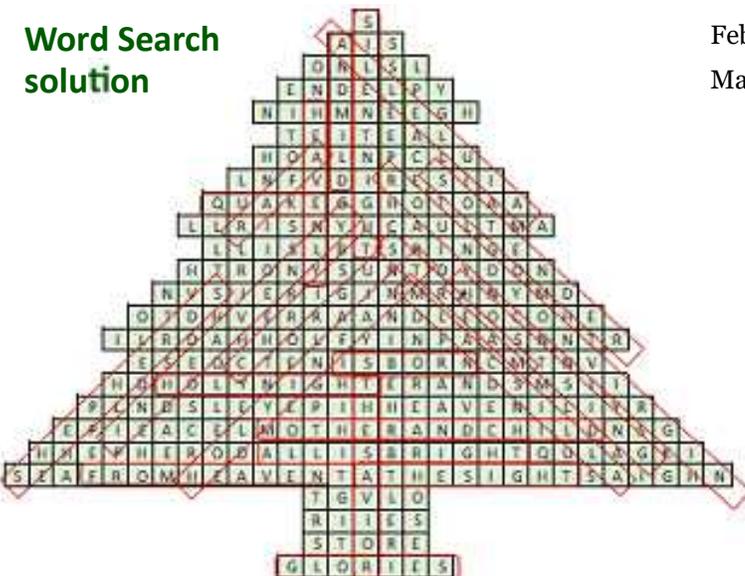
CALENDAR

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

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

DAY	DATE	CHURCH CALENDAR
Sunday	11/4/18	All Saints Sunday
Sunday	11/11/18	23rd Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	11/18/18	24th Sunday after Pentecost
Wednesday	11/21/18	Thanksgiving Eve Service
Sunday	11/25/18	Christ the King Sunday
Sunday	12/2/18	1st Sunday of Advent
Sunday	12/9/18	2nd Sunday of Advent
Sunday	12/16/18	3rd Sunday of Advent
Sunday	12/23/18	4th Sunday of Advent
Monday	12/24/18	Nativity of Our Lord
Tuesday	12/25/18	Nativity of Our Lord
Sunday	12/30/18	First Sunday after Christmas
2019		
Sunday	1/6/19	Feast of the Epiphany
Sunday	1/13/19	Baptism of Our Lord
Sunday	1/20/19	Second Sunday of Epiphany
Sunday	1/27/19	Third Sunday of Epiphany
Sunday	2/3/19	Fourth Sunday of Epiphany
Sunday	2/10/19	Fifth Sunday of Epiphany
Sunday	2/17/19	Sixth Sunday of Epiphany
Sunday	2/24/19	Seventh Sunday of Epiphany
Sunday	3/3/19	Transfiguration of Our Lord

Word Search solution



EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

November 1, 2018—March 3, 2019

- Nov 3-4 Craft Sale—before & after services starts at 3 p.m. on Saturday
- Nov 7 Healing Service 7 p.m.
- Nov 10-11 Budget Forums—after service—Sat. 5:30 & Sun. 8:45
- Nov 17 Thanksgiving Food Basket Distribution
- Nov 17-18 Bless Pledges during worship
- Nov 21 Thanksgiving Eve Service 7 p.m.
- Dec 1 Hanging of the Greens
- Dec 5 Midweek: Meal 6-7 p.m. Worship 7-8 p.m.
- Dec 6 Healing Service 7 p.m. (date change due to Midweek)
- Dec 8 Christmas Food Basket Distribution
- Dec 9 Grief Worship 2-4 p.m.
- Dec 12 Midweek: Meal 6-7 p.m. Worship 7-8 p.m.
- Dec 14 Preschool Christmas Program 7-8 p.m.
- Dec 19 Midweek: Meal 6-7 p.m. Worship 7-8 p.m.
- Dec 23 One Service & the Children's Christmas Program 10 a.m.
- Dec 24 Christmas Eve Services: Family 5 p.m., Carols & Candlelight 7 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.

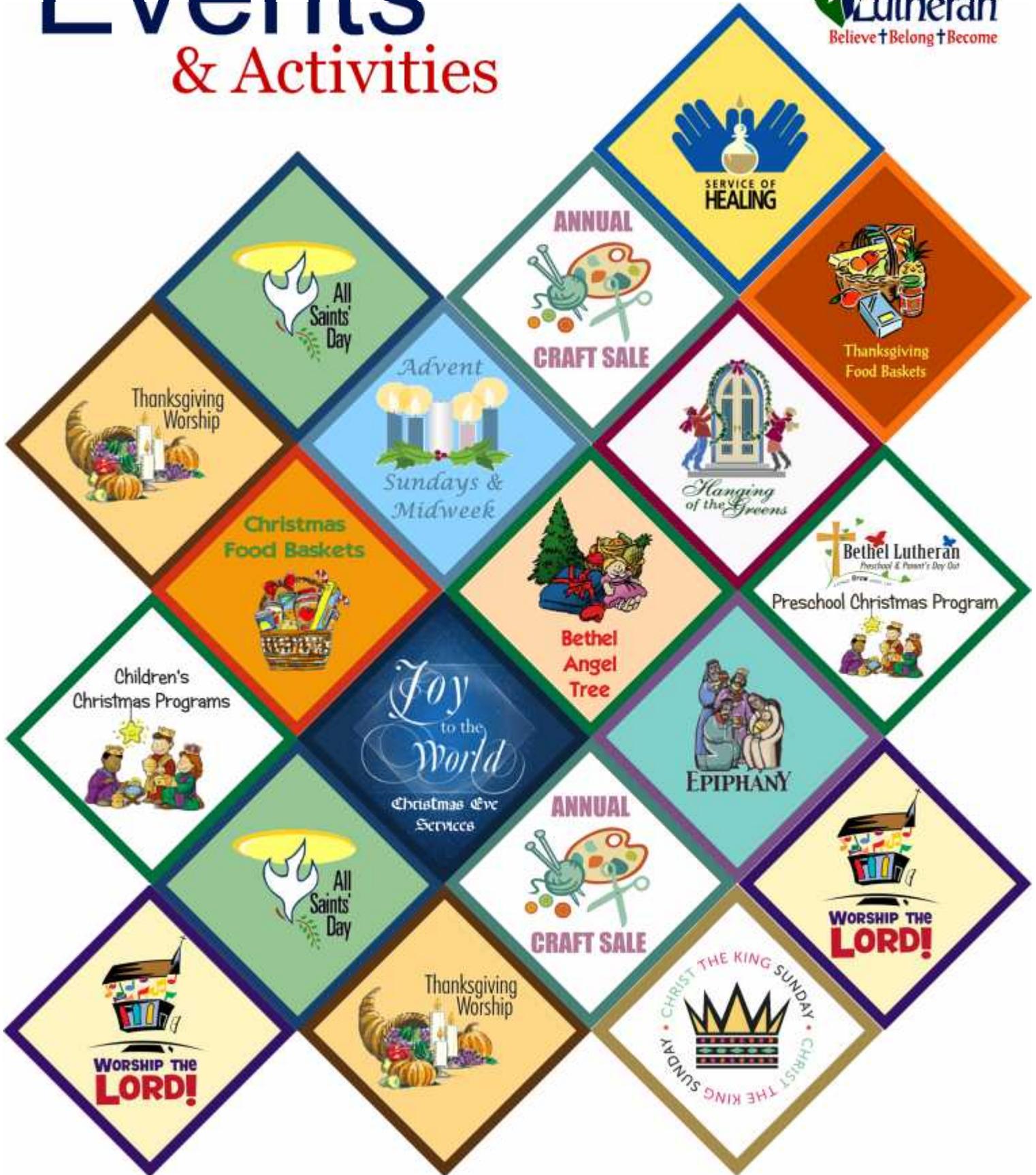
2019

- Jan 2 Healing Service 7 p.m.
- Jan 6 Feast of the Epiphany
- Jan 13 Discovery Class 6 p.m. at Pastor Doug's
- Jan 20 Discovery Class 6 p.m. at Pastor Al's
- Jan 27 Discovery Class 6 p.m. at Bethel
- Feb 3 Discovery Class 6 p.m. at Bethel
- Feb 6 Healing Service 7 p.m.
- Mar 3 Transfiguration of Our Lord



Seasonal Match Answers: 1-A, 2-C, 3-C, 4-B, 5-C, 6-A, 7-D, 8-D, 9-A, 10-C, 11-B, 12-C.

Events & Activities





WEEKEND WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SATURDAY

5:30 p.m. – Casual Worship

SUNDAY

8:45 a.m. – Classic Worship

10:00 a.m. – Christian Education Hour

11:11 a.m. – Praise Worship

Communion will be celebrated at all services.

OTHER WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

Healing Service—7:00 p.m.

(Except December when it will be 1st Thursday)

THANKSGIVING EVE

November 21st—Worship Service 7:00 p.m.

ADVENT MIDWEEK MEAL/WORSHIP SERVICES

Wednesday, December 5, 12, 19

Meal 6:00 p.m./Worship Service 7:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

One Service & Children's Christmas Program 10:00 a.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24th—Family Worship Service 5:00 p.m.

Carols & Candlelight Services 7:00 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.

Bethel Lutheran Church

20650 Cumberland Road

Noblesville, IN 46062

317.773.4315

www.BethelLutheranChurch.com



NALC

North American Lutheran Church