

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
Youth in Action
The NALC
Books and Music
And more . . .*

"YOU WILL RECEIVE

POWER WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT

**HAS COME UPON YOU,
AND YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES ...
TO THE END OF THE EARTH."
ACTS 1:8, ESV**

FOOTPRINTS



ON THE COVER:

Acts 1:8

ChurchArt

FOOTPRINTS

Issue # 16

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

† † †

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PENTECOST 2021

PASTOR'S COLUMN

Catch the Spirit



of Pentecost

Baseball season has begun in the major, minor, scholastic, and town leagues. Fans are excited! It's great to get to watch the "boys (& girls) of Summer." Every baseball park in every city and town reverberates with the roar of spirited fans cheering on their favorite teams. *"We've got spirit, yes we do! We've got spirit! How about you?"*

During the Pentecost season, we at Bethel will be all about saying: *"We've got spirit, yes we do! The Holy Spirit, how about you?"* The Spirit was sent by God on the first Pentecost and lives within us as a free gift. It guides, inspires, calls, and sets us apart to do God's will for the sake of Christ's body—the Church. The result: A *spirited* life of Christian love, service, and witness.

What is meant by *spirited*? Well, just so you know, the following are elements of the *spirited* life shared with us in the Pentecost account in the book of Acts: **"Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven..." Acts 2:2.** The first thing the disciples heard when the Spirit arrived on that first Pentecost was the wind. That *wind* of the Spirit still blows through our lives making us aware of God's presence, stirring our hearts to believe, and moving us to action.

"They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them" Acts 2:3. The Spirit's flaming tongue over each of the disciples' heads that day served to *fire them up* to share the Good News of salvation in Christ with all who were gathered there with them. That same *fire* of the Spirit still burns within our hearts when we share with others the excitement about what Jesus has done for us through His death, burial, and resurrection.

"Those who accepted were baptized..." Acts 2:41. On that first Pentecost, 3000 people were cleansed from sin and brought into the family of God through Holy Baptism. Water, given spiritual power by the Word and blessed by the Spirit, still flows today whenever someone is baptized into the faith.

The book of Acts is filled with examples of what the Spirit did in the lives of the first Christians, like:

Saint Paul's Conversion – In Acts chapter 9 we read that Saul, a persecutor of Christians, was knocked to the ground and struck blind in an encounter with Christ on the way to Damascus. A disciple by the

name of Ananias came to him and said, **"Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here, has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit" Acts 9:17.** Something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, he was baptized, and then went on to become a great evangelist.

Today's conversions are about the Spirit helping each of us to turn away from sin and to turn toward faithful discipleship.

In Acts 4 we read that Peter and John were thrown into jail by the religious leaders of Jerusalem for preaching and teaching about Jesus. When they were asked to explain, we're told that they, *filled with the Spirit*, said: **"We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard" Acts 4:20.**

Today's words of courage come when the Holy Spirit gives us the words to say and the courage to speak them to someone about what we have seen and heard about Jesus.

When believers gathered after Peter and John were released, they **"raised their voices together in prayer to God" Acts 4:24.** And **"After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they all were filled with the Holy Spirit" Acts 4:31.**

Our prayers are powerful because the Spirit blesses them with power as He **"intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express" Romans 8:26.**

My friends, the *wind* of the Spirit continues to blow and the inspiring *fire* of God's Word continues to burn amongst us, and we rejoice in those added to our number. Let's all continue to lead *spirited* lives while abiding by our mission as Christians to love, serve, and witness.

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Hill



PROFILE:

Eddie Burks & Family



By Eddie Burks

Greetings from the Burks Family! Who is the Burks Family? A group of 8 who love to fellowship over food; we love to eat, eat, eat and eat some more. The Burks family loves God first and foremost and love people; we love connecting with new people all the time. Meeting different people is a blessing and we welcome it, so if you want to invite us over, we would come as long as you have food. LOL...

The Burks crew is a fun, high-energy family who loves to enjoy life; we never have a bored moment in our house unless we're sleeping. The Burks kids are very competitive with each other; everything becomes a competition in our home.

The Burks family originates out of Michigan, however moved to Indiana from Texas, where we lived for 6 years. Texas was good to us; we enjoyed every moment of it, especially serving the youth at Northgate Methodist Church. Northgate was a special place and we will forever be grateful; we served there for 5 years as the Children & Youth Family Director.

Natosha Burks is the glue that holds this family together; she loves to worship the Lord, travel, cook, and spend time with family.

The kids all have a love for the Lord and know that we are here to serve God through serving others. Josh (16) is currently in the 10th grade and a member

of his school's golf team; Josh also has a job at a local golf course. Karrynton (14) has a passion for gymnastics, cooking, volunteering with kids and business; she has started two businesses during this pandemic and takes them both very seriously. Gabrielle (12) has a passion for gymnastics, basketball and is currently a member of her school's track team; Gabrielle loves to sing and like her older sister also has started a business during the pandemic. Erianna (11) loves to sing, dance and act; she also speaks Spanish fluently and serves on her school student council. Karis (8) loves to sing, dance and look in the mirror; she also loves to wear shiny things. Josiah (6) loves karate and making people laugh; he is the comedian in the family although Josh think it's him.

Lastly as it should be because my family comes first, is Eddie Burks: (42). I love to have fun and enjoy life; I enjoy traveling with my wife of almost 18 years (not so much the kids) please don't tell them I said this. LOL... I enjoy reading the Word, encouraging people, writing songs, golfing and helping people get unstuck.

The Burks family is blessed to be a part of the Bethel family and thank you for welcoming us with open arms and good food. Our calendar is filling up quickly with invitations to come over for dinner, so please get yours in today. LOL

Eddie & Natosha



*Karrynton,
Joshua holding Erianna,
& Gabrielle*



THE BURKS



*Joshua, Eddie, Natosha
Erianna, Karrynton, Karis, Josiah, Gabrielle*

ASK THE PASTOR



IS THERE SOMETHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO ASK?

By Pastor Doug Gast

At the end of April, I will have observed my 30th year serving here at Bethel. It hardly seems possible that 30 years have elapsed since I first drove across the bridge over the reservoir in Cicero, and felt the overwhelming nudge from God that this was where He was calling me to ministry. My friend Paul Borg has said on more than one occasion that he has never known someone who has relocated a church, built a church, purchased more land, helped build a substantial education wing, and then gone through a major denominational change and at the same time stay at the same church. Well, I guess there is something to be said for “German hardheadedness.”



Gast Family on steps of Bethel Church '91

Gast Family on steps of Bethel Church '91

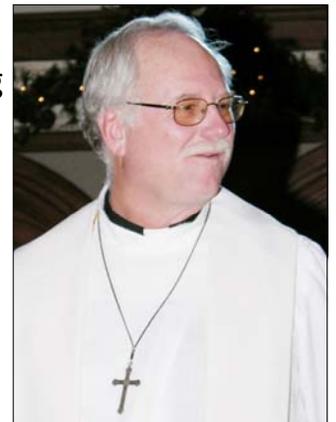
On Sunday, April 11th, we held our first Discovery class in a year and a half. COVID has altered so much of our life together. I know we haven't entered the Promised Land, but at least I believe we are through the wilderness and are poised to cross the river and enter the Promised Land. And just as it was for the Israelites, so too it is for us that our God has been a pillar of fire by night to light the way through the darkness, and God has been a pillar of a cloud by day to guide us and lead the way. Truly God has been here to see us through.

Back to the Discovery class. My part of leading the Discovery group was to lead introductions and then share the history of Bethel, which is now celebrating 165 years as a church fulfilling the Great Commission of Jesus to go into all the world, teaching and preaching and making disciples in His name. And for 165 years He has done for us what He did for the Israelites and that is seeing us through it all . . . including four major wars and numerous smaller ones . . . a Great Depression . . . several substantial recessions . . . pastoral and denominational changes . . . as well as the ebb and flow of birth and death . . . the welcoming in and the saying goodbye at life's end.

So here is not just one but several questions that you might ask me as I look over the landscape of our last 30 years of life together.

What are some of the changes you have seen? In the community and in the church?

Both have grown a lot. Personally, my family has grown up in Bethel and so have I. In the case of the church, we have grown in numbers, but at the same time, we have kept the personal family spirit. When I began, in '91, it was myself and 2 part-time staff members. Today we have a staff of 9. We have gone from one small service on Sunday to 3 vibrant and different worship style services that seek to connect in personal and meaningful ways to those who come. My job has gone from being a pastor leading a pastor-centered church to being a minister who equips the members to do



ministry. Ministry is a serious business, and we do serious work, but we have been able to laugh together (even in church), and we truly enjoy times together and to relax and have fun. I have been proud to lead a group of people who are willing to take the timeless gospel out into the world in new and innovative ways.

What do you feel are a few of Bethel's accomplishments? What are some key moments in Bethel's life together?

A major one was having the faith and courage to relocate the church building to a new place and space. The members of Bethel played a substantial role, along with the Mission Builders who came to help physically construct our first unit. For a year and a half, six days a week this was a hub of activity, and the garage, our real first unit, was the headquarters of it all. I think becoming part of the NALC was a major decision that has set the direction and mission of our church today. It was not without pain and scars, but I give thanks that we voted the way we did. I do have some regrets in regards to my leadership through that process. And I wish I could have made it less painful. I wish I could have reached out better to those who felt they didn't have a place here any longer. Mission is one of our great accomplishments. We partner with and support more than 30 missions, and nationwide Bethel is known to be truly mission driven.

What has been the best part of ministry? What have you loved most?

Definitely the people. The people. The people. I have had the privilege of being invited into individuals' and families' lives at defining moments . . . both good and bad; in joy and sorrow, in times of great highs and also life-crushing defeats. The people of Bethel have brought me encouragement, support, and blessings beyond measure.

What Scriptures have been most meaningful when life has been difficult and challenging?

Here are 10 that just pop into my mind. "I can do all things through Jesus Christ my Lord who strengthens me." (*Phil. 4:13*) "Cast all your anxieties on Jesus because He cares about you." (*I Peter 5:17*) "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; He will

never leave you nor forsake you." (*Deuteronomy 31:6*). "Remember I am with you always, even to the end of the earth." (*Matthew 28:20*) "Be anxious about nothing, but in everything with prayer and thanksgiving, make your requests to God." (*Phil. 4:6*) "Remember there is nothing that can snatch you out of the hands of your Heavenly Father." (*John 10:28*) "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." (*Joshua 1:9*) "Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured the out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us." (*Romans 5:3-5*) "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." (*John 14:27*) Here's my favorite: "Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love." (*I Cor. 16:13-14*)

Can you think of a few times when you have seen God clearly and felt the closeness of his presence?

I have seen and felt God's presence in hospital rooms when we have held hands and prayed. God has been here at every healing service since we began them in May of 2017. I sense God's presence in the narthex, when I see people gathering together, talking, laughing, and connecting with one another in Christian fellowship and friendship. I have become a "noticer" who is seeing Jesus out ahead in the Galilee of this world, and I give thanks that He has given me new health and energy to continue to join Him on the journey and mission that He has called me and all of us to. Thanks be to God.



Pastor Al, Pastor Doug, Pastor Dave 2021

KIDZ CITY

EVERY SUNDAY—BOTH SERVICES

8:45a & 11:11a
Kindergarten to 5th grade



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IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

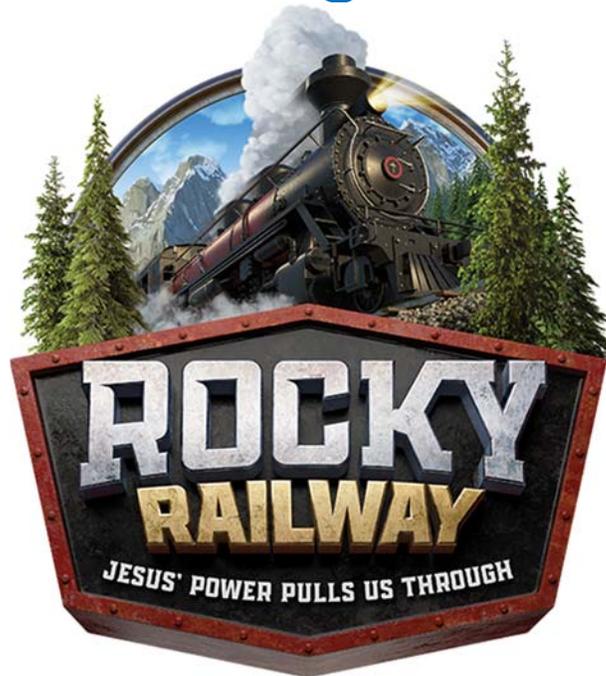
Vacation Bible School

June 27-July 1!

The VBS that's just the ticket!

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

Experiencing God's Word



Rock out at Rocky Railway!

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

Volunteers needed to help with VBS!
Please sign up in the Narthex or contact the church.

THE 10 MOST POPULAR

By Gay Hanson

In the Lutheran Church as in many other churches, singing is a natural part of worship. The number and variety of songs that are sung give testimony to this truth. Among the many English hymns, the following 10 hymns stand out because of their enduring appeal and classic texts. According to an article by *Sharefaith*, a company that partners with Christian churches world-wide with media and technology solutions, as of August 2016, the following 10 hymns rank as the most popular of all time.

Amazing Grace **John Newton (1779)**

How many times have most of us sung, “Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!” The author, John Newton, had been a slave trader, blasphemer, rebel, and torturer. At the age of 11 he had gone to sea and lived a hard life for many years. He wrote, “I sinned with a high hand, and I made it my study to tempt and seduce others.” He was about as far from grace as anyone could ever be, but in 1748, God got Newton’s attention through a storm at sea that nearly wrecked the ship he was on. John fell to his knees and pled for grace and mercy. God’s grace saved the “wretch” John Newton for He had plans for John. Newton became a pastor and wrote the song years later while serving in Olney, England. During America’s Second Great Awakening, the song was joined with its familiar tune and was widely used in camp meetings and revival services. Today, its lyrics still touch hearts with the reality of God’s amazing grace.

Holy, Holy, Holy **Reginald Heber (1861)**

The prophet Isaiah had a vision and heard the call of the angels — “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.” Hearing the chorus, Isaiah crumpled in humility and adoring worship. Many years later, Reginald Heber felt a similar sense of awe at God’s holiness and penned a poem in response. Heber was a minister of the Church of England, and he composed the poem for Trinity Sunday. It lay forgotten until after Heber’s death at the age of 43 when his wife found it in his papers. She shared it with musician John B. Dykes (1823-1876) who put it to music. It was published in 1861 and has been used to impress millions of people with the truth of His holiness.

Be Thou My Vision **attributed to Dallán Forgaill (6th Century)**

Dallan Forgaill was a blind Irish monk who ministered in the wake of St. Patrick evangelizing and church planting in 6th Century Ireland. He composed the song as he remembered St. Patrick’s missionary labors and the enthusiasm that characterized his life. For generations, the poem became part of the Irish monastic tradition, used as a prayer and chanted in the Old Irish language. In 1905, the song was translated by Mary Byrne, but it wasn’t until 1912 that it was versified. Today, the exalted words and Godward vision of the song are loved by believers just as they were in 6th Century Ireland.

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing **Robert Robinson (1757)**

Robert Robinson was what you would call an “unruly child.” His father died when Robert was only eight years old, but he was raised by a loving mother. She sent him off for an apprenticeship when he was only 14, but rather than working and learning, Robert chose drinking, gambling, and carousing with the wrong crowd. Caught up in this reckless life, Robert and his friends decided to go to an evangelist meeting one night in order to heckle the preacher, George Whitfield. Sitting there, however, Robert felt as if Whitfield’s words were meant for him alone. He couldn’t shake the feeling that God wanted him to surrender his life and serve him, so when he was twenty, Robinson gave his life to God and entered the Christian ministry. At the age of 22, he wrote the song “Come Thou Fount,” for his church’s Pentecost celebration. It was a mirror of his own spiritual story — pursuing pleasure and joy, and only experiencing it when “Jesus sought me.” Millions of believers can relate to that same journey and the homecoming with Jesus.



HYMNS OF ALL TIME

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God Martin Luther (c. 1528)

Sometimes called “The Battle Hymn of the Reformation,” this hymn reflects Martin Luther’s and the Reformers’ all-out battle for the faith. Brought before councils and even made an outlaw, Luther continued to challenge the Catholic Church. He did have his periods of depression and discouragement. He wrote the words to the song about 1527 as a paraphrase of the 46th Psalm, and in rough times, he would sing it, sometimes joined by his friend Philip Melancthon. As the Reformation progressed, believers often experienced persecution and even death. In their final moments, some were known to sing that final inspiring stanza, “Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also; the body they may kill; God’s truth abideth still; his kingdom is forever.”

How Great Thou Art Carl Gustav Boberg (1885)

This song was written by Carl Gustav Boberg, a 26-year old pastor in Sweden. It seems that Boberg was caught in a thunderstorm one Sunday afternoon after church. From his position in the mountains, he watched as the storm swept in with a bolts of lightning and claps of thunder. The storm hurtled through the meadows and grain fields, echoing across the countryside with the sound of its astounding power. After the storm, Pastor Boberg looked out his windows to see a rainbow spread across the sky and to hear the birds were singing and the church bells were softly tolling. Carl was overwhelmed by God’s power and majesty and in an outpouring of adoration and worship, he wrote the song, *O Store Gud*. The song was translated into German, Russian, and English, and it picked up a stanza from an English missionary Stuart K. Hine in 1949. Today, the song is sung by millions of Christians in dozens of languages, all praying the same heartfelt prayer of “humble adoration, “My God, how great Thou art!”

How Firm a Foundation R. Keene (1787)

When it first appeared in print, the author’s name was only listed as “K,” and it took extensive research to uncover the songwriter. English pastor John Rippon published the hymnbook, *A Selection of Hymns from the Best Authors*, in which the song first appeared. Most likely the song was written by

Rippon’s song leader, R. Keene. Regardless of its authorship, the Bible is the real foundation of “How Firm a Foundation.” A good number of the song’s phrases are direct Scripture quotations, and certainly, the entire song is a Scripture-soaked testimony to God’s Word.

Great Is Thy Faithfulness Thomas Chisholm (1923)

Unlike many hymns that were written in extraordinary circumstances — thunderstorms, shipwrecks, or life-shaking events, not every great hymn was written in the throes of danger or the heights of exultation. One of the greatest, “Great Is Thy Faithfulness,” was written by an ordinary man in an ordinary situation in the ordinary ups and downs of life. Thomas Chisholm was a pastor for one year, but for most of his life, he worked as an insurance agent. He was born in humble means in Kentucky, struggled with health problems, and worked hard to make ends meet the rest of his life. He wrote, “My income has not been large at any time due to impaired health in the earlier years which has followed me on until now. Although I must not fail to record here the unfailing faithfulness of a covenant-keeping God and that He has given me many wonderful displays of His providing care, for which I am filled with astonishing gratefulness.” This hymn for the ordinary Christian is about an extraordinary God.

In Christ Alone Keith Getty and Stuard Townend (2001)

This song was written by Keith Getty with Stuart Townend. Getty’s goal was to tell a story, “the whole gospel story in one song.” The song does just that, and leaves us awash in the all-consuming flood of Christ’s love, “what heights of love, what depths of peace...here in the love of Christ I stand.”

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross Isaac Watts (1707)

Isaac Watts was one of the most prolific of all English hymn writers. Out of his nearly 800 hymn texts “When I Survey” is considered to be his best and most poignant. Watts wrote the song to help Christians be “prepared for the Holy Ordinance of the Lord’s Supper.” The song brings the believer from personal reflection to bold testimony, to total surrender. “Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all.”

SEASONS & HOLY DAYS

WHAT TO KNOW & SHARE ABOUT PENTECOST

What does “Pentecost” mean?

It comes from the Greek word for “fiftieth” (*pentecoste*). Pentecost is the fiftieth day after Easter Sunday.

What else is this feast known as?

In the Old Testament, it is referred to by several terms:

- The feast of weeks
- The feast of harvest
- The day of first-fruits

What kind of feast was Pentecost in the Old Testament?

It was a harvest festival, signifying the end of the grain harvest. (See Deuteronomy 16:9-11a in box.)

What does Pentecost represent in the New Testament?

It represents the fulfillment of Christ's promise from the end of Luke's Gospel. (see Luke 24:46-49 in box.)

“Power” comes with the bestowal of the Holy Spirit upon the Church.

How is the Holy Spirit symbolized in the events of the day of Pentecost?

The Holy Spirit and his activity is symbolized by wind and by fire.

Wind is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. The Greek word for “Spirit” (*Pneuma*) also means “wind” and “breath.” Fire is a symbol of the transforming energy of the Holy Spirit.

In the form of tongues “as of fire,” the Holy Spirit rests on the disciples on Pentecost and fills them. Spiritual tradition has retained this symbolism of fire as one of the most expressive images of the Holy Spirit's actions. (See Acts 2:1-4 in box.)

Is there a connection between the “tongues” of fire and the speaking in other “tongues” in this passage?

Yes. The Greek word for “tongues” is the same (*glossai*), and the reader is meant to understand the connection.

The word “tongue” is used to signify both an individual flame and an individual language.

The “tongues as of fire” as individual flames are given to and rest on the disciples, empowering them to miraculously speak in “other tongues” (languages).

This is a result of the action of the Holy Spirit, signified by fire.

What does the feast of Pentecost mean to us?

Jesus, risen and ascended into Heaven, sent His Spirit so that every Christian might participate in his own divine life and become a witness to the world for Christ.

Count off seven weeks from the time you begin to put the sickle to the standing grain. ¹⁰ Then celebrate the Festival of Weeks to the LORD your God by giving a freewill offering in proportion to the blessings the LORD your God has given you. And rejoice before the LORD your God at the place he will choose as a dwelling for his Name—you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, the Levites in your towns, and the foreigners, the fatherless and the widows living among you.

Deuteronomy 16:9-11a (NIV)

He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

Luke 24:46-49 (NIV)

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 2:1-4

LUTHERAN CHRISTIANS

WHO WE ARE - WHAT WE BELIEVE

By Carol Jacobs

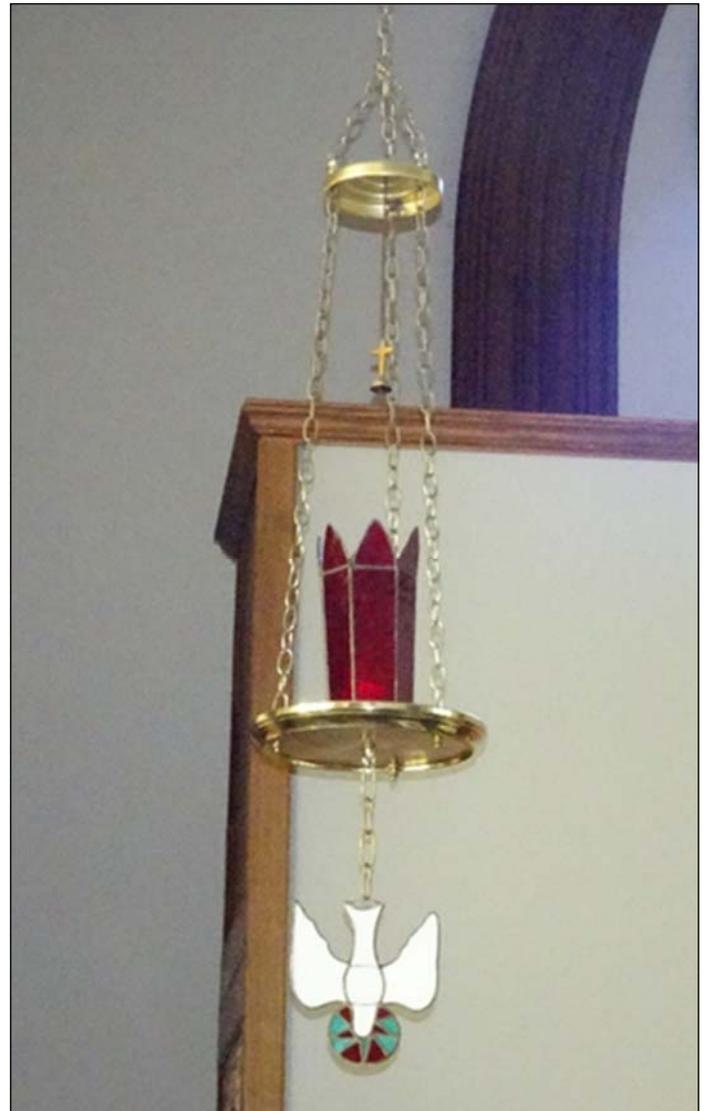
THE ETERNAL CANDLE

We have many reminders of our former church in Cicero: our stained glass windows, our altar in the chapel, many of the pews, the red plaques commemorating the last hours of Jesus. However, there is one that is front and center. It is our eternal candle. The candle represents the abiding Presence of God, and the descending dove below the candle represents the Holy Spirit reminding of its role to guide, teach, and lead. Each week the 8-day candle is replaced, whereby the light from one candle lights the next. Our light has been continuous for almost 50 years.

The candle was donated by the Kaiser families in memory of Gertrude Kaiser. It was constructed by her grandson Chuck Baden in 1973 and then remodeled in 1998 with the dove being added when the candle was relocated to our present church building.

Gertrude Kaiser, who died in 1970, was a longtime member of Bethel and started the Altar Guild. Since money was tight during the Depression, Gertrude and another member of the Guild would walk through Cicero on Saturday evenings admiring flower gardens. They would then be offered some flowers which became the flowers at the altar for Sunday's service. Additionally, Gertrude grew grapes and made the wine for communion.

The Kaisers have been at Bethel Lutheran for over 150 years. Today the Kaiser family in our congregation include Gertrude's cousin Stan Renner and granddaughter Kim Kaiser. Daughter-in-law "Corkie" was an active member who passed away in 2019 and granddaughter Marcia Kaiser who passed away this past March.



Thanks to Stan Renner for providing information for this article.

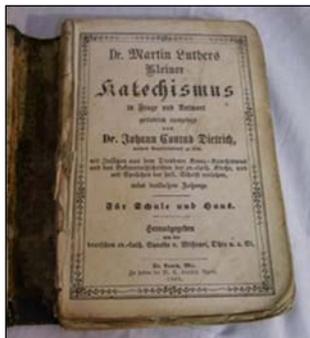
CHURCH HISTORY

REFORMERS

By Jill Dietz

The story behind Martin Luther's Catechisms

Martin Luther and his colleagues visited the congregations in Saxony in 1528 to see how their spiritual health was. He was horrified at what they found. Luther said, "The common person, especially in the villages, has no knowledge whatever of Christian doctrine. And unfortunately, many pastors are completely unable and unqualified to teach... Yet, everyone says they are Christians, have been baptized, and receive the holy Sacraments, even though they cannot even recite the Lord's Prayer or the Creed or the Ten Commandments. They live like dumb brutes and irrational hogs... O bishops! What answer will you ever give to Christ for having so shamefully neglected the people and never for a moment fulfilled your office?"



Both Catechisms are comprised of six main parts: The Ten Commandments, The Creed, The Lord's Prayer, Baptism, Confession and Absolution and The Sacraments. While the content of the two Catechisms is the same, they were tailored for different purposes. *The Large Catechism* is intended for pastors and the head of the Christian household to read and study, so they could impart that knowledge and faith during preaching and home teaching. *The Small Catechism* is written to be memorized, not only by children but all Christians. Luther taught by example. Every morning and whenever he had time, he would repeat word for word, the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, the Psalms and more. He firmly believed in studying these daily.



The Small Catechism was printed as a booklet and as posters, to be hung and studied in the church or home. It was written to be echoed. The leader asks a question and the student answers with a prepared answer. Luther said, "The Holy Spirit is present in such reading, repetition and meditation. He bestows ever new and more light and devoutness. Read, repeat, meditate. Then do it all over again. That is how we learn faith."

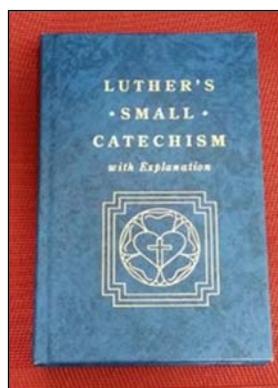


The 6th Commandment in Luther's small Catechism

By 1516, Luther had preached and published a sermon series on the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, the Sacraments and the Creed. After Luther realized that people and their pastors were very ignorant about the basics

of faith, he wrote his Catechisms based on these sermons. He originally asked his friends Justus Jonas and John Agricola to prepare a basic catechism, but he wasn't happy with their product. He decided to do it himself. He took his previous sermons and wrote his *Large Catechism*, published in April 1529. *The Small Catechism* followed in May 1529. His approach and key component of reform was based on catechetical instruction. He wanted to get the basic material before the people and get it into their hearts.

The Catechisms are still used today. They teach the essential content of the Holy Scriptures. They still serve their original purpose: They teach us the basics of the Christian faith, and in this way, we are brought closer to Christ, through the Holy Spirit who strengthens our faith, as we learn.



Luther said the most important reason for reading and studying the Catechisms is because it brings us the Holy Spirit, who brings us to faith, which drives away the devil. Read, repeat, mediate. Lutherans learn the Catechism by heart at about the age of 14. Maybe it's time to read it, repeat it and meditate on it again?



CHURCH MUSIC

HYMNS & SONGS

By Carole Kuhn

Battle Hymn of the Republic

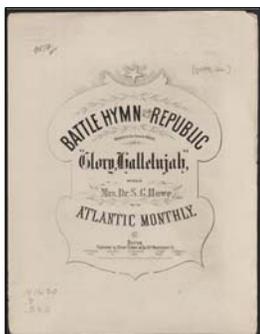
This song is known as Civil War music, identifying the Union cause. But today, the music and words are heard in many gatherings for patriotic causes and religious gatherings, being sung in schools and churches as well.

During the Civil War, many times the Union soldiers would be sitting around campfires making up songs. One song they made up new words to a lot was "John Brown's Body." The tune was very popular and they enjoyed adding their own words. It's said the original tune came from an old Methodist hymn.



In November 1861, Julia Ward Howe, poet, was touring a Union Army camp near Washington, D.C. with Reverend James Freeman Clark and her husband, Dr. Samuel Gridley Howe, a member of President Lincoln's Military

Sanitary Commission. Dr. Howe and his wife were noted abolitionists and strong supporters of the Union. Some of the troops began singing popular war songs, including "John Brown's Body." The minister thought Mrs. Howe should write new lyrics to that tune, and she said she had been thinking about it. That night, she woke before dawn and said lines of the song began to "twine themselves in my mind." She got up immediately to write the words down before she fell asleep and forgot them! It's said she wrote words linking the judgment of the wicked at our end times with the American Civil War suggesting Bible passages Isaiah 63 and Revelation 19.



The song was first published on the front page of *The Atlantic Monthly* in February, 1862, and the editor, James T. Fields, paid her \$5 and also he gave the song the title of "Battle Hymn of the Republic". In 1874, "John Brown's Body" and "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" were published in

Father Kemp's "Old Folks Concert Tunes" and again in 1889. Both songs had the same chorus

with an additional "Glory" in the second line of the chorus. Today, many record the song using the lyric "As He died to make men holy, let us *live* to make men free."

The song is sung worldwide and for many gatherings, with lyrics changed to match the time...college songs, activists' gatherings. Outside the U.S., the title is sometimes "Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory." But, most of the recordings and performances for patriotic causes stay with the main words of the hymn. It is sung overseas such as at Sir Winston Churchill's funeral...it was a favorite hymn of his. Some have said this hymn is all about what you bring to it or what you sing it for. But it still goes back to being a Civil War song and music. It is found on YouTube, many with the U.S. Army Chorus in beautiful presentations...160 years later.

Battle Hymn of the Republic

By Julia Ward Howe

First published version

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword:
His truth is marching on.

Chorus

Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah!
His truth is marching on.

I have seen Him in the watch-fires of a hundred circling camps,
They have builded Him an altar in the evening dews and damps;
I can read His righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps:
His day is marching on.

Chorus

I have read a fiery gospel writ in burnished rows of steel:
"As ye deal with my contemners, so with you my grace shall deal";
Let the Hero, born of woman, crush the serpent with his heel,
Since God is marching on.

Chorus

He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;
He is sifting out the hearts of men before His judgment-seat;
Oh, be swift, my soul, to answer Him! Be jubilant, my feet!
Our God is marching on.

Chorus

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me.
As He died to make men holy, let us die to make men free,
While God is marching on.

Chorus

CHRISTIAN CHILDREN AND YOUTH



SUNDAY MORNING

Sunday School — Sunday School for children ages Kindergarten through 12th grade begins at 10:00 a.m. Students for all classes go to their assigned classrooms. Parents can pick up their children from the classroom at 10:55 a.m.

Nursery — staffed on Sundays by volunteers from Kidz City. Want to take advantage of nursery care? Please bring your little ones to the nursery at the time children are dismissed for Kidz City. And it would be great if you could help every once in a while.

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 — 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. 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

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 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. Contact Pastor Al for more registration information.



MIDWEEK: High School Youth Ministry

Times to be determined.

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. For more information, please contact Eddie Burks (eddie@bethellutheranchurch.com) or the Kitkos (gkitko@sbcglobal.net) directly.

Baptism Class

This class is for parents who wish to have their child(ren) baptized. During this session, we explore what happens when we come to the font and what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. We review the expectations placed on parents and the support they can expect to receive from the church.



First Communion Class

Children in 4th grade and up learn about God's promises and the importance of Holy Communion. Classes are held during the Discipleship Hour and culminate with the Rite of First Communion. Because First Communion was held in October of 2020, there will be no First Communion class this spring. For more information, speak with Pastor Al.

Discovery Class

Next class TBD



Are you a newcomer to faith or our church and curious about what God is doing here? Join us for an introduction we call "Discovery" to go deeper in your faith! The pastors and other key leaders will explore with you the basics of our Lutheran Christian faith and what it means to be a disciple here at Bethel. Childcare will be provided if needed, just let us know. Sign up on the registration page in the lobby after any service or by talking to one of the pastors.



Faith Stepping Stones

Bethel offers several "faith stepping stones" at significant points in a person's faith journey. These stones are intentional opportunities to grow deeper in faith and, as a person matures, to accept for oneself the faith she or he has received from parents and godparents.

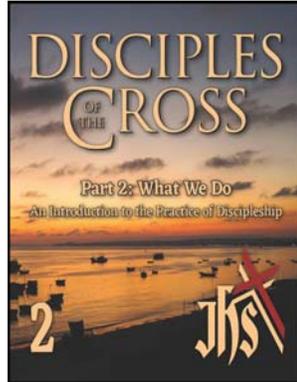
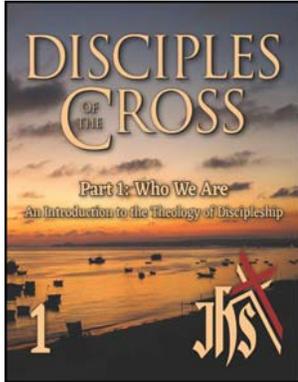
EDUCATION

ADULT CLASSES

April – June

Fellowship Hall
Sundays from 10:00 a.m. - 10:55 a.m.

Disciples of the Cross
Led by the Pastor Dave



Part One will tell us “Who We Are” as disciples of Jesus. We’ll learn some Bible and theology basics that will help us to be able to talk about being followers of Jesus. In short, we’ll explore the attitude of discipleship. It should be a good starting point.

Part Two will tell us “What We Do” as disciples of Jesus. We’ll learn practical aspects of discipleship and about how to live as disciples in everyday life. Use of the themes found in the Lord’s Prayer will take us through key aspects of our faith life—not only to demonstrate disciplines that we are to practice as disciples, but to show how God can use us to bring the Gospel into the lives of others.

Starting April 28 – May 19
Wednesdays

Zoom Class



Bible Basics
Led by David Jacobs

Four-week course on Bible basics for anyone who is new to the Bible and wants to know more about how to navigate their way through it! It’s an opportunity to have any



questions you may have, answered. Questions like: Which Bible should I use? Where should I start to read the Bible? Why are there so many versions? Is the Old Testament still important? What resources are available to help in understanding the Bible? What are the different books about? And more....! If interested, sign up on the sheet in the Narthex or by email at djacobs4099@comcast.net.

Starting in July on Sundays:

The Way of the Along-sider

This course of study is to be experienced. It will be 10 weeks of learning about helpful tools for making you an effective disciple. You won’t be just informed or inspired, but you’ll be motivated to do something!

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 as we discuss the questions you bring to the table.



During the Week

Sausage and Scripture - Fellowship Hall
John Eldridge’s “Wild at Heart” is the book study. All men are welcome to join us Saturdays for breakfast at 7:30 a.m. and study from 8:00-9:00 a.m. For more information, please contact Jason Pearson (317-289-3986).

Women on Wednesdays - Meets on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. for Bible study. They are studying *The Letters of Paul*. Contact Mary Jo Mikulski with questions (260-403-5525).

Monthly Bethel Book Clubs for Women

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

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

NALC Disaster Response

Over the last few years, Bethel has participated in a number of drives to collect supplies for **NALC Disaster Response**. For example, we have collected for a Heartland Mission District drive and a Girl Scout Gold Award Project. Some time in the next year or so, an NALC Disaster Response Warehouse will be built in the Heartland Mission District, and we plan to help fill it.

The NALC has guidelines and information on what to do in case of a disaster, how to help, and items they need collected.

When Disaster Strikes: How NALC Congregations Can Help

What should NALC pastors or congregation leaders do when a natural disaster, such as flooding, tornadoes, and fires, strikes in their community or in an area where the congregation is able to or desires to provide assistance?

Since the NALC is a small church body with widespread congregations, it is important that NALC Disaster Response be contacted as quickly as possible when a disaster occurs in your area.

First and foremost, if the disaster is close by, make sure you are safe.

Next, contact the NALC Disaster Response Coordinator, Mary Bates (740-509-1132; disasterresponse@thenalc.org) as quickly as possible so the prayer power of the NALC can be unleashed. Be sure to also contact your Mission District to see if your local NALC Disaster Response Team can provide assistance.

NALC Disaster Response has resources and capabilities to assist in early response and longer term recovery. We can open the gates to material resources, networking, counseling, training, and volunteers.

Remember, the key is early communication! The sooner NALC Disaster Response learns of a disaster in your area, the more quickly they can respond to the needs of your community.



Disaster Response Fund

The Disaster Response Fund provides resources to:

- respond rapidly when domestic natural disasters occur
- alleviate human suffering
- provide transitional assistance
- enable those affected to begin the rebuilding process

The NALC's Disaster Response Coordinator administers the use of the fund, working cooperatively with and through local NALC congregations and members, as well as other compatible disaster relief organizations such as LCMS Disaster Response.

Donate online or mail checks payable to:

North American Lutheran Church
PO Box 860565
Minneapolis, MN 55486-0565

(Check Memo Line: "Disaster Response Fund")

Please note: This fund is for domestic disasters only. Gifts for international disaster relief may be directed to **Lutheran World Relief, Water Mission**, or the international relief organization of your choice.

Disaster Care Kits

The NALC has disaster kit content lists (baby care kits, flood buckets, health kits, school kits) on its website at <https://thenalc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/NALC-Disaster-Response-Supplies.pdf>. Blankets, quilts, Bibles and gifts cards (Home Depot, Lowe's, Walmart) are always needed. Include items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols or references to the armed forces, religious symbols, messages or your group's name. Add other items as God leads you.



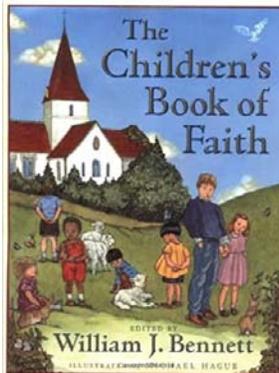
Schedule a "Stuff the Truck" event

Schedule a "Stuff the Truck" event in your Mission District and help fill the disaster warehouses!

BOOKS OF INTEREST

By Trudy Kussov

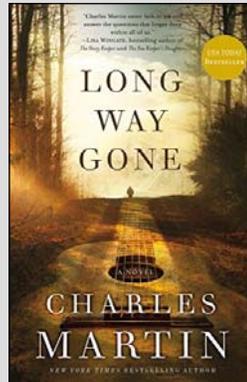
**Reading level:
Children – Adult**



THE CHILDREN'S BOOK OF FAITH *Edited by William J Bennett*

This beautifully illustrated story book would be a joy to read alone or aloud to anyone of any age whose heart would be warmed by stories of goodness. There are Bible stories and other stories of people who have been moved by faith. In a world that often seems full of woe, faith produces an astounding amount of good. That good is revealed in these stories. Sit down with the family and let yourself be refreshed by the goodness, courage, honesty and more that are found in these stories.

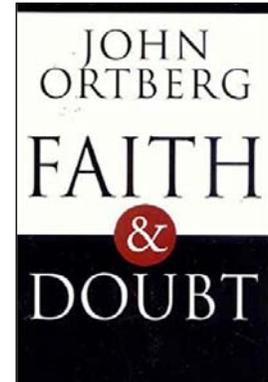
**Reading level:
Teen – Adult**



LONG WAY GONE *By Charles Martin*

I loved this book. It is the story of Coop, the son of a larger-than-life revivalist preacher, who leaves his father and strikes out on his own intending to build a life around his musical abilities. The story grows around his failures, a girl he meets who can bring life to his songs, and the tragedies and triumphs of their lives. Martin weaves music in and around the story so artfully that you almost hear its beauty. The meaning of the title becomes clear at the end when Martin shows that “no gone is too far gone” to come home.

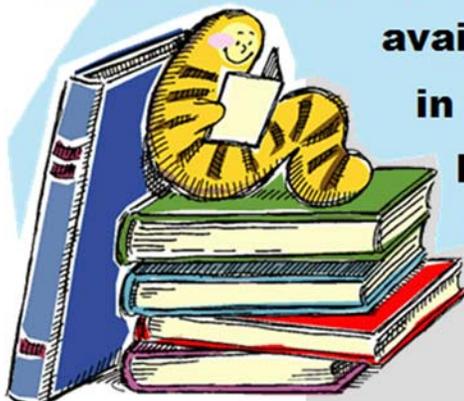
**Reading level:
Adult**



FAITH AND DOUBT *By John Ortberg*

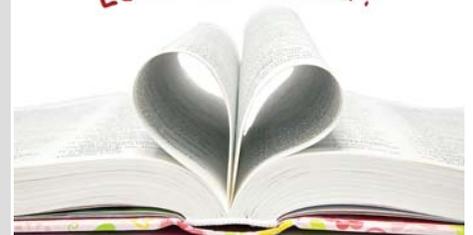
This is a slim book, written in an engaging manner, that tackles a very serious subject in a way that is not intimidating. Ortberg believes that if we are honest, we all have misgivings and uncertainties about our faith at times. Taking our doubts seriously is part of making the faith we were taught as children, our parents' faith, real to us and accepted by us as adults. He advocates that we embrace our doubts and face them with complete honesty. By giving examples of his own and others' questions, he reveals how the right kinds of doubt can actually deepen our faith and intimacy with God.

All these books are



**available
in the
Bethel
Library**

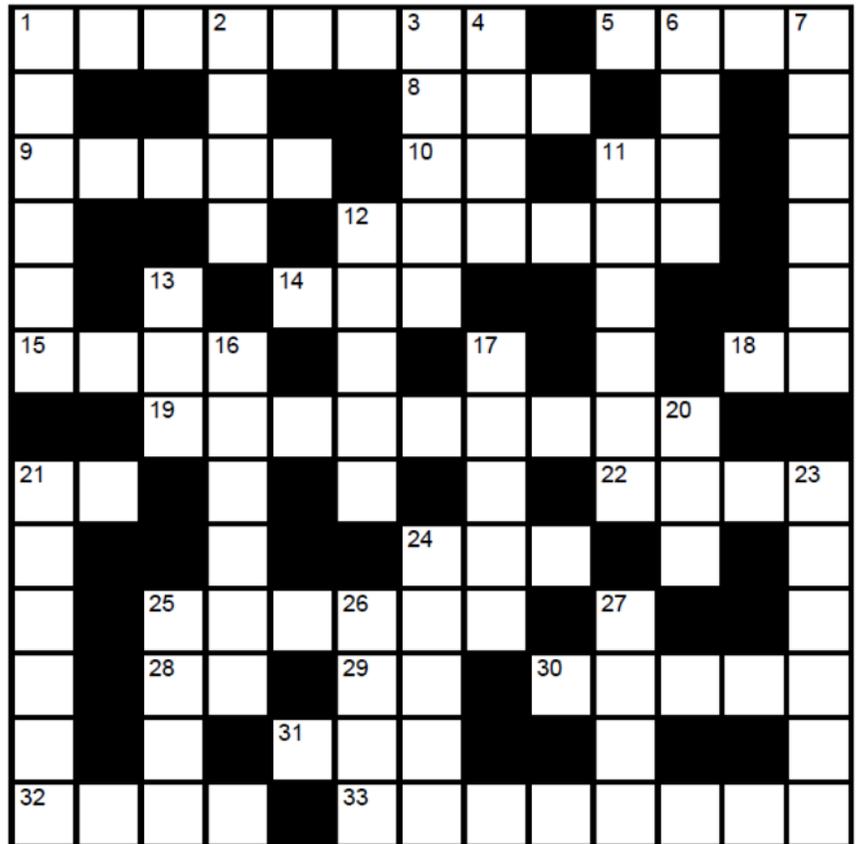
Love to read?



CREATION CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across

- 1 The origin of life (8)
 5 The gathering together of the waters were called these (4)
 8 Made by a spider (3)
 9 The trees were created on this day (5)
 10 New Testament (abbreviated) (2)
 11 To exist or occur (2)
 12 This light was made to rule the night (6)
 14 Atmosphere (3)
 15 The first garden (4)
 18 An undefined action or object (2)
 19 One of the rivers originating in Eden (9)
 21 Thus (2)
 22 These were created on the fifth day (4)
 24 The apostle John wrote with this (3)
 25 The name of the firmament which God created (6)
 28 In the year of our Lord (abbreviated) (2)
 29 Alternatively (2)
 30 The whales were created on this day (5)
 31 Adam and Eve sewed leaves from this tree to make aprons (3)
 32 Darkness was on the face of this before light was created (4)
 33 God divided this from the light (8)



by Colin

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Down

- 1 These were created on the sixth day (6)
 2 An area of land (4)
 3 One who possesses (5)
 4 Used to catch fish (4)
 6 Always (4)
 7 This moved on the face of the waters (6)
 11 Faith (6)
 12 God created this on the first day (5)
 13 To observe (3)
 16 Cared for babies or children (6)
 17 Removed (5)
 20 To scatter seed (3)
 21 The firmament was created on this day (6)
 23 Two of these appeared on the fourth day (6)
 24 Paul visited here on his first journey (5)
 25 To possess (4)
 26 The earth was this in the beginning (4)
 27 The sun was to be this in the sky (4)



Answers may be found on Page 22.

PLAY

PENTECOST WORD SEARCH



Created by BiblePuzzles.com

AMAZED
APOSTLES
DAY OF PENTECOST
HEAVEN
HOLY SPIRIT
HOUSE

LANGUAGES
MULTITUDE
SITTING
SPEAKING IN TONGUES
TONGUES OF FIRE
WIND

Answers may be found on Page 22.

CALENDAR

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

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

DAY	DATE	CHURCH CALENDAR
Sunday	5/2/21	5th Sunday of Easter
Sunday	5/9/21	6th Sunday of Easter
Thursday	5/13/21	Ascension Day
Sunday	5/16/21	7th Sunday of Easter
Sunday	5/23/21	Day of Pentecost
Sunday	5/30/21	Holy Trinity Sunday
Sunday	6/6/21	2nd Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	6/13/21	3rd Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	6/20/21	4th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	6/27/21	5th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	7/4/21	6th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	7/11/21	7th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	7/18/21	8th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	7/25/21	9th Sunday after Pentecost

Crossword answers from page 20

C	R	E	A	T	I	O	N		S	E	A	S
A			C			W	E	B		V		P
T	H	I	R	D		N	T		B	E		I
T			E			L	E	S	S	E	R	R
L		S		A	I	R			L			I
E	D	E	N		G		T		I			I
			E	U	P	H	R	A	T	E	S	
S	O		R		T		K		F	O	W	L
E			S			P	E	N		W		I
C			H	E	A	V	E	N		S		G
O			A	D		O	R		F	I	F	T
N			V		F	I	G		G			T
D	E	E	P			D	A	R	K	N	E	S

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

May 1, 2021 — July 31, 2021

May 9	Mother's Day
May 12	Healing Service 7 p.m.
May 23	Confirmation at 11:11 a.m. service
May 31	Memorial Day
Jun 2	Healing Service 7 p.m.
Jun 12-13	Congregational Meeting
Jun 18-19	Rummage Sale
Jun 20	Father's Day
Jun 27-Jul 1	Vacation Bible School
July 2	Bethel Symphony on the Prairie (TBD)
Jul 4	Independence Day
Jul 7	Healing Service 7 p.m.
TBD	Summer Camp



Word Search answers from page 21

E	W	H	G	T	O	K	P	P	E	F	P	A	K	Z	G	L
R	I	R	G	M	A	H	H	O	L	Y	S	P	I	R	I	T
I	N	W	H	E	A	V	E	N	Z	H	F	X	F	H	A	A
F	D	U	Y	E	L	G	S	D	S	O	O	S	L	L	C	R
F	D	I	F	J	D	R	E	E	U	M	E	U	C	C	F	N
O	L	G	V	N	D	G	L	R	Q	G	R	L	S	R	W	L
S	E	U	G	N	O	T	N	I	G	N	I	K	A	E	P	S
E	U	B	R	S	S	M	V	E	N	Q	J	R	V	B	D	V
U	A	C	K	O	F	D	B	H	D	F	Z	Z	K	O	U	T
G	C	O	P	Y	D	S	E	G	A	U	G	N	A	L	A	J
N	Y	A	B	V	S	E	N	N	S	Y	T	J	V	G	Q	C
O	X	P	Q	D	F	Z	Z	A	R	V	Z	I	I	U	E	C
T	Z	K	H	B	G	S	C	A	K	W	A	Y	T	E	T	F
G	N	I	T	T	I	S	S	W	M	Y	F	M	L	L	P	Z
T	X	N	F	J	U	O	V	V	Q	A	C	R	O	C	U	A
D	A	Y	O	F	P	E	N	T	E	C	O	S	T	S	O	M
P	J	S	Z	A	R	B	I	U	M	S	O	O	E	K	M	U

Events & Activities



The collage features several event icons and text:

- SERVICE OF HEALING**: Icon of hands holding a glowing orb.
- BETHEL 4th SATURDAY FELLOWSHIP**: Text with '4th' in large font, 'Worship Service & Picnic' below, and '5:30p Worship 6:30p Picnic' at the bottom.
- Ascension OF THE LORD**: Icon of Jesus ascending into a sunburst.
- Pentecost**: Icon of a white dove with red flames.
- CONFIRMATION**: Icon of a white dove in a colorful stained-glass window.
- Holy TRINITY SUNDAY**: Icon of a triangle containing a cross, hands, and a crown.
- Bethel Lutheran Congregational Meeting**: Bethel Lutheran logo and tagline above the text.
- RUMMAGE sale**: Icon of a lamp, a basket, and a coat.
- VBS**: Text above the **ROCKY RAILWAY 2021** icon, which features a train and the text 'JESUS' POWER PULLS US THROUGH'.
- Symphony on the Prairie**: Icon of fireworks over a landscape.
- SUMMER LUTHERAN HILLS LUTHERVALE CAMP**: Icon of a group of people holding hands around a cross, with text 'LUTHERAN OUTDOOR MINISTRIES INDIANA - KENTUCKY'.
- Stay in the Word**: Icon of a sun, a pencil, and a purple book with a cross.



WEEKEND WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SATURDAY

5:30 p.m. – Casual Worship

SUNDAY

8:45 a.m. – Classic Worship

10:00 a.m. – Christian Education Hour

11:11 a.m. – Praise Worship

Communion will be celebrated at all services.

OTHER WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

1st WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH—2nd WEDNESDAY MAY and AUGUST

7:00 p.m. – Healing Service

CONFIRMATION

Sunday, May 23, 2021 at 11:11 a.m. service

Bethel Lutheran Church

20650 Cumberland Road

Noblesville, IN 46062

317.773.4315

www.BethelLutheranChurch.com



NALC
North American Lutheran Church