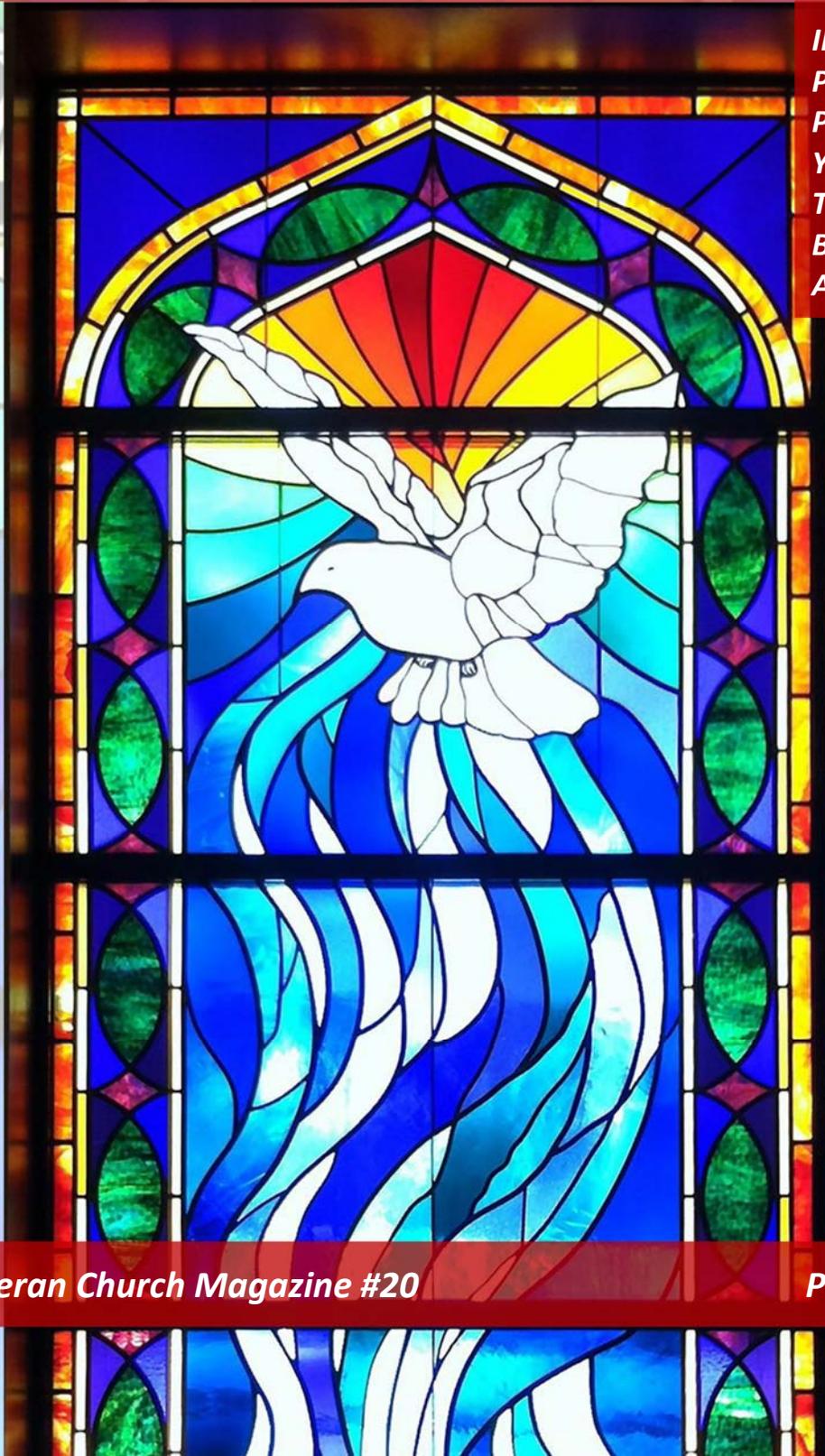


FOOTPRINTS

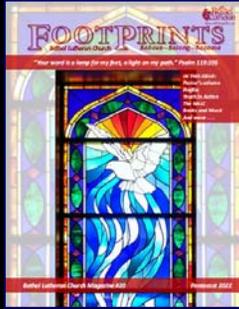
Bethel Lutheran Church Believe—Belong—Become

“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 . . .



FOOTPRINTS



ON THE COVER:
Pixabay

FOOTPRINTS

Issue # 20

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), Ros Demaree, Jill Dietz, Pastor Doug Gast, Pastor Dave Hill, Carol Jacobs, Carole Kuhn, Trudy Kussow, John Patterson, and Pastor Al Schoonover.

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PENTECOST 2022

PASTOR'S COLUMN

As You Go, Make Disciples

“He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying. And now, go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and he is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there. Remember what I have told you.” (Matthew 28:6-7)

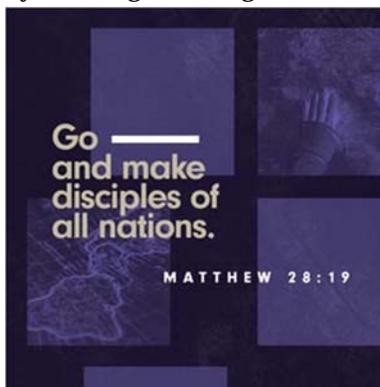
Gentlepeople of Bethel,

With these words, the angel greeted the women who came to the tomb on Easter morning to prepare Jesus’ body for burial. What remarkable words, really! From this side of Easter, we appreciate that the tomb would be empty, but the women went that first Sunday morning after Jesus’ crucifixion not fully believing Jesus’ earlier declaration that “on the third day he will be raised from the dead.” (Matthew 20:19) Even with this advance warning from the lips of our Lord, the message of the empty tomb seemed to be an “idle tale” to the first disciples (Luke 24:11). However, as the disciples began to encounter the risen Christ, their eyes were opened, and the implications of Jesus’ resurrection began to dawn.

In Galilee, the disciples received their marching orders: “As you go, 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 obey everything I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:19) On the day of Pentecost, God empowered them to fulfill their calling by sending the Holy Spirit into the lives and hearts of the early Christian church (Acts 2:1-12). The results are immediate, dramatic, and impressive. When the crowds heard Peter’s first sermon (Acts 2:13-36), “they were cut to the heart” (2:37) by his message. They demanded to be baptized, and “that day about three thousand persons were added” (2:41). Thereafter, they shared their resources, spent time in worship, fellowship, and prayer together, and they made a noticeable difference in their community (2:42-47). What a remarkable first 50 days!

From our side of Easter, Jesus continues to meet us in our “Galilees” – in those places where we usually live and work. After all, that’s what Galilee was for the first disciples – that’s where Jesus found his disciples and began their formation as leaders in God’s transformation movement. As important as coming to church is, we mustn’t forget that Jesus is also going on ahead of us into our Galilees where he will meet us and those he puts into our lives that we are called to touch with his gospel love. Jesus is already preparing the fields around us for harvest. By faith, we will be “at the right time at the right place” to have those spiritual encounters with someone already primed to hear more about Jesus.

How do we do that? And what if we say something wrong? What if we make a mistake? Isn’t it up to us to “get it right?!” Let’s take those questions in reverse order: It’s not up to us to “get it right” if by that we mean our responsibility is to save another person. That’s Jesus’ role. He’s the Savior of the world, we aren’t. Our words aren’t. We are responsible for knowing the story and being willing to talk with someone when the opportunity arises, but our tools to do this aren’t about having the right theology or the perfect words to say. It’s being willing to develop a relationship with our neighbors and coworkers who don’t know Christ. We know what being a good friend involves, and we know how desirable it is



when a genuine friendship exists – it is life-giving on so many levels. During that genuine friendship, you’ll have the opportunity to show Jesus’ love to them and to share the difference Jesus has made in your life. God will use us to nurture the seed of faith God places in their life, and when the time is right, to harvest that fruit for the good of God’s Kingdom. But we can’t force that growth or the timing of that harvest. We just get to show up and to walk alongside the people God puts in our life.

This Spring and Summer we are going to make this as concrete as possible in several ways. We will continue to post a monthly “Evangelism tip” to spark ideas of how you might connect with your neighbor. Each week in worship we will identify one or more concrete takeaways from that week’s readings to use in our “neighboring” – our being a good neighbor to those around us at work, school, or home. We will sponsor several “bridge” events that help us reach out into our community. Some of these – like last year’s campout and concert or our annual Rummage Sale – will take place at church. However, others may occur off campus in the community. We will use our annual Rummage Sale and VBS ministries as intentional outreach opportunities with non-attenders. And we will continue to be open to those additional opportunities God creates for us to make disciples in the course of our everyday lives. That’s what I like about how I have translated Jesus’ words in Matthew’s “Great Commission.” The verb form in Greek indicates ongoing action, not just a command (as we often hear it) – “as you go on your way, make disciples of all nations.” Let’s keep looking around as we make our way with Jesus this Summer – I can’t wait to see who God places along side of us. It should be a great summer!



Serving Jesus with you!
Pastor Al



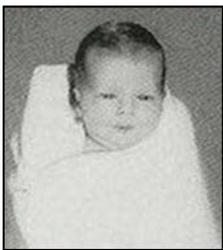
PROFILE: *Gay Hanson*



Gay Hanson lives in Indianapolis. She has two dachshunds (father & son) and a number of “families” – her blood family, her Scouting family, her travel group family, and her church family.



Kaiser & Snicklefritz



Gay was born in Chicago, Illinois and lived in the Chicago suburb of Glenview up until high school when the family moved to Ottawa, IL. She has an older brother, a younger sister, and two younger brothers. Her father was a graduate of the University of Illinois, and he served in the Pacific Theater with the U.S. Navy during

World War II. He was at the battle of Guadalcanal and helped set up communications at forward bases. After the war, he worked in advertising, public relations, and politics. Gay’s mom was a graduate of Northwestern University. She was a stay-at-home mom until her children reached junior high school age when she went to work for the county recorder’s office in Ottawa. Later, when they moved to Springfield, IL, she worked in various state offices.



Gay, Earle, Jill Rich, Jay & dog-Gertrude

These days the family consists of Gay and her four siblings, two children, 8 nephews and nieces, and 10 great-nephews and great-nieces plus assorted spouses!

Gay is a graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where she majored in Elementary Education. While at UIUC, she played intercollegiate sports – basketball, softball, and track & field. Years later she would receive her Varsity letter – women did not “letter” in sports when Gay attended UIUC. She also played and refereed intramural sports. The women’s soccer team she played on won the University championship one year.

After graduating, Gay took a job teaching 6th grade in Ottawa. Her first class had 21 students to start with – 14 boys and 7 girls. A month after school started, she got another student added – the school district’s new

superintendent’s daughter. No pressure on a first year teacher, right! Her next two years in Ottawa were spent teaching physical education because of downsizing in the school district.

The University of Illinois is where Gay met her future husband Robert “Bob” Hanson, who was also from the suburbs of Chicago. He was in his last year of law school when she was a senior. After law school and passing the bar, Bob went on active duty as an Army J.A.G. His first duty station was Fort Hood, Texas, and he liked to comment that Fort Hood was “centrally located – in the middle of nowhere.” Bob and Gay started writing when Bob was at Fort Hood, and when Bob was transferred to the Washington, DC area, Gay found a job teaching in DC, at a Greek Orthodox parochial school. That was a very interesting cultural experience. Many of the students spent the summer with relatives in Greece, and they often knew more about Greece than they did about the U.S. Since Gay has always enjoyed history and travel, the classes got to experience a number of trips around the DC area.

In 1978, when Bob was stationed in northern Virginia, he and Gay married. Because the families were all in Illinois, the wedding was in Glenview, IL at St. David’s Episcopal Church where Gay had been baptized and attended when she was young. Later, both their children would be baptized at St. David’s by the same Episcopal priest who had baptized Gay and performed Bob and Gay’s marriage ceremony! He retired shortly thereafter - no connect, honest! Ironically, years later, Pastor Doug’s Lutheran church in Glenview would hold Vacation Bible School with St. David’s!



Gay & Bob on wedding day

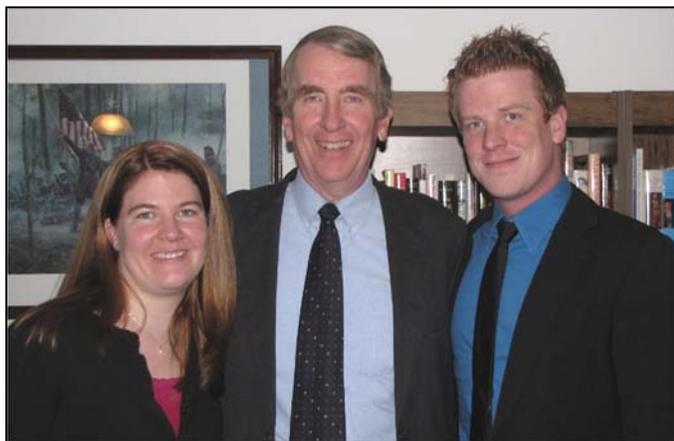
Marriage brought Gay into the Lutheran Church. Bob had been baptized in the Lutheran Church, and even though he had been raised in Methodist Sunday School, he had a fondness for and a connection to the Lutheran Church. Since Gay was raised in a liturgical church, they ended up feeling most comfortable with the services and practices of the Lutheran Church. Bob also appreciated and loved the theology of the Lutheran Church, and over the years, he taught a

number of adult classes, including a class on the Augsburg Confessions – three times.

After 5 ½ years, Bob left the active-duty Army, and he and Gay returned to the suburbs of Chicago. Bob became the Research Director for the Second District Appellate Court of Illinois, and they settled in Schaumburg. During their 12 years in Schaumburg, their daughter Wendy and son Derek were born. Gay was a stay-at-home mom and started on her many years of volunteer work! After a number of years, Bob started working for the Federal Government in downtown Chicago. He also continued his connection with the Army as a Reserve Officer in the J.A.G. Corps eventually retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. In 1991, he became an Administrative Law Judge with Health and Human Services – later the Social Security Administration, which brought the family to Indianapolis.

Wendy and Derek went to Lawrence North High School in Indy, and it was at that time that Gay decided to go back to work. Before she could get her teaching certificate registered in Indiana, she was offered a part-time job as the Office Manager for a small software company located on old Fort Harrison. Since the job would allow her to be home at the time her high schoolers were, she took that job, retiring after 13 years. She also learned a lot about computers and software, which has come in handy over the years in her volunteer endeavors.

Wendy and Derek got Gay back involved in Scouting. Gay was a Girl Scout when young and then served as a Girl Scout leader for Wendy, spending 14 years in Girls Scouts. She got involved in Boy Scouts with Derek and because she enjoyed the other leaders and the Scouts, she now has over 30 years in the BSA.



Wendy, Bob, Derek

Bob and Gay loved to travel. They visited museums, churches, historic sites, battlefields, and more than 40 other countries. When Wendy and Derek were old enough to travel, they went along. One of Gay's favorite memories of travel was finding the name of her many times great-grandfather in the chapel at Valley Forge. Gay is a member of the D.A.R., but she had not been aware that her ancestor had been with Washington at Valley Forge! In later years, Bob and

Gay discovered a love of cruising that allowed them to sample an even greater number of countries and cultures. Gay still enjoys cruising although it isn't the same as it was with Bob.

Through the years, Bob and Gay had attended a number of Lutheran Churches as they moved to new places. When they moved to Indianapolis, they joined Servants of Christ Lutheran, where they met Pastor Ron Voss. It was Pastor Ron who talked Bob into teaching the Augsburg Confession. In 2009, they attended the CORE meeting in Fishers that helped lead to the formation of the NALC. Needing to find another Lutheran Church in 2012, they came to Bethel after it had joined the NALC.

At Bethel, Gay became active with the Missions Committee and is still part of that group.

When the Missions position on Council came open in 2013, she was appointed. She was elected to that position, moving to the Communications ministry in the last two years she was on Council. She also served as Vice President and President of Council.

She still volunteers regularly at Bethel, particularly in the areas of communication, administration, video, and as Editor-in-Chief of *FootPrints*. She does the Church History/Lutheranism talk for Discovery Classes, which she "inherited" from Bob when he was no longer able to do it.



Gay & Bob Hanson

In September of 2017, Bob succumbed to a rare form of Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. He took great comfort in his faith and his connection to Bethel, where Gay is convinced they were led because Bob wasn't going to live beyond his 68th year. Bob loved the Healing Service that Pastor Doug started that year as he felt comforted by it. It also led to his coming back to services, which he had felt uncomfortable with due to the ravages of the disease. The pastors and the prayers of those who attended those early services convinced him that he should come back no matter what his appearance. Bob's sense of humor was a great benefit to him throughout his life and was one of his greatest strengths and gifts. Pretty much up until the very end of his earthly life, he was joking and laughing with people. It was a common comment from those who came in contact with him in hospitals that he was pleasant and funny to be around.

Since 2017, the family of Bethel has made sure Gay has been taken care of spiritually, in friendship, and in oh, so many ways. She knows Bob is with Jesus, and being able to serve Jesus is a great gift.

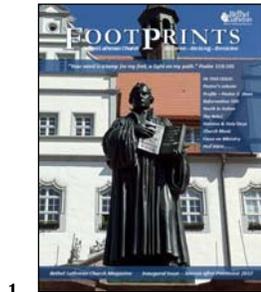
FOOTPRINTS 5TH ANNIVERSARY

Season after Pentecost

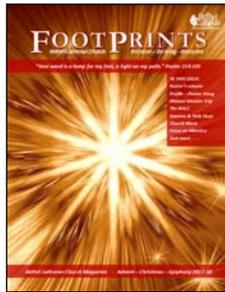
Advent Christmas

Lent Easter

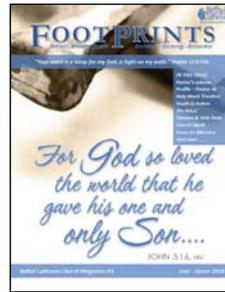
Pentecost



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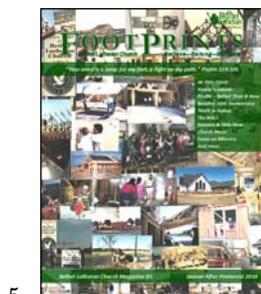
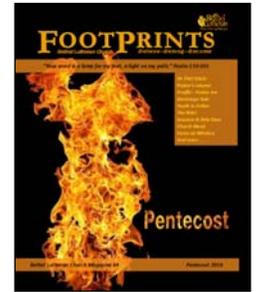


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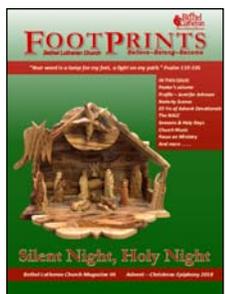


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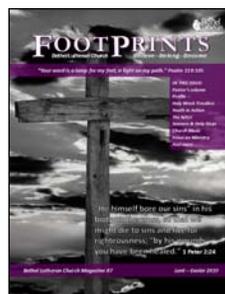
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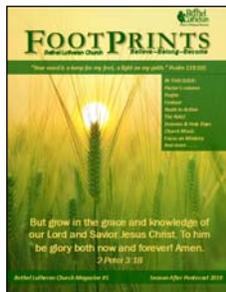
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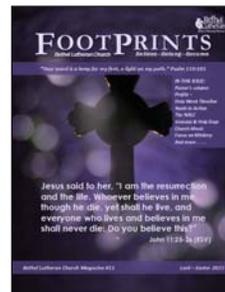
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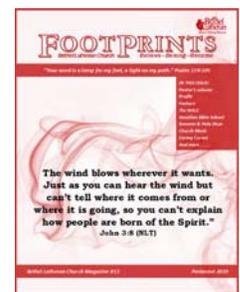
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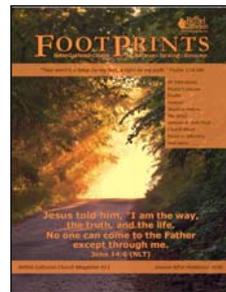
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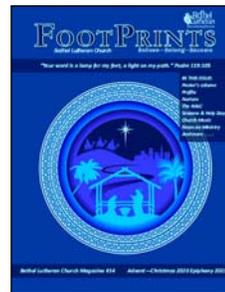
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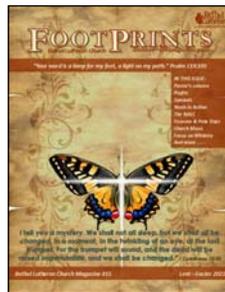
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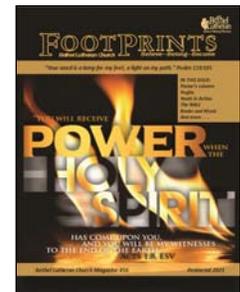
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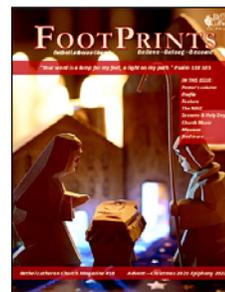
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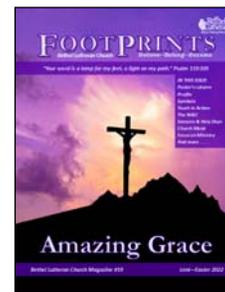
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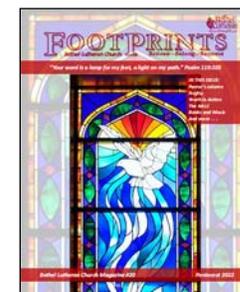
17.



18.



19.



20.

THE NUMBER 5

GRACE UPON GRACE

From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

John 1:16

- Mentioned 318 times in the Bible.
- Thought to symbolize God's grace, goodness, and favor towards His people.
- Multiplied by itself, gives you 25 or "grace upon Grace" (John 1:16).
- There are five books of God's Law (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy) commonly referred to as the Pentateuch ('Penta' means five).
- The Ten Commandments were given in two sets of 5: the first 5 involving our relationship with God and the second 5 involving our relationship with other people.
- 5 primary types of offerings God commanded Israel to bring to him. They are:
 1. Burnt Offerings (Leviticus 1; 8:18 - 21; 16:24), 2. Sin (Leviticus 4; 16:3 - 22),
 3. Trespass (Leviticus 5:14 - 19; 6:1 - 7; 7:1 - 6), 4. Grain (Leviticus 2) and
 5. Peace Offering (Leviticus 3; 7:11- 34).
- The Book of Psalms is divided into 5 major sections. Section 1 (Psalm 1 to 41) refers to the Passover, Israel's beginning, and the start of the God's plan of salvation that centers on Christ. Section 2 (42 to 72) sings about a unified Israel in the land and pictures the creation of the New Testament Church. Section 3 (73 to 89) bemoans the destruction of both God's Temple and Jerusalem. This section also hints at prophecies regarding the End Time Great Tribulation. Section 4 (90 to 106) rejoices over the reign of the Lord and shows Israel gathered again. Section 5 (107 to 150) pictures a time when Judah (representing all Israel) shall again be delivered.
- The instruction given by God in order to build a "tabernacle in the wilderness" were all centered around the number five; everything was made out of five components, like 5 curtains, 5 pillars, 5 bars, etc. Also, there were 5 ingredients in the holy oil, which was needed to sanctify the tabernacle.
- The 4 Gospels plus Acts equals five books that, as a set, can be designated as "the New Testament Pentateuch." They reveal Jesus' teachings concerning the Law and the Prophets.
- Jesus multiplied five loaves of barley to feed 5,000 (Matthew 14:17).
- The apostle John wrote 5 books centered on the grace of God and eternal life (the gospel of John, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John and Revelation).

**As we celebrate 5 years of publication, we want to say
THANK YOU to all our readers, writers, editors, and
proof-readers, for your contributions and support!
God Bless you all!**

BETHEL PRAYER MINISTRY

By Jill Dietz

Philippians 4:6 – Don't worry about anything instead; pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done.

Prayer is extremely powerful for those on the giving end and most certainly for those on the receiving end! Bethel has a Prayer Warrior Team comprised of Jill Dietz, Gary Tobison and Kristen Wells, who are stepping forward to take over for Trudy Kussow, who has led this ministry for a number of years.

Trudy and Jim Kussow moved here in 2004, wanting to be closer to their son, Ted. Bethel was recommended by Pastor Emeritus, Pastor E. Dean Windhorn, whom Ted knew from his church in Zionsville. The Kussows liked Bethel instantly, with the mix of older and younger people and the enthusiasm of Pastor Emeritus, Pastor Doug Gast. The prayer ministry started, years ago, with LeAnn Burrow calling people and asking them to pray for a request she'd heard. It passed from LeAnn to David Hills, a member from years ago, not our Pastor Dave. It then went to Rich Rager, until he and his wife Donna moved out of town and Trudy volunteered to take over, where she has prayerfully, faithfully and lovingly sent out the weekly prayer request to about 155 people for over 10 years. Trudy is now looking forward to being just a prayer of these prayers and not a writer. She wants to be more involved with playing the piano for services, enjoys writing the book reviews for *FootPrints*, wants to be more deliberate in her prayer life and wants to be open to whatever God leads her to do.



Kristen and her family just celebrated their 11th Good Friday service with Bethel. The Wells' came to Bethel from King of Glory, where she knew Jill and her family (the first of many God connections in this story). Kristen has been a part of many different ministries, but due to her mom's illness, she was unable to get as involved

as she wanted. Susan Tobison, Gary's wife, knew Kristen through Kristen's mom. Susan was looking for a praise band to sing with, so Kristen invited them to Bethel (another God connection). Susan asked Kristen to pray about Gary getting involved with the prayer team. Prayer has always been something Kristen was deeply drawn to. Trudy's son worked with Kristen's husband, so when Kristen discovered this God connection, she sought Trudy out to get to know her better. When she heard that Trudy was stepping down, Kristen felt that a team approach would serve this ministry well, and when she heard Jill and Gary were considering this ministry, two people she already had connections with, she felt these were signs from God.

Gary and his wife Susan, moved around through their careers, one of those places being Milwaukee, where Jill lived, and Chicago, where Jill also lived and Kristen lived with her mom (more God connections). They retired to this area to be near their kids. Gary grew up in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), joined a Missouri Synod church while living in North Carolina, the ELCA synod in Chicago and now the NALC, after coming to Bethel. They moved to this area in December of 2020 and came to Bethel after COVID restrictions lifted. Prior to joining, Gary began receiving the prayer requests by email. They joined Bethel just a few months ago. When he received the email that Trudy was stepping down, he thought this would be the place for him, as prayer is a very important part of his daily life.

Jill has been a member of Bethel for 35 years. She and Andy, joined Bethel, from King of Glory, after moving from Carmel to Arcadia. She has

been involved in various ministries during those years. Karen Schoonover informed Jill that Trudy was looking to move in another direction. Since Jill has health issues, which preclude her from being around crowds, Karen thought this was something that Jill might do from the safety of her home. Jill has felt the answers to prayers, during her health issues, and has always wanted to give to others in the same way. Prayer is vitally important to her. After thinking and praying about this, Jill knew Karen was right and this led her to stepping forward and finding that others were interested too!

A meeting was set up and the new Prayer Warrior Team was formed. The team members will each take turns receiving the prayer requests, writing the email and sending it on for a month at a time. Jill has done April, Kristen is taking May and Gary will take June, then the cycle will repeat. The Prayer

Warrior Team is excited to take on this ministry and each of them is looking forward to the blessings they will receive while sharing in this ministry.

A HUGE thank you must be given to Trudy for her years of service with this ministry, for her beautifully written prayers each week and for faithfully serving, where God needed her. What a blessing Trudy was for her patience, as the team worked through how to take this over. She allowed God's timing to take place and she was faithful until the timing was right.

As Kristen said, "This Prayer Warrior Team is a family that didn't know we were connected until this all became knitted together. We all knew this was brewing for a while, but it took God's timing to get us all together."



BIBLE VERSES ABOUT HOW TO PRAY & PRAYER

1 Chronicles 16:11

2 Chronicles 7:14

Psalms 145:18

Jeremiah 33:3

Matthew 5:44

Matthew 6:6-15

Matthew 26:41

Mark 1:35

Mark 11:24

Luke 6:12

Luke 11:1-4

Luke 18:1

John 15:7

Romans 8:26

Ephesians 6:18-20

Philippians 4:6

Colossians 4:2-4

1 Thessalonians 5:17

1 Timothy 2:1

1 Timothy 2:8

Hebrews 5:7

James 1:5

James 4:3

James 5:13-18

1 John 1:9

1 John 5:14

Vacation Bible School

June 23-30



Go off-road for a Monumental adventure through the colorful canyons and sunbaked trails of the southwest. By exploring God's awesomeness, kids form a rock-solid faith for the road ahead.



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



NALC
North American Lutheran Church

Area Assistants

To the Bishop Installed

Five area assistants to the bishop have been appointed by NALC Bishop Dan Selbo. The primary role of these new assistants to the bishop is to provide discipling and pastoral care for the deans, pastors and mission districts in five geographic areas of the North American Lutheran Church.

The new assistants to the bishop are the Rev. Dr. Jesse Abbott of Loveland, Ohio; the Rev. Mark Braaten of Bullard, Texas; the Rev. Marvin Combs of Huntington Beach, California, the Rev. Kevin Ree of Bentley, Alberta; and the Rev. William "Bill" White of Lexington, South Carolina.

The positions were created in response to an action of the 2021 NALC Mission Convocation. These part-time positions (10 hours per week) begin in May and will be responsible and accountable to the bishop.

The convocation's decision came after several years of study and planning by the NALC Executive Council and in response to one of the commitments made in the NALC's 2020Vision.

The new positions are designed to be an extension and evidence of our denominational commitment to discipleship and a model of the kind of discipling relationships the NALC seeks to have among our pastors and congregational members throughout the NALC.

The five area assistants were chosen by Bishop Selbo from a list of nominees provided by mission districts. The selections were confirmed by the Executive Council at its January meeting. The pastors were installed in their new positions on Feb. 16 during a worship service at the NALC Pastors' Conference in Orlando, Florida.

Two of the five assistants will serve two- year terms, with the other three serving for three years. After the initial staggered terms, which are renewable, all future appointments will be for three years.

The original intent was to divide the NALC into four geographic areas, with one assistant per area. The areas were created based upon the number of mission districts in each geographic area, with no more than 12 mission districts assigned to each area assistant.

However, with the majority of NALC congregations and mission districts in the midwestern, southern and eastern areas of the United States, the original western area –which included the western half of the United States as well as all of Canada -was so vast and diverse that it was decided to divide that geographic area into two areas. Thus, the NALC begins with five areas and area assistants instead of the originally suggested four.

A map and listing of the five areas -Eastern, Midwestern, Northern, Southern and Western - with their respective mission districts, can be found on the NALC website.

* "As the NALC continues to grow numerically, it is essential that we stay connected and continue to grow in the support and discipling relationships we provide to aid Bishop Selbo. The connections offered through the area assistants will enhance the communication and support we offer to our pastors and deans and strengthen our commitment to the Great Commission we have been given by our Lord Jesus" (Matthew 28:19-20).



SEASONS & HOLY DAYS

PENTECOST TRADITIONS

Pentecost is the fiftieth day after Easter Sunday when we begin the celebration of the gift of the Holy Spirit sent to Jesus' 12 apostles.

Traditions...are celebrations, customs, and beliefs, handed down through generations mainly without written instructions. Celebrating Pentecost in the Christian communities varies through denominations and in other countries but centers on celebrating the Holy Spirit. There are different times of celebration between Eastern and Western churches as many Eastern churches celebrate according to the Julian calendar rather than the Gregorian calendar. The Eastern Orthodox Churches believe Pentecost to be the Great Feast of the Lord and the night before hold all-night vigils. On Pentecost itself, there is the Divine liturgy with hymns, readings, prayers, blessings and recitations and a feast that lasts three days. They decorate with greenery and flowers. That night there is a Kneeling Prayer service, long prayers, and foreheads touching the floor.

Western churches have their traditions. Red is used in decorations as the symbol of the Fire of the Holy Spirit. Banners may be hung to represent the wind that rushed into the Apostles' room. Other symbols that are used in their traditions are flames, doves, and pomegranates to represent the Holy Spirit. Red flowers speak of renewal. In Europe, the churches may decorate with green branches or birch. The main elements of their celebrations are their hymns honoring the Holy Spirit. They may hire special brass groups or trumpet players to play with their choirs. Some hold services in different languages referring back to the Apostles being blessed with many "tongues."

Not all churches have traditional celebration of Pentecost. But fasting and special prayers are traditions in many churches. Germany considers this one of the most important times. Many French churches often feature trumpets throughout the service in honor of the wind. In Italy, many churches place rose petals on church ceilings representing fiery tongues. Churches in parts of England might hold "Whit Walks," or parades of choirs and wind instruments and dancing. There might be white garments worn by the newly baptized on "Whitsunday."

In the Ukraine, their traditions follow a certain order for the festival of Pentecost. First, home and hearth are cleaned; then, foods are prepared for the festival; and finally, homes and churches are decorated with wildflowers, certain green herbs, and plants. A 7-course meal celebrates Pentecost with many traditional dishes served, such as cereal with honey.

Our Lutheran heritage includes many traditions in different areas. All have church services, communion; there might be festive meals, processions, baptisms, confirmations, ordinations, festive clothing. Wearing red is considered a symbol of joy and fire celebrating the arrival of the Holy Spirit to all. Remembering the wind reminds us to go out and do mission work.

Traditions may be different in different churches, countries, and communities. But it all goes back to remembering Christ's promise to his Apostles and that fulfillment in the wind and tongues of fire. (Luke 24:46-49)

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)



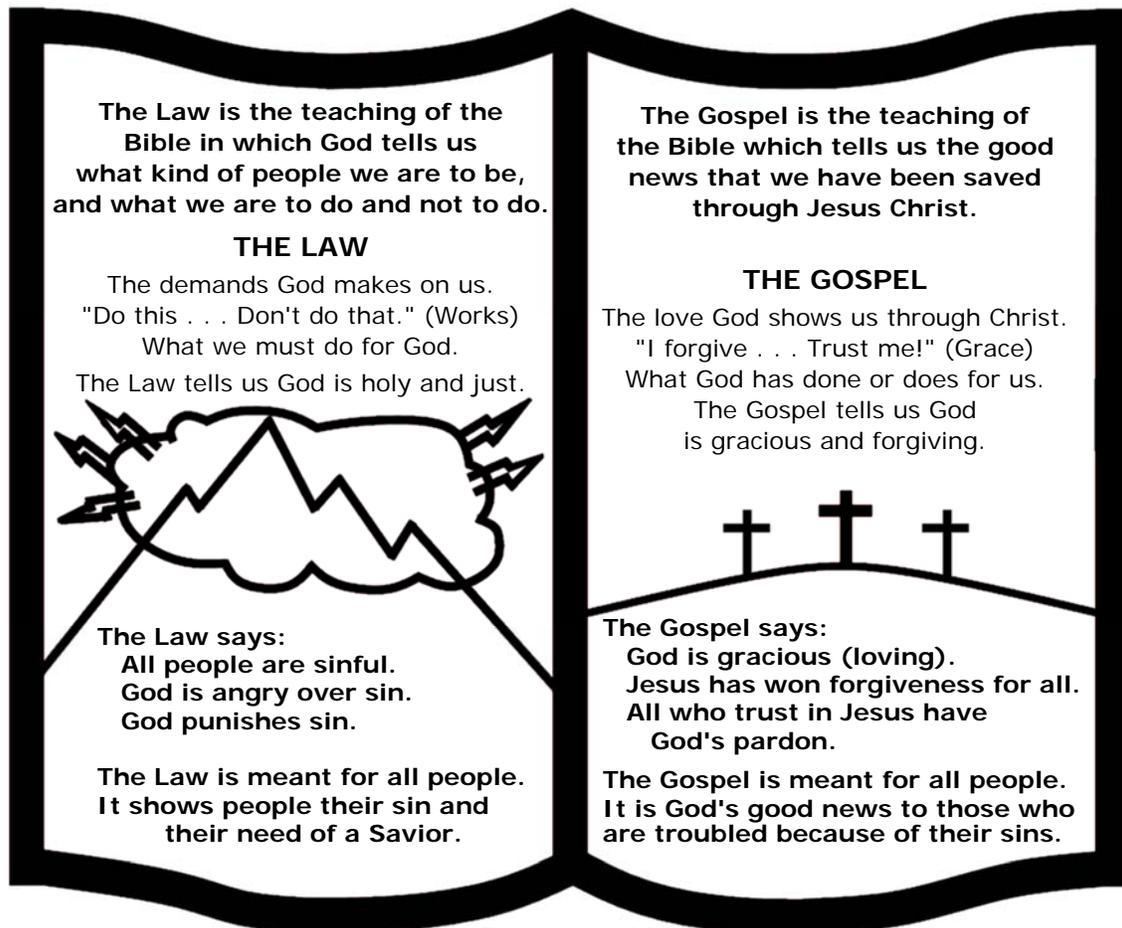
pentecost

LUTHERAN CHRISTIANS

WHO WE ARE - WHAT WE BELIEVE

LAW AND GOSPEL

From Pastor Ron Voss



✝ The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

GOD HELPS YOU GROW THROUGH BOTH LAW AND GOSPEL

God is at work in your daily life whenever he speaks to you through his Law and his Gospel.

Throughout your life you need to hear his Law, because your sinful self remains in you as long as you live.

Through his Law:
God accuses you and shows you how greatly you have sinned.
God helps you grow in knowing and confessing your sins.
God provides you with a guide for living as his child.

O God, you will not reject a humble and repentant heart.
Psalm 51:17 TEV

Throughout your life you need to hear his Gospel, so that you can grow as God's child.

Through his Gospel:
God's loving promises comfort you and assure you that, even though you remain a sinner, you are still his child. Through Christ you are a saint, holy in God's sight.
God's love and mercy move you to live as his child - to praise, thank, serve, and obey him.

Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
Psalm 32:1

Grace is the unmerited, unearned love of God for men and women.

ASK THE PASTOR



IS THERE SOMETHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO ASK?

By Pastor Dave Hill

PASTOR . . . WHY DO SOME THINGS HAPPEN?

A Pastor was called to reopen a church in suburban New York City. When he and his wife arrived, excited about ministry opportunities, they saw that the church building was run down and needing lots of work. So, they set a goal to get everything done in time for Easter. They worked hard repairing pews, painting, and etc. so they were ahead of schedule and about finished. But a terrible rainstorm hit the area and lasted for two days. On the third day, he went to the church, went inside, and what he saw made his heart sink. A roof leak had caused a large area of plaster to fall off the front wall of the sanctuary just behind the pulpit at about head high. He cleaned up the mess on the floor and, not knowing what else to do, posted a sign postponing the service, and headed home.

On the way he noticed a local business having a flea market sale for charity, so he stopped in. One of the items was a beautiful, handmade, ivory colored, crocheted tablecloth with exquisite work, fine colors, and a Cross embroidered right in the center. It was just the right size to cover that hole in the front wall. He bought it and went back to the church. When he arrived, he noticed an elderly woman running to catch a bus but missed it. So he invited her to wait in the church for the next bus. She sat in a pew and paid no attention to him while he got a ladder, hangers, etc., to put up the tablecloth as a wall tapestry. He could hardly believe how beautiful it looked and it covered up the entire problem area. Then, he noticed that the woman was walking down the center aisle with a strange look on her face. "Pastor, where did you get that tablecloth?" she asked. After he told her, she asked him to check the lower right corner to see if initials were crocheted into it there. They were her initials because she had made that tablecloth a long time ago in Austria. She explained that before the war she and her husband were wealthy people in Austria. But when the Nazis came, her husband told her to leave for her safety

and that he would soon follow. He was captured, sent to prison and she never saw him or her home again. The Pastor wanted to return the tablecloth to her but she told him to keep it for the church. He insisted on driving her home saying that it was the least he could do. She lived on the other side of Staten Island and was only in the church area for the day doing housecleaning.

A wonderful Easter service was held the next Sunday and the church was almost full. After the service, the Pastor and his wife greeted everyone at the door and many said that they would return. But an elderly man, whom the Pastor recognized from the neighborhood, was still seated in one of the pews. The Pastor asked why he wasn't leaving. But the man asked where the tablecloth on the front wall came from because it was identical to one that his wife had made years ago when they lived in Austria. Then he told the Pastor that when the Nazis came, he has asked his wife to flee for safety and said he was going to follow later. But he was arrested and put in a prison so he never saw his wife or his home again. The Pastor asked if he would allow him to take him for a little ride. They drove to Staten Island and to the same house where the Pastor had taken the woman a few days earlier. He helped the man up three flights of stairs to the woman's apartment, knocked on the door, and then witnessed the greatest Easter reunion he could ever imagine.

My friends, God does His work in mysterious ways!
Amen?

Pastor Dave



CHURCH HISTORY

CHURCH BELLS & THE BETHEL BELL

Since the fifth century, there have been Christian churches that have rung bells for spiritual and practical purposes such as calling the faithful to worship, highlighting a particular part of a church service, reminding the faithful of God's presence in their daily lives, and announcing important occurrences to the local community. While the Bible doesn't forbid or require the ringing of church bells, it does encourage the faithful to "make a joyful noise" ([Psalm 100](#)).

The Origin of Church Bells

An Italian bishop named Paulinus of Nola introduced bells as part of Catholic Church services around 400 AD. Pope Sabinian officially sanctioned the ringing of church bells during worship in 604 AD with the custom of ringing the bells during the celebration of the Eucharist and to announce times of daily prayer. By the early Middle Ages, the use of bells in churches was quite common in Europe.

As church bells became more common in the world, their importance grew as church bells came to be used as a form of mass communication to convey religious and/or secular information or to summon people across large areas. In some places, church bells were used to announce deaths. In 18th century America, church bells rang as a part of worship and also to alert communities of events such as important community gatherings, emergencies such as a fire, or the end of a war.

The Uses of Church Bells Today

Today, certain Christian denominations use large and small bells as part of their worship. These churches ring large bells from steeples or bell towers either by means of a bell-ringer who stands in the towers and pulls on ropes attached to the bells, or by automatic bell ringing equipment.

Some churches also ring small bells inside the church at particular intervals during worship. Churches such as those of the Anglican, Catholic, and Lutheran denominations ring bells to:

- ◆ Signal that the service is about to begin
- ◆ Mark each hour to remind those hearing the bells of God's daily presence in their lives
- ◆ Announce daily prayer times
- ◆ Honor a special occasion taking place at the church, such as a wedding or funeral;
- ◆ Highlight a specific stage of a church service, such as when a bell is rung during a Catholic Mass to draw attention to the priest's elevation of the consecrated Host and Precious Blood during the Eucharistic Prayer
- ◆ Welcome Christmas day and Easter day with a "joyful noise"

There is even a belief among some Christians that the ringing of church bells drives away demons. This belief may be rooted in ancient pagan celebrations in which bells were rung to drive out evil spirits.

Sometimes, there is a silencing of church bells for spiritual significance. In some Christian churches, the only time during the year when church bells are purposely *not* rung is during the solemn period between Maundy Thursday and the Easter Vigil. In these churches, the bells ring again during Easter Sunday in celebration of the glorious Resurrection making "A Joyful Noise!"

Resource: *Dolores Smyth*, "What Is the Origin and Purpose of Church Bells?"



The Bethel Bell

This bell was purchased in 1864 for the original Bethel building completed that year. It rang out from the church's bell tower for the next sixty-six years. Following the completion of Bethel's new building in 1930, the old church was sold. Unfortunately this included the bell. For the next fifty plus years the bell was out of Bethel's possession. By the early 1980's the old bell had passed through several owners and was now in the possession of a private individual in Cicero. Through the dedication and generosity of long-time member, Raymond Blackford, the bell was purchased and returned to Bethel. Following the sale of Bethel's building in 1997, the bell was removed to the site of our present Church building and put in storage. As part of the Bethel's year-long 150th Anniversary in 2006, the original bell was re-dedicated to the memory of the pioneer families of Bethel and in honor of present and future members of this congregation.



CHURCH MUSIC

HYMNS & SONGS

By Gay Hanson

Spirit of the Living God



Daniel Iverson (1890-1977), the composer of “Spirit of the Living God,” was born in Brunswick, Georgia. He received his education at the University of Georgia in Athens, the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Ga., and the University of South Carolina. He was

ordained as a Presbyterian minister in 1914. Iverson served churches in Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina.

The hymn was written while Iverson was attending an evangelistic crusade in 1926, directed by the George Stephens Team in Orlando, Florida. At the time, Iverson, was serving a church in Lumberton, N.C. He spent several days in Orlando visiting with the Stephens team. The day he arrived he was much impressed and inspired by a sermon about the Holy Spirit given by Dr. Barron, a physician from Columbia, SC.

The text that particularly inspired him was Acts 11:15, “As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning.” The words moved Iverson to seek his own Holy Spirit renewal.



After the morning service, he went alone to the nearby First Presbyterian Church. With the sermon still fresh in his ears, mind, and heart, he sat at the piano and prayed. He

Spirit of the Living God

By Daniel Iverson

Spirit of the Living God,
Fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the Living God,
Fall afresh on me.
Break me, melt me,
mold me, fill me.
Spirit of the Living God,
Fall afresh on me.

wanted to express in music his desire to be filled with the Holy Spirit of God. The words and music came quickly. He simply asked God to be melted, molded, filled and used in ministry.

The song leader for the Stephens Team was impressed with the hymn, and taught it to the congregation. It was used throughout the campaign and then widely distributed for others to sing.

While not in the Lutheran hymnals, the song has made its way into Lutheran churches, especially in connection to Pentecost and Confirmation.

Acts 1:8 says, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” The power of the Holy Spirit was the necessary ingredient for the disciples to proclaim the good news of the risen Christ, and they were to go into all the world with this glorious message.

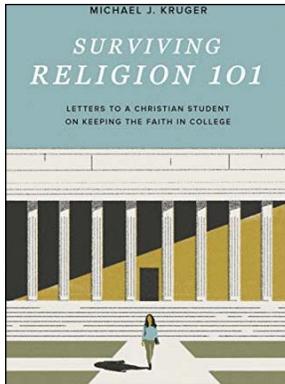
For more than 2,000 years, Christians continue to ask for the power of God's Holy Spirit, sometimes in prayer and sometimes with music and singing!

Resource: Lucy Neeley Adams, “52 Hymn Story Devotions.”

BOOKS OF INTEREST

By Trudy Kussov

**Reading level:
Young Adult – Adult**



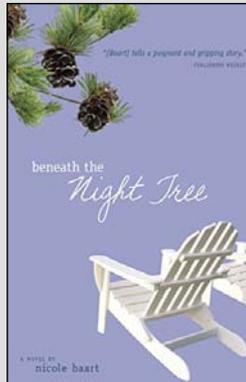
SURVIVING RELIGION 101 **Letters to a Christian Student on Keeping the Faith in College** *By Michael J. Kruger*

For too many years we Christian parents have been sending our children to college completely unprepared for the challenges to their Christian faith that they will face there. In this book, with his first child about to enter college, Prof Kruger has done something about it!

As letters to his daughter, he has addressed many of the anti-Christian, anti-God, anti-Bible arguments that students will encounter at college. Each of 15 chapters discusses a different point of challenge, giving counter arguments for students to ponder instead of being blindsided by questions they have never heard of before.

For us here at Bethel, we now have the summer to explore this book with our H.S. graduates. In the process we may find that we have become complacent about our faith and lazy in our thinking about it. So as we explore these challenges with our children and grandchildren we ourselves may become stronger, more articulate advocates for our faith.

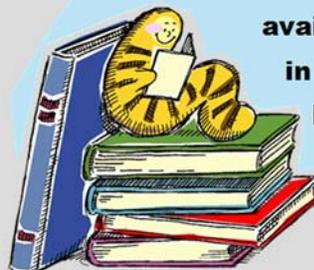
**Reading level:
Teen – Adult**



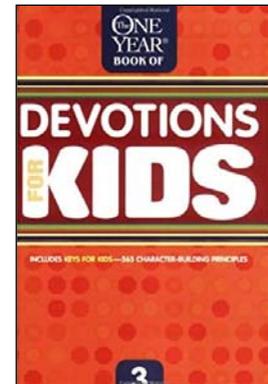
BENEATH THE NIGHT TREE *By Nicole Baart*

Nicole Baart has written a wonderfully enjoyable and sensitive book of inspirational fiction. Julia DeSmit, a single mother of her 5-year-old son and her own younger brother, is content with her life, living with her beloved grandmother and engaged to Michael Vermeer, the man of her dreams. But totally unexpectedly Parker, her son's previously absent father, contacts her wanting to know if he has a child. Wanting to be fair to Parker and to her son, who is remarkably like his father, Julia allows contacts with Parker that involve her son and her young brother and are remarkably successful. The story unfolds as Julia, with her grandma's insightful help, grows in her understanding of what God is leading her to do.

**All these books are
available
in the
Bethel
Library**



**Reading level:
Adult**



THE ONE YEAR BOOK OF DEVOTIONS FOR KIDS #3 *From Children's Bible Hour*

Each day has a Bible verse introducing the contemporary story that applies the verse. A "How about You" section asks how the story and Scripture verse apply to the children's lives, and a memory verse is given for each day. The book also includes indexes for the Scripture readings, the memory verses, and the topics that the daily stories illustrate. As I've paged through it, the stories I've sampled are pleasant reading, not "preachy," describing pleasant families that we all would like to be a part of: moms and dads, brothers and sisters, friends. They are meant to be read and discussed with parents: the Bible references require looking up the passages and reading them in a real Bible, not simplified for children, and the discussion will be much better with parents as facilitators.



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 — While studying the Bible, we explore various topics of mutual interest, seeking to apply our faith to real-life situations and challenges, moving beyond getting more head knowledge to faith application and growth as disciples. We begin by sharing at least one good thing from the past week. Encouraging conversation and discussion in a respectful way. We encourage active serving while reminding them little ones look up to them at church. We end each class with prayer requests and prayer.



Confirmation

A class for Middle School students (grades 6-8) wanting to understand what their faith in Jesus is all about through a highly interactive experience that includes both large group presentation and small group discussion. After class, we attend worship together. Once a month, we continue our time together after worship with a large group fellowship activity. Our goal is to develop a lifelong faith through a combination of engaging learning events, regular fellowship activities, and service opportunities in and outside our congregation. Need info? Contact Pastor Al!



MIDWEEK — NOW & COMING SOON!!!

"Live" @ 5:17 (Youth Night) meets every **1st and 3rd Sunday** night. We **also meet on the 5th Sunday** (if there is one!) with Youth and their families! *"Worship-Word and a Whole Lotta FUN!!!"* Meal provided.

3D (Dinner, Devotions, & Discussion) will be starting Thursday, May 5, 2022 and will meet **every Thursday from 6:30 to 8 p.m.** It's for middle and high school students and parents. Every week we'll meet at a secret location for delicious food, a special devotion, & awesome discussion. For more information contact: eddie@bethellutheranchurch.com

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

ADULTS— Summer 2022

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

"A Potpourri of Christian Topics that are Christ-honoring & Deepen Our Christian Walk" *Led by Pastor Joe Freeman*

Each week, Pastor Joe, with his unique perspective, will help you explore **stand-alone topics** like: "How Faith Helps Us Grasp Truth," "Discovering our true identity," "Understanding and living as the beloved of God," "Lazy parenting versus healthy parenting," "Revealing your feelings is the beginning of emotional healing," "Remembering God's love helps you love others," and "How to hear God speak." Come and be blessed!



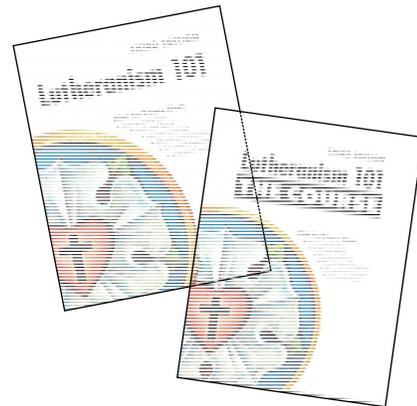
Lutheranism 101 *Led by the Pastors*

***Are you a lifelong Lutheran
looking to dig deeper?***

***Are you new to Lutheranism
and want answers?***

***Are you curious about
Lutheranism?***

Then, here is an opportunity for you! In **Lutheranism 101**, we'll work interactively through a student guide & workbook to help you to easily become informed in a way that won't make your brain hurt.



Ongoing Sunday Adult Classes



Ask the Question — Chapel *Member Led*

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
The group is currently studying the **Book of James**. 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 **3:16 The Numbers of Hope** 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).

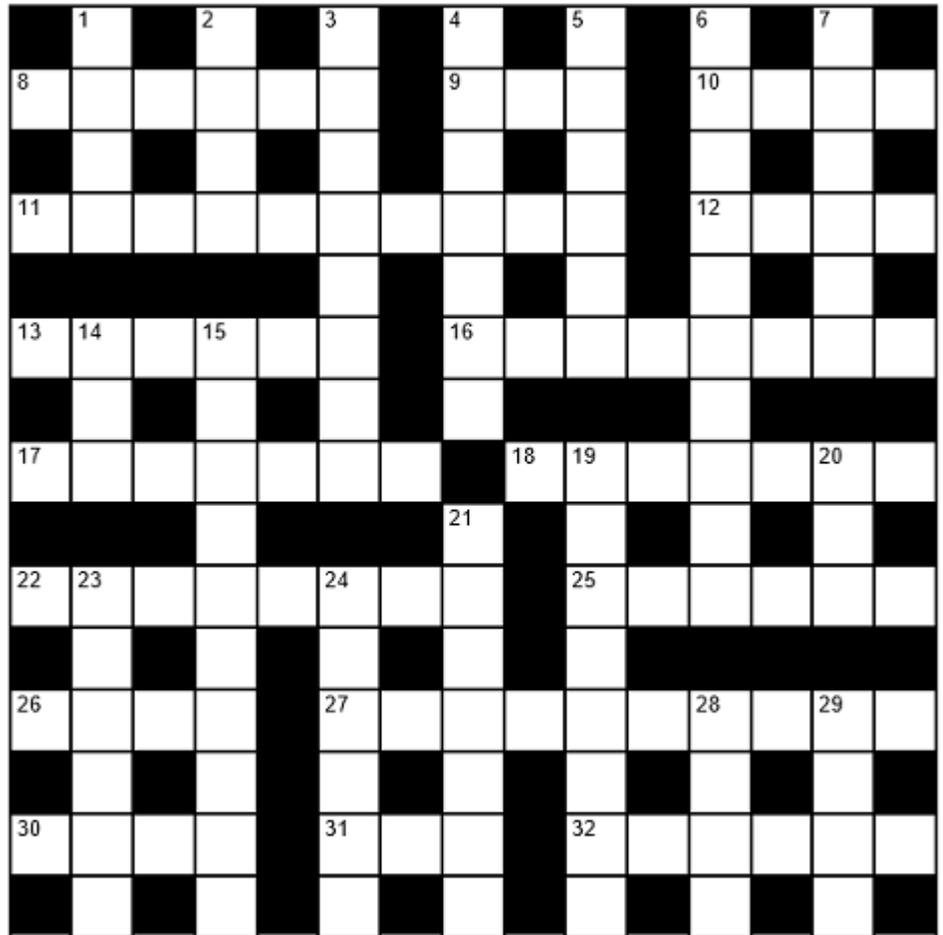
The second group meets **Saturdays** at 11:00 a.m. at Harbour Trees Golf Club. Each month's study includes lunch. For more information, contact Linda Crist (317-758-6748).

WORD

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across

- 8 Religious service (6)
- 9 Vessel (3)
- 10 Drive forcibly (4)
- 11 Christ does this for us (10)
- 12 Bethesda was the name of this (4)
- 13 Servant of a prophet (6)
- 16 One who leaves the straight and narrow path (8)
- 17 Check the money (7)
- 18 Fragrant offering; make angry (7)
- 22 Come out from among them (8)
- 25 Works with clay (6)
- 26 Main part of text (4)
- 27 Chucked it too far (10)
- 30 Treachery sealed with this (4)
- 31 Simon washed his (3)
- 32 Migratory grasshopper (6)



by [Philologus](#)

© BiblePuzzles.org.uk

Down

- 1 Standard for the tribe of Judah (4)
- 2 Brother of James; Hardy book (4)
- 3 Choice by vote (8)
- 4 Evening glow (7)
- 5 All sing the tune (6)
- 6 To reduce deficiency (10)
- 7 Take no notice of (6)
- 14 Look at (3)
- 15 Alternative Revelation (10)
- 19 Son of Jacob (8)
- 20 The blind will (3)
- 21 Regrets; Serpent (anag) (7)
- 23 Angels by another name (6)
- 24 Decorates (6)
- 28 Say it and you will be in danger of the council (4)
- 29 Cleanse (4)

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.

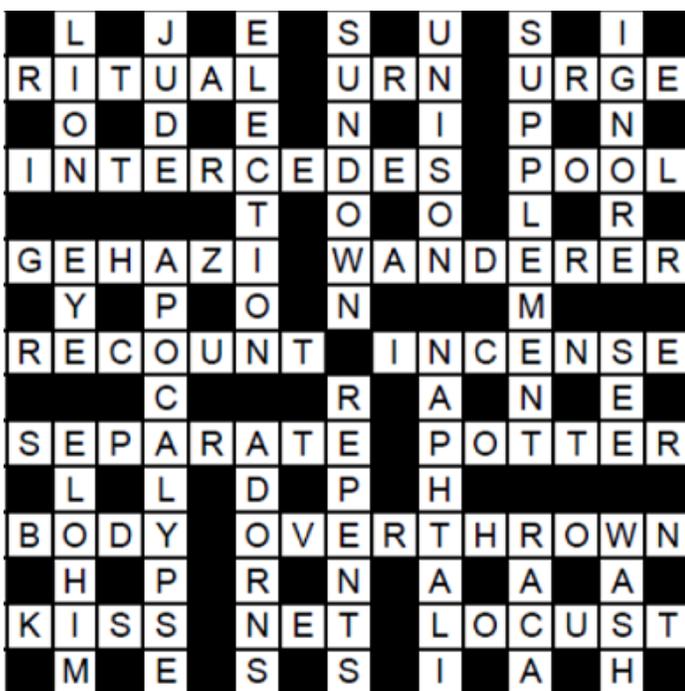
DAY	DATE	CHURCH CALENDAR
Sunday	5/1/22	3rd Sunday of Easter
Sunday	5/8/22	4th Sunday of Easter
Thursday	5/15/22	5th Sunday of Easter
Sunday	5/22/22	6th Sunday of Easter
Sunday	5/26/22	Ascension Day
Sunday	5/29/22	7th Sunday of Easter
Sunday	6/5/22	Day of Pentecost
Sunday	6/12/22	Holy Trinity Sunday
Sunday	6/19/22	2nd Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	6/26/22	3rd Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	7/3/22	4th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	7/10/22	5th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	7/17/22	6th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	7/24/22	7th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	7/31/22	8th Sunday after Pentecost

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

May 1, 2022 — July 31, 2022

May 1	Blood Drive
May 4	Healing Service 7 p.m.
May 5	Preschool Mother's Day Tea
May 8	Mother's Day
May 19	Preschool: last day & program 7p.m.
May 22	Senior Sunday/ last day of Sunday School
May 26	Binding the Wounds of War workshop
Jun 1	Healing Service 7 p.m.
Jun 5	Pentecost / Confirmation at 11:11 a.m.
June 5-10	Confirmation Camp, Lake Luther
Jun 16-18	Rummage Sale
Jun 19	Father's Day
Jun 22-25	SERVE Noblesville
Jun 26-30	VBS 6:00-8:30 p.m.
Jul 4	Independence Day
Jul 6	Healing Service 7 p.m.
Jul 10-16	HS Summer Camp, Lake Luther

Crossword answers from page 20



Pentecost
& Confirmation

Bible Dingbats — answers from page 21

1. Parting of the Red Sea (Exo 14:36)
2. Passover Lamb (Exo 12:21)
3. A Drop in the Bucket (Isa 40:15)
4. Lost Sheep (Luke 15)
5. Forgive and Forget (Heb 8:12)
6. Jacob's Ladder (Gen 28:12)
7. Nothing New Under the Sun (Ecc 1:9)
8. Golden Calf (Exo 32)
9. Ark of the Covenant (Deut 31:26)
10. Forever and ever (Rev 22:5)
11. Pride goes before a fall (Pro 16:8)
12. The Firstborn (Exo 13:2)
13. The Root of the Matter (Job 19:28)
14. Turn the Other Cheek (Matt 5:39)
15. World Without End (Eph 3:21)
16. The Narrow Gate (Matt 7:14)
17. The Tree of Life (Rev 2:7)
18. Woe is Me (Mic 7:1)

Events & Activities



BLOOD DRIVE

Mother's DAY
Let the children see up and call me blessed.
Psalm 133:3

Bethel Lutheran
Preschool & Parent's Day Out
Grow with us

Program

SERVICE OF HEALING

SENIOR SUNDAY

Ascension OF THE LORD

Pentecost

SUMMER LUTHERAN HILLS LUTHERVAID
LUTHERAN OUTDOOR MINISTRIES
INDIANA - KENTUCKY
CAMP

Holy TRINITY SUNDAY

4th of July

RUMMAGE sale

VBS MONUMENTAL
CELEBRATING GOD'S GREATNESS
2022

Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD...
Psalm 33:12



WEEKEND WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SATURDAY

5:30 p.m. – Casual Worship

SUNDAY

8:45 a.m. – Classic Worship

10:00 a.m. – Christian Education Hour

11:11 a.m. – Praise Worship

Communion will be celebrated at all services.

OTHER WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

1st WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

7:00 p.m. – Healing Service

CONFIRMATION — PENTECOST

Sunday, June 5, 2022 at 11:11 a.m. service

Bethel Lutheran Church

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Noblesville, IN 46062

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NALC
North American Lutheran Church