



SPIRITUAL FORMATION AT BETHEL

SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER 2020

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. (Romans 12:2, NLT)

Our culture exerts a subtle (and not so subtle) pressure against the believer. Often the pressure is intense to “go along in order to get along” at work or at school or even on social media. Have you ever tried to offer a contrary opinion on Facebook? How was THAT received? Did you ever do it again? Like I said, there can be great pressure to keep our head down and not draw attention to ourselves. After all, who wants to live out an emotional or spiritual game of “whack a mole?”

And yet . . . a believer's life *should* be different than a non-believer. Jesus encourages us to “let your light so shine before others that they would see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5.16). Shining the light of our faith will make us different – but not better. The world is focused on division and polarities, and the life of faith is centered on reconciliation between peoples and with God.

We can't do this on our own, not for long. We need the transformation Paul is describing above. We offer the spiritual formation activities described in this booklet (and updated periodically in our online announcement *Bethel Believes*) with the desire that we would continue have our minds and hearts transformed so that we more fully reflect God's image in which we were created. *Come and see!*

Pastor Al

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CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION

*Sunday School
Classes
10:00-10:55 a.m.*

Nursery

*Preschool-
Kindergarten*

Grades 1-5

Middle School

*High School
(see next page)*

*There will be no classes
for children or adults on
October 18 (Fall Break).*

Sunday School — Sunday School for children ages Kindergarten through 12th grade begins at 10:00 a.m. Students Preschool through 5th grade will start in the sanctuary for an opening time with music and then each class will be dismissed to their classrooms with their teacher. Parents can pick up their children from the classroom at 10:55 a.m.

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

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

1st-5th Grade — 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.

Confirmation

Led by Confirmation Team ❖ Fellowship Hall

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. Join us Fellowship Hall. Contact Pastor Al for more registration information.

High School

Led by Laura and Jason Houser ❖ Room 205

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.

MIDWEEK: High School Youth Ministry *Wednesdays*

Led by Valerie and Gary Kitko and Kris Byerly 6:30-8:30 p.m.

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

MIDDLE & HS FORMATION

*Confirmation
(Middle School
Sunday School)*

*Midweek: Sr. High
Youth Ministry*

*Unless otherwise
indicated, all classes are
on Sundays mornings
from 10-10:55 a.m.*

FAITH STEPPING STONES

Baptism Class

First Communion

Confirmation

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

Baptism Class

Led by the Pastors ❖ Office

The first Tuesday of the Month

7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.



*I baptize you in the name
of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit*

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 we touch on their child’s emotional and spiritual development.

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 at the 8:45a worship service on Reformation Sunday, October 25, 2020. For more information, speak with Pastor Al.

Sunday Oct 4,11 (10a)



Confirmation

This steppingstone is a time for confirmands in their final month of class and their parents to reflect on God’s promises to them in baptism and the call God has placed on their life for ministry. When confirmation day comes, it is less a “graduation” from church as it is an “ordination” into ministry. Confirmation will be held during the late service on Reformation Sunday, October 25, 2020.

October 25

Discovery

Sundays, September 20-October 11

Various Ministry leaders ❖ Fellowship Hall 6:00-8:15 p.m



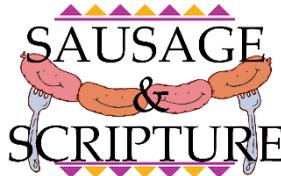
During this four-week interactive and engaging “new disciple” orientation, participants will grow deeper into the life of discipleship as we explore key aspects of our Lutheran Christian faith, including how God has wired each person to be ministers rather than simply members of the Church. Contact the church office (317-773-4315) or one of the pastors to register.

Sausage and Scripture

Saturdays at 7:30 a.m.

Led by Jason Pearson ❖ Fellowship Hall

This men’s group is not currently meeting. Please watch *Bethel Believes* or contact Jason Pearson (317-289-3986) for information on when the group will resume.



Bethel Book Clubs

Bethel hosts two women’s book clubs that meet monthly.

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

The second group meets on the **second Saturday** each month at 11:30 a.m. Each month’s session includes lunch. For more information including book being studied and the meeting location, contact *Linda Crist* (317-695-7384).

MEN & WOMEN’S FAITH FORMATION

Discovery

*Men’s Sausage
and Scripture*

Women’s Book Clubs
- Tuesday Evenings
- Saturday Mornings

*Women on
Wednesdays (see
next page)*

ADULT CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

Ask the Question

In Mission with Jesus

Becoming a Better Bible Reader – Wednesday Zoom Class

Excel in the Grace of Giving

The End Is Coming!

Here's Mark!

Unless otherwise indicated, all classes are on Sundays mornings from 10-10:55 a.m.

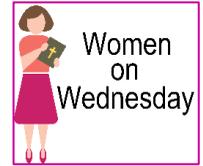
There will be no classes for children or adults on October 18 (Fall Break).

Women on Wednesdays

Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m.

Led by Mary Jo Mikulski ❖ Sanctuary

The group is studying “Overcoming Fear” from the Women of Faith Series. For more information, please contact Mary Jo Mikulski (260-403-5525).



Ask the Question

Sept 13 – Dec 20

Led by Lu Olp ❖ Chapel

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, along with your cup of coffee and sweet treat from the coffee fellowship.

In Mission with Jesus

Sept 20 – Oct 11

Led by Pastor Al and Pastor Doug ❖ Sanctuary

What does mission look like at Bethel? We are blessed to sponsor 30 groups and activities in 2020, but is that the only way we accomplish mission? Does God want us to do something more than put a



few dollars in the offering plate during our “mission emphasis” the fourth Sunday of the month? How are we local missionaries in our homes, schools, workplaces, neighborhoods, and across the globe? It begins by recognizing that unlike the first disciples Jesus doesn’t call us to leave behind our daily life to follow him. Rather, he calls us to see our everyday life as an opportunity to meet people where they are. Jesus shows us

the way when he invites us “as you are going along, make disciples of all peoples” (Matthew 28.19). As we are going about our everyday lives, we are to make disciples – it’s not a program or a special emphasis that happens occasionally or seasonally. It is elemental to our everyday life in those places we work and play and live away from church. We will revisit some of the key themes from Greg Finke’s book *Joining Jesus on his Mission: How to be an Everyday Missionary* we explored last fall.

Becoming a Better Bible Reader – Wednesday @7p.m.

Sept 23 – Nov 4

Led by David & Carol Jacobs ❖ Online Zoom Class

The Bible is for everyone, from first-time readers to scholars. Most of the Bible is readily understandable. But a few essential insights help to grasp the meaning of this ancient document for our 21st century life. Join us while we study how the Bible came to its present form, the genres of the Bible, social and cultural context of the First Century, and helps for interpretations. To register for this online Zoom class, please contact the church office (317.773.4315). A link will be sent to each participant the day of the class.



Excel in the Grace of Giving – Fall Stewardship Focus

Oct 17 – Nov 1

Led by Pastor Al and Pastor Doug ❖ Sanctuary

Giving is our faith response to God’s gifts. God wants us to give willingly and cheerfully out of hearts filled with love and gratitude for our present and eternal lives. We also give out of obedience because God’s Word directs us to give. The Apostle Paul said, “*But just as you excel in everything ... in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us ... see that you also excel in this grace of giving*” (2 Corinthians 8:7). Just as Paul urged the people in Corinth to give, we are urged to “*excel in this grace of giving.*” The themes of the three weekend services from October 17-November 1 will be: “**Why Christians Give,**” “**Outrageous Giving,**” “**Principles of Giving.**”



The End Is Coming!

Nov 8 – Nov 22

Led by Pastor Al and Pastor Doug ❖ Room TBD

What do Lutherans believe about the “end times”? We confess our belief each week in “the resurrection of the dead and the life everlasting.” But what do we mean by this? And what do we make of the vivid images and descriptions from Matthew 25, some of Paul’s letters, and (gulp!) the book of Revelation?! *Come and see!*

Here’s Mark!

Nov 29 – Dec 13

Led by Pastor Al and Pastor Doug ❖ Room TBD

Each year our worship services use a different Gospel as its focus. Beginning with Advent, 2020 (November 29) we will move to the Gospel of Mark. Join us for a three-week introduction to the major themes, stories, and emphases of the shortest Gospel. No prior experience with the Bible is expected.

OCCASIONAL MINISTRY PRESENTATIONS

Throughout the year our Care Ministry and Missions Committee offer occasional presentations. Through its **Missions Committee** Bethel supports 30 various local, national, and international missions. In 2020, we plan to welcome several guest preachers and speakers. Look for the following forums this fall: In Mission with the NALS (Sept 27); In Mission with the NALC (Oct 11), and In Mission with Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries (Nov 8).



Good and Gracious God,
Please forgive us. We need Your help,
we are afraid. These are uncertain
times. Give us eyes to see and ears to
hear Your truth. Destroy the evil in this
world and bring GLORY to Your
kingdom. Forever and ever, **Amen**