

HELLO BETHEL! Fall has definitely “fallen” as the leaves have finally changed color and are falling from the trees, and there’s that familiar chill in the air. So, maybe you’re starting to think about how you’re going to be observing the festivities of Advent and Christmas. This issue of “Spiritual Formation” will help you to prepare for those glorious days ahead.



During December we’ll focus on waiting for Jesus’ return at the end of time when he comes again in glory, and as we wait with anticipation for His birth. Until Epiphany (JANUARY 6), we’ll explore Jesus’ coming through the eyes of the prophet Isaiah with the theme: ***Savior of the Nations, Come!***

On **Saturday the 27 of November** from **8am to noon**, *all are invited* to the church for an event known as “**The Hanging of the Greens.**” We’ll decorate the lobby/narthex and sanctuary for the festive seasons of Advent and Christmas. **Later that day**, come one-come all for Advent to begin with our **Saturday Contemporary Service beginning at 5:30pm**. We’ll be spiritually looking for Jesus’ return in glory at the end of time as victor over sin, death, and the power of Satan. His return involves *judgment* and *comfort*, and it fuels our ministry to share the good news of what Jesus has done for us while there’s still time for others to come to faith.

On **December 4/5th** we’ll consider *preparing* before Jesus comes. Whether we’re preparing for his first or second coming, there’s much to do! Some of this work is *internal* as we prepare to receive him into our lives, and some is *external* as we make our *world* ready to receive him.

On the **11/12th** we’ll consider the question: “*Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?*” People were expecting the Messiah to come, but their expectations were for a mighty warrior in the image of King David who’d restore Israel to her former glory. Instead, our Messiah Jesus brings healing and restoration to the community.

On the **18/19th** we’ll consider Mary visits with Elizabeth who blesses her with this announcement: “*Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill what he has spoken to her!*” It’s awesome what God promised her, yet it’s not easy to understand, especially for a teenager like Mary. In the baby that she carries, the promises of God’s redemption are fulfilled!

On **Christmas Eve, at 4, 7, and 10:30pm**, we’ll hear that the Savior of the nations *has* come to deliver us from every sin and brokenness, and to set us apart to be people who are eager to do good works. God has entered our world through the birth of a baby. Indeed, the God who created the entire cosmos has emptied himself and taken on human form.

Then, on Sunday the 26th, the birth of God's son causes rejoicing to well up – in those who were first to meet him in the temple like Simeon and Anna, and in our day, too. Our thanksgiving has an edge to it, however. Unlike the first disciples, we know how the story of Jesus' life unfolds, with its joys and sorrows. But that, too, mirrors our daily life – joy and sorrow, hope and discouragement all blended together.

And, finally, on **January 2nd (Epiphany Sunday)**, the star of Bethlehem shines brightly, bringing the magi to the Holy Family and revealing God's glory in the world. This holy presence cannot be contained within our hearts or the confines of a church building. It's something that shines through us into a world desperate for that healing light.

There . . . that should help you to prepare for some rather awesome days ahead! But make sure that you plan to be present every Lord's Day so that these days you are preparing for do not happen without you enjoying them!

In His love, *Pastor Dave*

**CHILDREN'S
FAITH
FORMATION**

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

Nursery

*Preschool-
Kindergarten*

Grades 1-5

Sunday School for children ages Kindergarten through 12th grade begin at 10 a.m. and students go to their assigned classrooms. Parents can pick them up from those rooms at 10:55 a.m.

Nursery – Little ones are precious gifts from God and we LOVE them. If you want them to remain with you during worship service, that's OK. If you need nursery services, we'll make arrangements for that to happen.

Preschool-Kindergarten - Children who are 3 years old before December 31st, and those currently in Kindergarten are invited to this class at 10 a.m. A Bible based curriculum teaches Bible lessons in a fun, age-appropriate way, with engaging songs, stories, videos and puppets!

1st-5th Grade children are grouped in Sunday School by age/grade. Students learn the basic stories and Lutheran concepts in preparation for Confirmation during Middle School. The curriculum used is "Sunday Schoolhouse" from Sola Publishing.

ON DECEMBER 9th at 7pm, our **Preschool** invites one and all to come to see the little ones tell the story of Jesus' birth. And on the **19th at 10am**, the little ones of our **Sunday School** also invite you to come and hear about the coming of the Savior of the Nations.

MIDDLE & HS FORMATION

Confirmation Middle & High School Sunday School

No Sunday
school on
12/26/2021 or
1/2/2022 due to
the Holidays

MIDWEEK: High School Youth Ministry

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

Confirmation Class led by Confirmation Team in the Education Wing Room 216/218 at 10:00 a.m.

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 life-long faith through a combination of engaging learning events, regular fellowship activities, and service opportunities in and outside our congregation. Need info? Contact Pastor Al!

High School led by Laura and Jason Houser in Student Center Room 202 at 10:00 a.m.

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.

MIDWEEK: High School Youth Ministry on Sundays & Thursdays led by Eddie Burks from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

A typical night is hanging out, eating our favorite snacks, listening to music, playing games, watching a video, discussing important and not so important things, wrapping up by talking about life's highs and lows. Everyone is welcome (*members and friends alike*). We've organized special trips, we do mission work, hold a summer camp, and go on Boundary Water Adventure journeys. High School life is too difficult to do it alone, so we try and do it together. Thursdays are meetings done by ZOOM and are normally informal "meet-ups" just to check in to see how they're doing.



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

Baptism Class -- Planned as needed Led by the Pastors at Members Homes or at Church

This is a class 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. We review the expectations placed on parents, and godparents, and we touch on their child's emotional and spiritual development. Need more info? Have some questions? Contact our pastors



First Communion Class -- April 2022

Our children, 4th grade and up, learn about God's promises and the importance of Holy Communion. These classes are held during the Discipleship Hour (a.k.a. Sunday School) and lead to the Rite of First Communion. For more information, speak with Pastor Al.



Confirmation

Confirmation Day -- May or June 2022

This is a Sunday morning experience for confirmation students in their final month of class, and for their parents, during which they reflect on God's promises to them in baptism, and on the call that He has placed on their lives. When confirmation day comes, it's not all about a "graduation" from church, but it is all about continuing their life of faith in a more mature and active way in the ministry of the church.

FAITH GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

Baptism Class

First Communion

Confirmation



Discovery [To be announced]
Various Ministry leaders at Various locations
6 - 8:00 p.m.

Are you a newcomer to faith or our church and curious about what God is doing here? Join us for a 4 week introduction we call

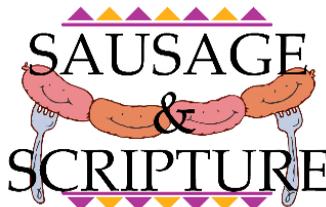
"Discovery" to go deeper in your faith! Held on Sunday evenings, our pastors and other key leaders will explore with you the basics of our Lutheran Christian faith and what it means to be a disciple here at Bethel. Childcare can be provided, just let us know. Sign up on the registration page in the lobby after any service or by talking to one of the pastors.

Sausage and Scripture

Saturdays at 7:30 a.m.

Led by Jason Pearson -- Fellowship Hall

We will start a book study on **Dec. 11**. The book is titled: "Kingdom Men Rising" and is written by Tony Evans. Come join us!!! Breakfast begins at 7:30 and the study at 8am. Any questions, contact *Jason Pearson* at 317-289-3986.



Bethel Book Clubs

We host 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
 & Scripture*

*Women's Book
 Clubs*

*- Tuesday
 Evenings
 - Saturday
 Mornings*

*Women on
 Wednesdays
 (see next page)*

ADULT CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

Women on Wednesdays

Ask the Question

Disciples of the Cross

(Adult classes continues on the next page.)

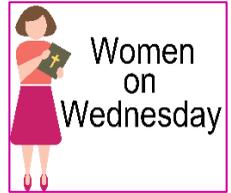
Unless otherwise indicated, all classes are on Sundays mornings from 10-10:55 a.m.

Women on Wednesdays ~ Led by Mary Jo Mikulski

Weekly, 9:30-11:00am, room 216 on the second floor of the Education Wing.

Nov 10, a study on “Being Thankful” with Bible passages focused on that theme. **Nov 17, Dec 7, Dec 1, Dec 8, and Dec 15**, a study of

little known facts about Christmas Carols and the Biblical hymns of Christmas. A study of *The Letters of Paul* to start in Feb. 2022. Book available at church for \$12 payable at the first class. More info? Please contact *Mary Jo Mikulski* at 260-403-5525.



Ask the Question ~ Every Sunday ~ Member led in the Chapel



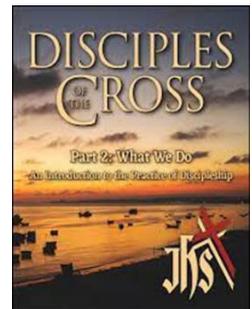
Church ought to be a safe place where we can bring our faith questions. In fact, a healthy faith question pushes for greater understanding. And a healthy church embraces those questions without feeling threatened or attacked. Join us as we discuss the questions you bring to the table, along with your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

Disciples of the Cross ~ until January ~ Led by Pastor Dave

Fellowship Hall 10am every Sunday.

Part One was all about *Who We Are* as disciples of Jesus. We learned Bible and theology basics that helped us to be able to talk about being followers of Jesus. In short, we explored the attitude of discipleship. It was a good starting point for: **Part Two** which tells us *What We Do* as disciples of

Jesus. We're learning practical aspects of discipleship and about how to live as disciples in everyday life. We're using themes found in the Lord's Prayer that 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. lives of others.



Ten Women of the Bible by Max Lucado - led by Carol Jacobs
Thursdays at 6:30pm on Jan 6th

Their actions stood out to the writers of Scripture, even though society overlooked their contributions. In this 10 session workbook, Lucado tells the stories of 10 pivotal biblical women, including Sarah, Rahab, Abigail, Esther, Sapphira, Mary Magdalene, and others. Each session features insights and study questions that explore their lives - and helps you apply the lessons to yours. Ladies... come one... come all, no matter what your age is!

Men Called by God - led by David Jacobs
Thursdays at 6:30p.m. beginning Jan 6th

God called men in the Bible to fulfill His plan and purpose to change and restore the world. They were a diverse and imperfect group of shepherds, kings, prophets, fishermen and others. They failed, struggled with their faith, and often lost hope but God never left them. He restored them and gave them new hope and vision through His love and grace. Together, we'll read and study how God empowered and shaped the lives of these men whom He called. And we'll learn to understand how God, who called us, can use our lives to change the world.

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. Watch for more details about up-coming events in our weekly "Bethel Happenings."



**ADULT CLASS
DESCRIPTIONS**

*Ten Women of the
Bible*

Men Called by God

*Occasional
Ministry
Presentations*

***And we have seen and testify that
the Father has sent his Son to be
the Savior of the world.***

1 John 4:14
(New International Version)



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