

BETHEL STAR NOVEMBER 2015 Newsletter



It's time for Bethel Youth Ministry's

Chili Lunch!

Sunday, November 8th.

Serving will start at 11:30 AM in the Parish Hall

Menu: Chili, Hot Dogs, Desserts

Free will donation. All proceeds will be donated to the *We Raise* campaign. The *We Raise* campaign aims to package half a million meals for needy families at the 2016 National Youth Gathering. Bethel is sending 15 youth and adults to the gathering. See more about this on page 8.



Thank you for your support!

The Big Rake

(After the Youth Chili Lunch)

Sunday, November 8

We need people to rake,
bake & pray!



We will go out to different parts of town to find yards to rake and also give them home-made cookies. A great way to bless someone with a random act of kindness!

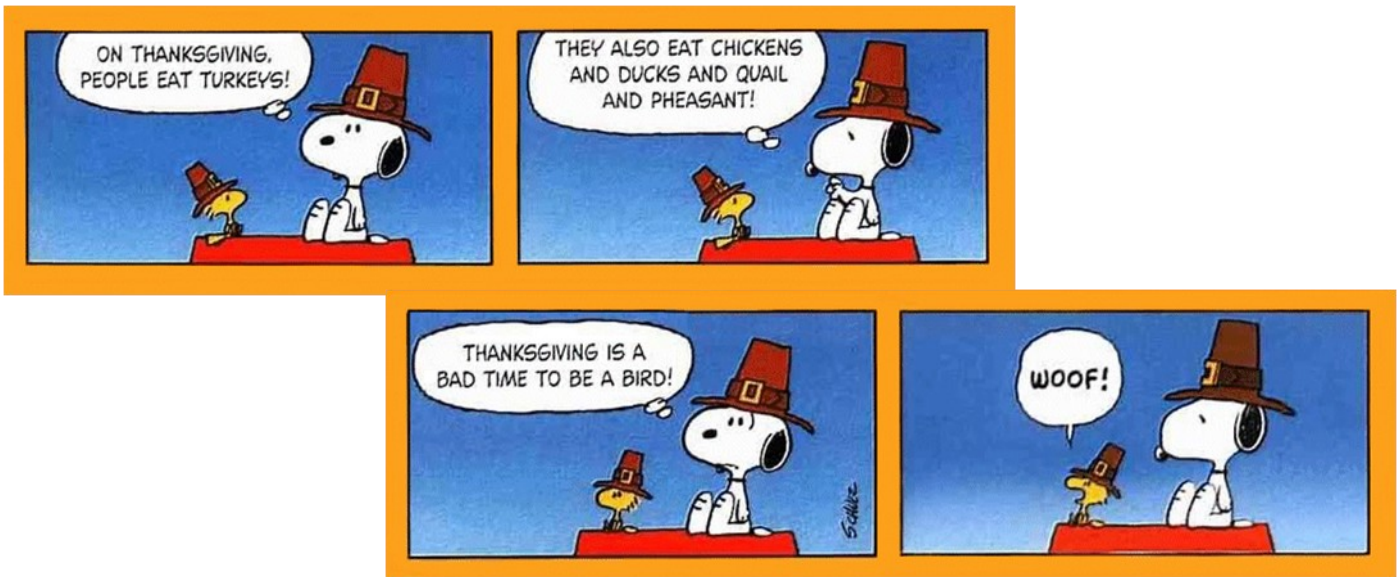
PLEASE SIGN UP ON THE TABLE IN CHURCH NARTHEX!

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Updated November Calendar Kingdom Helpers was omitted, but go to church website listed below. Click on Calendar Click on View Bethel's Calendar Click on event for details	



FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN...



“Don’t Follow the Turkeys”

“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”
(Matthew 5:11-12, ESV)

How is it possible to rejoice in the midst of great suffering? How is it possible to rejoice in the middle of persecution? Perhaps it seems like we’re a bird around Thanksgiving, always on the run, being hunted by the masses for food. Maybe it would be easier just to blend in and be something different.

But then, what does Jesus say? “You are blessed, even though you are reviled, persecuted, falsely accused, and hated.” You are blessed! You are blessed beyond measure and understanding! In fact, the full measure of the blessing that we are receiving cannot even be understood in this lifetime. The promise, however, is that it will be revealed to us.

Jesus goes on to say that we can “rejoice and be glad” in spite of what is happening around us, or even to us, because of something that cannot be taken from us: our reward in heaven. Our reward in heaven, a crown of righteousness, an eternal life of peace in the presence of God, an existence free from burden or pain, is already ours in heaven. It is protected by God. It cannot be stolen. It will not rust. Moths can’t eat it. God holds our blessings in His hands. He holds our eternity. It cannot be taken from Him.

The temptation during these times is to look like everyone else, even though Jesus says to boldly rejoice in the face of persecution as His followers. The temptation is to give in and follow the ways of the world simply because it might make the suffering a little less. Jesus says to do the opposite.

Maybe you’ve heard the saying, “When you follow the turkeys, you begin to look like the turkeys.” Jesus calls us to stand out and to be different in the very next verses.

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:13-16, NIV)

Do you hear the progression in Jesus’ statements? You are blessed! Rejoice! You will be rewarded! Be proud of who God has called you to be! And live it! Let that be your challenge for this month of blessing and Thanksgiving. As we prepare for the holidays and see the growing persecution of Christians, as we face our own challenges, remember how blessed you are, celebrate what you’ve been given and will be given by God, and then focus on being the salt and light of the world today.

Pastor Mark Anderson



MATURING

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Sunday

9:30-10:30 am

Breakfast Bible Class

Sunday 9:30—10:30 am

Parish Hall

11/01 Famous Amos

11/08 Famous Amos

11/15 Famous Amos

11/22 Famous Amos

11/29 Famous Amos

Sunday Adult Electives

9:30-10:30 am

1. First Place for Health

"God's Best for Your Life"

Room P3

Led by Carolynsue Wolf /
Mary Lou Nichols

2. Through November 22

"Visionary Parenting"

Room 111

Led by Karen Remmele

Please sign up at Welcome Center

See pg 8 for more details

4.

Preview Sunday November 1st



FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

A 9-week DVD study beginning November , led by John & Malena Rogers. We all need a plan for our money.

Financial Peace University (FPU) is that

plan! It teaches God's ways of handling money. Through video teaching, class discussions and interactive small group activities, FPU presents biblical, practical steps to get from where you are to where you've dreamed you could be. This plan will show you how to get rid of debt, manage your money, spend and save wisely, and much more! We will be offering a discounted cost for the class. Please sign up at Welcome Center or church office. Meet in Room 111

LOOKING AHEAD

Nov. 15 & 22

"Answering the Tough Questions"

Discover how to answer some of The questions, we as Christians may be asked. Led by Pastor Jeff Meet in Room 8

Tuesday

Ladies Bible Study

Romans

Tuesday 9:00-11:00 am

Room 110

Childcare available

Led by Sheila Lovell

Please call church office
to register

Living Way Bible Study

James / 1 Peter / 2 Peter / Jude

Tuesdays 10:00 -11:00 am

Room P3

Led by Pastor Jeff

Please call church office
to register

Wednesday

6:00—7:00 am

Bethel Brothers

Wednesday 6:00 - 7:00 am

Variety of men's studies. A great way to grow in your Discipleship journey. Room 111

Led by John Lovell / Phil Zobrist

Thursday

9:00-10:00am

"Bringing Up Boys"

Ends November 19

Room 110

Raising boys can be so confusing, frustrating, yet wonderful at the same time. Come learn about raising boys & study the book *Bringing up Boys* by Dr. James Dobson. Please bring your kids along.

Hosted by Tenneil Harms

Real Life Discipleship

6:30 - 8:00 pm Room 111

Led by Tammy Curtis

Please call church office
to register

Friday

6:30am

Men's Bible Study

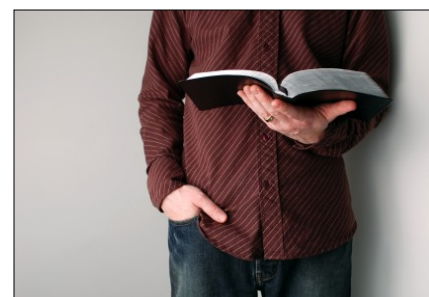
T.G.I.F.

Room 111

Men's class that meets each week. Led by Ken Newman. A great way to meet other men and grow in God's word.

Complimentary Devotion Books

"Portals of Prayer" and **"Living the Gospel Life"** are available at the Welcome Center. Please pick one up. These are a great way to begin a daily devotion.



Bethel PTL Dinner Auction

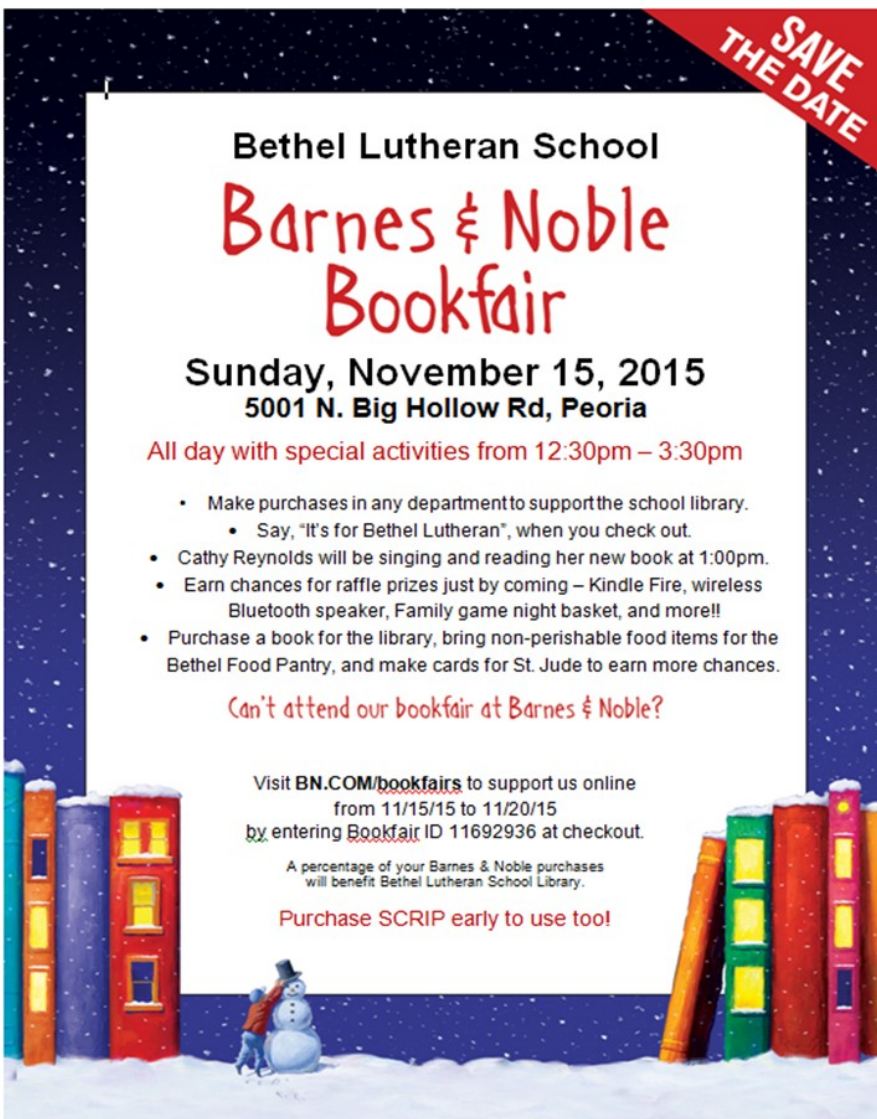
Make plans now to join us for this year's Bethel Lutheran School PTL Dinner and Auction! The event will be held at the **Embassy Suites in East Peoria on Saturday, November 14**, with the silent auction beginning at 6:00 PM and dinner at 7:00 PM. Following dinner, the LIVE auction will begin, featuring wonderful items made by our Bethel students and teachers!

Tickets are being sold for \$50 each, or you can reserve a table of eight for just \$350. If you can't attend but would like to donate an item to the auction or sponsor a table, we would be most appreciative! All funds raised during the dinner auction will go toward enriching the learning experiences of Bethel Lutheran School students. To reserve your tickets or donate an item, please call Meridith at 696-8687, or send an e-mail to merdev@comcast.net.

We hope to see you for this evening of great fun!



BETHEL FLAMES CLASSIC
SIXTH GRADE BOYS AND GIRLS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT
November 19th-22nd
Bethel Lutheran School
SCHOOL SPIRIT CONCESSIONS
BAKE SALE COME SUPPORT BETHEL SPORTS PROGRAMS
EXCITEMENT



Bethel Lutheran School
Barnes & Noble Bookfair
Sunday, November 15, 2015
5001 N. Big Hollow Rd, Peoria
All day with special activities from 12:30pm – 3:30pm

- Make purchases in any department to support the school library.
 - Say, "It's for Bethel Lutheran", when you check out.
- Cathy Reynolds will be singing and reading her new book at 1:00pm.
- Earn chances for raffle prizes just by coming – Kindle Fire, wireless Bluetooth speaker, Family game night basket, and more!!
- Purchase a book for the library, bring non-perishable food items for the Bethel Food Pantry, and make cards for St. Jude to earn more chances.

Can't attend our bookfair at Barnes & Noble?

Visit BN.COM/bookfairs to support us online from 11/15/15 to 11/20/15 by entering Bookfair ID 11692936 at checkout.

A percentage of your Barnes & Noble purchases will benefit Bethel Lutheran School Library.

Purchase **SCRIP** early to use too!

SAVE THE DATE

BETHEL BOOK CLUB will meet on Monday, November 23 at 7:00pm at the Morton Eli's on Jefferson. The read this month is Her Mother's Hope by Francine Rivers. Spanning from the early 1900's to the 1950s, Her Mother's Hope is the first part of a gripping and lyrical saga about family and faith, dreams and disappointments, and the depths of grace and forgiveness in one of life's fiercest bonds—the love between mother and daughter. Come join us! Copies are available in the church office while they last. For more information call Sheila Lovell @ 309-925-5347.

Winter Brochure

Winter "Discipleship Growth Opportunities" information due by November 15. to Tammy Curtis in Church office. **New**

email:

tammy@bethelmorton.org

This will include activities, classes, and other various opportunities that will occur during December, January and February. Thank you!



MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

09/24/2015 to 10/27/2015

REJOICING MILESTONES

Birthdays 80+ Years

11/11	Patsy Vonderheide	81
11/14	Margie Ertmoed	83
11/16	Betty Kirk	87
11/26	Betty Roehm	88

Anniversaries 50+ Years

11/01	Charles and Rachel Moser	56
11/09	Roy and Mary Ellen Brandt	68
11/20	Carl and Marilyn Cannon	60
11/26	Pastor and Carle Benke	54

A complete list of member birthdays with addresses is

BETHEL STAR ARTICLES DEADLINE

DEADLINE: Please be reminded the article deadline for the December edition of the Bethel Star is Friday, November 13 which is early due to Thanksgiving. Folders will meet at 8:15am on Friday, November 20 to assemble. No folding on Friday, November 27. Extra copies are made available in the church Narthex at the Connector Center and can also be accessed on our church website at www.blcmorton.org. Go to multimedia then file downloads. Highlights are posted there each week, also.

NOVEMBER 4, 11, 18, and 25
MIDWEEK TRADITIONAL
HYMNAL SERVICES ON
WEDNESDAYS AT 10:30am

MEMBERSHIP INS

Infant Baptism

Jaxon Graham Baumann
Hannah Elizabeth Cease

Transfer

Heather Joy Remmele

MEMBERSHIP OUTS

NONE

Communion is served the first and third weekends of each month in all weekend services. Common cup is made available.

Bethel's Online

Media and Publications

Want to listen to previous sermons or check out this month's publications, including the Bethel Star, Highlights, and Kingdom Helpers? Simply go to www.blcmorton.org/media. From there you can open the media player to listen to previous sermons. Or on the right side bar (in the green box) you can click "publications", which will take you the page where you can download this month's publications simply by clicking on them!

Bethel's Monthly Blood Pressure Screening

Blood pressure screenings are held immediately following church services in the Church Library on:

Saturday, November 7
7:00 pm

Sunday, November 8
9:00 am and 11:45 am



THANK YOU

Bethel Lutheran Church Volunteers ... Thank you so much for your willingness to volunteer and serve in the Pumpkin Festival on Thursday of our celebration week. We really appreciate it!

Scott and Susan Kelso / Grille Chairmen

Dear Bethel Lutheran Church ... Thank you for your ongoing support of our troop!

American Heritage Girls Troop IL6408

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers and well wishes with cards. Also, to Pastor Jeff for his visit. God has blessed me to be part of the Bethel Family.

Bob Gleason

A BIG Thank You to Gary and Jill Riggs and family for their donation of a cabinet for the nursery. This cabinet will enable us to be able to have a safe place to store Nursery office supplies and a counter for the parents to sign their kids in. Thank you Riggs family for this wonderful blessing!

Bethel Church Nursery Volunteers

Thank you to Sharon Aubuchon for creating the All Saints banner of our Bethel Family members who were Transferred to Glory this past year. It is always an added blessing to this special weekend!

Thanksgiving Basket Help Needed

Bethel provides Thanksgiving food baskets to those in need in our area. Historically we distribute 27-30 baskets filled with all the fixings for a complete Thanksgiving turkey feast. Would your small group be willing to provide one item for each of these baskets?

A small group buys items and assembles these holiday food boxes, but shopping is a huge undertaking. That's why we are asking for some help. If you would like to help, please call Ellen Mooberry at 309-251-7817 by November 12 to let her know what your group will provide.



Here's some news about our Queenwood building project...

- **Dedication**—October 18 was a great day: the last services in the Missouri building were touching, the procession with the sanctuary cross to the Queenwood building went well, and the dedication service in the new sanctuary was full of excitement and joy. Praise God for His blessings.
- **Moving** – Thank you to everyone who helped move things from the old building to the new. Most things are moved over and people are learning their way around the new building. It will take some time as we figure out how to do things at the new place. Please be patient and kind to each other as we settle in.
- **Celebrations** - An open house for the community took place on Sunday, October 25. A reception is also being planned for the workers that built our new facility. More information about this event will be posted in the Highlights and the church website.
- **Pledges** – Please continue to honor your pledges to this project. It is a wonderful building. Together we can ensure that the cost will not hinder our work for the Lord.

Men's Basketball

Guys college-age and up basketball at Bethel School on Queenwood in Morton

Sunday nights from 7:00-9:00pm
through April

Any questions?

Contact Michael Remmele @ 447-6273

Youth Basketball



The church's high school youth basketball team invites possible high school youth basketball players to join them for practice from 8:00pm-9:00pm on Monday nights at Bethel Lutheran School gymnasium. Questions may be directed to Coach Dave Kinsinger at djknsnger@mtco.com or 309-472-1023.



We now have over two full months of school under our belt and so far, the year has been outstanding.

Earlier in the year our school participated in a fundraiser called "Nets for Vets". The purpose of this fundraiser was to help cover the cost of the Honor Flight transporting veterans to Washington DC. We had a very successful event and our students raised over \$3,000 for this great cause. In addition, our students wrote thank you letters to the veterans on the most recent flight. These letters were given to them at "mail call" during the flight.

One exciting addition to our curriculum this year is the undertaking of MAP testing. MAP stands for Measures of Academic Progress. This is a test that our students take 3 times during the year and it measures the growth of each individual student throughout the year. It also gives us detailed reports on each student so we better know their strengths and weaknesses and can tailor our teaching more to the individual or groups of individuals.

We had a great state meet for our cross country team. The meet was held October 17th. Our boys team got 8th in state, which considering how young our team is, is outstanding! We also had 4 runners advance to the National meet which is to be held on Saturday, October 24th. Our National qualifiers are, Sophie Krueger – 4th grade, Zach Alt – 5th grade, Ian McLauchlin – 5th grade and Thomas Krueger – 6th grade. As of this writing, we have not yet competed at Nationals, so I will try to give you an update of the results in next

month's newsletter. We have a couple of big events coming up in November. In the sports realm, the state volleyball tournament is approaching. Our girls have had a great season so far and will be competing in Springfield the weekend of November 6th – 8th at the state tournament. In addition to that, we are hosting our annual Flames Classic 6th grade basketball tournament starting Thursday, November 13th through the 16th. Another fun event is that we will also be having our 4th annual Barnes and Noble Bookfaire on November 15th.

I would just like to say, now that the construction is completed and we have had our first worship services out here, how awesome it is to be united on one campus. We are thrilled to finally be united again as one ministry family and look forward to what God has in store for us next!

There are wonderful things happening out here on a daily basis. Thank you for your support of this ministry.

John Jacob / Principal



"Oh, give thanks to the Lord for He is good!" Psalm 118:1. We continue to be reminded of God's goodness as we learn and grow together in preschool! This month, we will learn about how God cared for the Pilgrims and Indians hundreds of years ago and how He continues to care for us today! At the end of the month, we will have a Thanksgiving feast (of preschool snacks) to help us remember to be thankful for all of the gifts God has given us. Thank YOU for your continued support of Bethel Lutheran Preschool!

National Youth Gathering

The next LCMS National Youth Gathering will take place July 16-20, 2016 in New Orleans, LA. The Gathering is a tri-annual event that draws 30,000 plus participants from around the world for a once-in-a-lifetime experience of worship, service, learning and fun. As of now, 13 Bethel youth and adults are signed up to attend, but registration remains open, so see Scott Brown for more information if you are interested in attending.



Jr. High News

Bible Study—Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:30 in the youth room.

Confirmation

- Class will take place from 7-8:30 PM on November 4 & 18 in the parish hall at the new building.
- On November 11 the Confirmation kids will join the High School students at Against the Flow in the new Youth Room.
- There will be no Confirmation on November 25 due to Thanksgiving Worship at 6:30 PM.



Young Adult Bible Study

Come have a candid conversation about life, singles and marriage. Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:30 in room 102.

Bethel Youth in Service.

Bethel Youth serve! We don't just talk about following Jesus, we actually follow Jesus. Here's how...

- **Random Acts of Kindness:** each week Bethel high school youth do a random act challenge. They get the assignment, do the challenge, then report back on Wednesday nights.
- **Service Projects:** Once a month, Bethel high school students do a service project as part of the Wednesday night activity. Recent projects have been packaging care packages for our college students and doing a cooking class with HOIDSA.
- **Junior High Food Drive:** The Jr. High kids spent a Wednesday night knocking on doors in town to collect food for our church food pantry ministry.

NOVEMBER YOUTH TOPICS

CHOICES

- CHOOSING TO LOVE
- CHOOSING HOW TO USE TIME
- CHOOSING WHAT TO WATCH
- CHOOSING YOUR FUTURE
- CHOOSING WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR LIFE

SUNDAY MORNINGS AND WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Chili Lunch

The annual youth chili lunch will take place from 11:30 to 1:00 on Sunday, November 8 in the church Parish Hall. Bring the family and enjoy chili, hot dogs, and desserts. All proceeds will be donated to the LCMS Youth Gathering "WE RAISE" program. Lutheran youth around the world are raising \$25,000.00 to fund 500,000 meals for people in need. The food packages will be put together at the National Youth Gathering in July, 2016.



KIC Night November 4

November's KIC night will take place on Wednesday the 4th. This will be the first KIC night at Bethel Lutheran School! 5th & 6th grade students will meet from 7-8:30 PM in school gym and commons for games, snacks, and a devotion. The topic of the night is "God's Gift of Time". Please contact Scott Brown at 309-231-4878 for more information.



New Mother Meals

We are in need of a few more volunteers for a New Mother Meal ministry. With our growing church facility and potentially more members (and lots of young pregnant families, too, it seems!) we anticipate our ministry of meals to continue to grow. I have approximately 30 active volunteers, and ideally I would like to have about 6-10 more ladies on this list who are willing to make and deliver meals. It used to be that volunteers would take one meal approximately every 12 months. Now I'm having some of my ladies taking 3 or 4 a year. Many of our recipients are not plugged in to a small group so this is a huge connecting ministry. This ministry works much like the funeral meal ministry. Volunteers are contacted when a new child is born to see if they would be able to take a meal and then they coordinate with the mom for delivery.

If God is placing it on your heart to serve New Mothers please contact Sarah Osterman or the church office so we can add your name to the list of those willing to make and take a meal to a new mom.

309-642-8594 sarahmaeosterman@gmail.com



For several years, Bethel congregation has partnered with Lutheran Social Services of Illinois—Peoria office—in a program called **HOLIDAY HOPE CHEST**. This

agency provides a variety of services for all ages.

The HOIDAY HOPE CHEST provides 2 gifts per child at Christmastime. One clothing and one fun gift with a \$30 limit for both. Bethel will again be reserving 40 children's names to provide gifts to this year.

This is a special Christmas mission project opportunity for families, singles, or small groups to show God's love and our caring. Most of these families will have a very difficult time providing their children with a blessed Christmas.

Be looking for more information in the Highlights or Bethel Star or contact Pam Lawson at 309-369-1966 or Sandie Bruns at 309-263-0865.

STAFF NEW E-MAIL ADDRESSES:

General Church Office/Alanna	church@bethelmorton.org
Pastor Jeff Anderson	pastorjeff@bethelmorton.org
Pastor Mark Anderson	pastormark@bethelmorton.org
Scott Brown	scott@bethelmorton.org
Alan Hall berg	alan@bethelmorton.org
Tammy Curtis	tammy@bethelmorton.org
Julie Powell	julie@bethelmorton.org
Helen Geil	helen@bethelmorton.org

LWGP DINER BOOKS

The **Lutheran Women of Greater Peoria** is offering the **Peoria Dining Tour Coupon Book** again this year. They are available in the church office during regular business hours until Tuesday, December 15. Coupons are valid until November 1, 2016. The cost is \$30 with check made payable to **LWGP**. Ten dollars from each book will go equally to LWGP, the Lutheran Hillside Village, and Lutheran Social Services of Illinois. There are over 200 valuable **BUY-ONE — GET-ONE FREE COUPONS VALID AT LOCAL AREA RESTAURANTS**. There are 30 new restaurants this year and 105 restaurants total. These books make great birthday or Christmas gifts for family and friends.

E-Mail Prayer Ministry

There are currently 64 people participating in our Email Prayer Ministry.



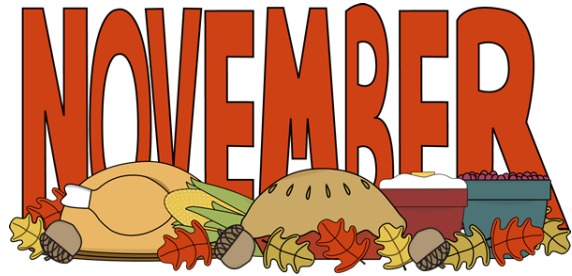
Twice a week an email is sent with prayer requests from the congregation and those received from the church's website.

If you would like to join now, there is a **sign up sheet at the Welcome Center** or contact the church office # 263-2417.

Note: If you would like your prayer request in corporate church prayers, please call the church office or notify one of the pastors. Any prayers received after Wednesday may not appear in the weekly bulletin, but if received by 3:00pm on Friday will be printed in the copies available at the Welcome Center each week.

Bethel Lutheran Ministries
325 E. Queenwood Road
Morton, IL 61550
(Return Service Requested)

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Morton, IL
Permit #50



A Christian Global Program which is sponsored by The Samaritan's Purse Organization and serves 118 countries. Boxes containing personal hygiene items, school supplies, small toys, and Christian reading materials are distributed to children all around the world. Every shoebox gift represents an opportunity to share the Gospel. To fill a box (or boxes) please check out the display table in the foyer. You will find boxes to use and great ideas for "fillers". Labels designating gifts for a boy or girls and ages are available at the table. We ask you include a check for \$7 made payable to Samaritan's Purse to help cover shipping charges. Please place the label on top of the box and put two rubber bands around the box to keep things together. If you would rather contribute a few loose items and not fill an entire box, your items may be placed in the large wrapped Christmas box by the table. Completed boxes may be placed on the display table in the foyer anytime before November 22nd.

Bethel's Sunday School children will be participating in this program. They are asked to bring the following items:
Sunday, November 1 - a bar of ivory soap and a washcloth
Sunday, November 8 - a small toy
On Sunday, November 15 children in the upper grades will fill the shoeboxes and prepare them for shipping.

Thank you in advance for all who will take part in this outreach of love to the world!



