

BETHEL STAR

OCTOBER 2017

Newsletter



Inside this issue:

500 year Celebration of the Reformation

1517–2017

Church and School Combined Celebration Activities

October 1-29

"Where's Martin?"

A learning game for young and old alike. Pick up your first clue at the **Children's Sunday School desk**. Follow the clue's directions to



find the first "statue of" Martin Luther, (*locations will be in both the church and the school*) there you find the clue to the next "Martin" and at the 2nd Martin you'll find the clue to the 3rd and final "Martin". Each station will have facts about Martin Luther and the Reformation. There will be an answer sheet to complete with all the information you learn. This will change each week, but always beginning at same place.



Nailing Favorite Bible Verses on Door

Write out your favorite Bible verse and "nail" it to the door display in the Narthex during the weekend and in the commons during the school week.

WHY? Prior to the reformation, we would not had our favorite Bible passage as only the Priests were allowed / able to read the Bible. Martin Luther believed everyone should read the Bible themselves. He translated the Greek / Hebrew Bible in to German and since then has been translated to almost all languages. Our Bibles are a precious item, the actual word of God that allows us to learn and develop a personal relationship with Jesus.

Celebration Event Sunday October 29 Following Late Service

Please join us in the Parish Hall for fun, food, displays and prizes! Martin Luther may even make a surprise appearance. Plan now to attend!

Katie Luther Event Saturday November 4 1-3pm

Hosted by our Women to Women group. Please see back page for information.

Pastor's Message	2
Articles Deadline Blood Pressure Screening E- Church Membership Updates Milestones Wednesday AM Services	3
Parish Nurse	4
Altar Flowers Bethel Book Club Discipleship Opportunity E-Mail Prayer Team Give Online Cards God Moments Greeting Cards Medical Equipment	5
Lutherans for Life LWGP Diner Books Men's Basketball	6
Maturing	7
Bethel School/Preschool News	8
Operation Christmas Child Thank You	9
Go to Bethel's website to see updated October Calendar, Kingdom Helpers, and weekly Highlights.	



FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN...

Let's Celebrate

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.
Hebrews 12:1-2

We are saved by grace alone through faith in Christ alone. This is most certainly true. As we prepare to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation this October, we celebrate this truth all the more as we recount the courage and faith that Martin Luther had to call out the Roman Catholic Church on the errors of their teaching. His primary issue, at least at first, was that forgiveness is not something that can be bought and sold. It is a free gift of God. Yet, that did not stop the likes of Johann Tetzel, and others, from selling indulgences, which the Church said could buy you forgiveness from past, or even future, sins. This was the final straw for Luther, prompting him to write the 95 Theses to incite a conversation with the Church. Ultimately, he would be charged as a heretic, but his boldness would also spark a revolution and reformation in the Church, leading to the faith that we stand on today.

Luther had a lot to say about the sin that entangles us and how we are to deal with it. Luther struggled a lot with guilt, especially as a young monk. He wrestled with how to be good enough and how to overcome his offenses that God might accept him. He held on to a lot of regret from his past, often recalling to his memory the vast list of offenses that he had committed. In his times of confession, he would spend hours reciting everything that he had done, even running back to the confessional if he remembered another offense. Luther once remarked, "Regret, the little black dog of a belated repentance, does not stop barking and biting the conscience, even though you know that your sins are forgiven."

His attitude, demeanor, and even hope would change when he discovered the truth of the Gospel. Forgiveness is not up to us. We are not justified, that is, deemed innocent by our own efforts, but purely by Christ's own merit and righteousness. We are saved by grace through faith in Christ. We cling to and hold fast to the cross for our hope of salvation. We can throw off the weight of our sin and run with confi-

dence in the one who has saved us. We can remember and rely on the promise that God made to us in our baptism.

In fact, Luther says of this promise to the repentant sinner: "This truth of God, I say, will so sustain him that if all else goes to ruin, this faith of his will not fail him. For in it he has a shield against the assaults of the enemy, a reply to the sins that trouble the conscience, an antidote for the horror of death and the judgment, and, in fine, a comfort in every temptation, namely, the one truth that he expresses when he says: God is faithful in His promises; His sign have I received in baptism; If God be for me, who is against me?"

So during this month of October, let's truly celebrate! Let's throw off the weight of sin and shame, knowing that the Gospel has been made available to us. Let's celebrate the fact that one man was courageous enough to stand before councils at the risk of his own life that all might know the very reason we have to celebrate. Celebrate the freedom of the Gospel, and the freedom that we have in the Gospel. Celebrate the hope that we have, though we be sinners, we are deemed saints by Christ's death and resurrection. Celebrate the joy in knowing that Jesus has covered all of our sins, freely and of His own accord, so that we might turn in faith and trust to Him and forever be with Him.



Pastor Mark Anderson



REJOICING MILESTONES

Birthdays 80+ Years

10/03	Carl Kath	81
10/16	Bob Dollinger	83
10/20	Loran Horn	86
10/30	Chuck Glick	83

Anniversaries 50+ Years

10/09	Jerry and Linda West	52
10/10	George and Hilda Weisser	53
10/17	Loran and Ann Horn	59

A complete list of member birthdays with addresses is on the Connection Center in the church foyer.. Stop by and take a copy or call the church office if you need it

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

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

Bethel's Monthly Blood Pressure Screening

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

**Saturday, October 7
7:00 pm**

**Sunday, October 8
9:00 am and 11:45 am**



MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

08/22/2017 to 09/18/2017

MEMBERSHIP INS

Infant Baptism

Jordy Todd Hobson

Reinstated

Scott Brown

Transfer

Caleb Eckhoff

MEMBERSHIP OUTS

Transfer

Jaimie Jean Buckman

Church of Choice

Clifford Lee Richter

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 STAR ARTICLES DEADLINE ...

DEADLINE: Please be reminded the article deadline for the November edition of the Bethel Star is Friday, October 20. Folders will meet at 8:15am on Friday, October 27 to assemble. 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.

Parish Nurse Info

From: Deb Wise

TAKING CHARGE

of your

HEALTH & WELLBEING

7 Tips for Cancer Prevention

50% of cancer diagnoses in the U.S. are preventable through healthy lifestyle changes.



1. Don't use tobacco

If nobody smoked, one of every three cancer deaths in the United States would not happen.



2. Healthy diet

The focus should be on fruits, vegetable, whole grains, and healthy fats. Unhealthy fats and red meat should be kept to a minimum. Alcohol only in moderation (if at all).



3. Promote healthy weight and exercise

The population risk attributed to diet and exercise is 71% for colon cancer.



4. Sun protection

Skin cancer is one of the most common kinds of cancer and one of the most preventable.



5. Promote immunization

Hepatitis B / Human papillomavirus (HPV)



6. Avoid drugs and risky behaviors

Talk to your parents, a school nurse or the OSF Wellness team. Safe behaviors protect you from cancer too.



7. Regular medical visits

Patients shouldn't forget about screening and regular checkups. This includes reviewing blood pressure, lipids, and glucose levels as well as other health considerations that aren't necessarily part of routine cancer care.

Submitted by:

Deb Wise

Bethel Parish Nurse

309-264-3544

dmwise134@gmail.com

Available to support you with your health concerns.

“Give Online” cards

Available next to Highlights in the Narthex. If you give on line and feel like you are not participating in the offering during worship, you can pick up one of these cards on way in to sanctuary and place in offering plate during worship. If you currently do not give online but would like to or learn more about it, go to www.blcmorton.org

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT ...

If you are in need of medical equipment due to illness or injury, Bethel has a well-stocked supply that can be loaned to you and used until no longer needed. No cost involved. Call the church office when you are in need or if you have items to donate.

GREETING CARDS ...

LWML offers greeting cards in the church library. We are very excited to tell you we have a new addition to our greeting card display. Darlene Reeser is a greeting card artist and has donated several of her cards to our mission project. If you would like to see her complete line you can go to ETSY: 5th Sister Cards. They are beautiful. All monetary gifts go to the LWML mission projects that were chosen in 2016. Place **donations** in the slot provided by cards or turn into the church office. Thank you for your continued support.

LOST and FOUND is located in the church library.

If you have misplaced any items, please check and see if it is in the box. There are shoes, coats, glasses, Bibles, clothes, etc. Things not claimed by the last day of the month will be donated to charity.

BETHEL'S BOOK CLUB ...

Bethel's Book Club will meet at 7:00 pm on October 23rd at Eli's in Morton. We will discuss *Counted with the Stars* by Connilyn Cossette. Biblical fiction buffs are sure to be swept away by this promising new author. Come and join us for coffee, fellowship, and a great discussion. Call Sheila Lovell at 925-5347 with any questions.

E-MAIL PRAYER

Ministry

You would receive an email 1-2 times weekly with prayer requests that come in to the office or through our website. Then



all you need to do is pray for these requests at your best time. If you are interested in being a part of the 100+ people involved, please sign up at **“Sign up Central”** or contact the church office #309-263-2417 or please contact Linda Bisping at LindaBisping@comcast.net or 309-264-5326. New volunteers are always welcome to take part.

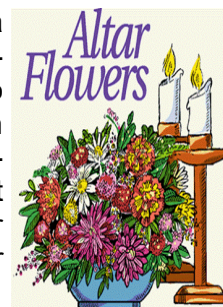
***If you want your prayer request included in the corporate prayers during services, you must give your permission through the church office.

GOD MOMENTS ...

Everyone has “God Moments” !

Would you be willing to share yours? We have “God Moments” shared once a month at worship services, prayerfully you have been present when these have been given. If you are ready to share one of your “God Moments”, please contact Pastor Jeff or Pastor Mark #263-2417. If you have a “God Moment” you would like to share, but are feeling like you can not due to being unsure or nervous, pray for God's direction and see what He has planned for you.

You may want to reserve a weekend to provide altar flowers for our weekend services to celebrate a special event in your family's life or to remember someone special. Contact Malena Rogers to reserve your date at 309-657-2156 or jr_mr@frontier.com



Long-time friend and member, Vi Mutschink, has moved to Texas and her new address is:

Vi Mutschink

200 Katy Fort Bend Road #5401

Katy, TX 77494

Phone: 832-437-9521

She would love to hear from you!

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 Friday, December 15. Coupons are valid until November 1, 2018. 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.



ONE MORE OPPORTUNITY

We've received one more work day to be able to help with Habitat for Humanity. Same location, same times. Please sign up at Sign up Central.

301 Lynnhaven Drive in Washington
Saturday, October 28
8:00am - Noon

K.I.C. (Kids In Christ)

KIC events for 5th & 6th graders will begin this coming Wednesday evening, October 4, 7:00pm-8:30pm at Bethel School. We will hold these the first Wednesday evening every month except December. These nights are for fun, devotions, and community building. There is a parent meeting at this first event at 7:00pm. Please have at least one parent attend.

Encourage your kids to attend and bring a friend!



Mark it on your calendar! Tuesday, October 3, Living Alternative Pregnancy Resource Center, Pekin will be holding their Annual Life Banquet fundraiser. This event is to bring forth information on all the services offered for free at the center and learn of the successes that have been accomplished. It will be an opportunity to show support for the center and all the clients that come to them for assistance and guidance. The speaker will be Chet McDaniel. His story is one everyone should hear. If interested in attending this banquet, call Morrie or Sandie Bruns at 309-263-0865. Bethel Lutheran Ministries is one of the underwriters of the center. All are welcome to attend and prayers for the mission of the center are requested.



It's Coming....2018

Our current eBethel data base program will be updating to a newer version called **REALM**. For our purposes, we will continue to refer to it as eBethel but the logo will now have the Realm logo attached to it. Nothing for you to do at this point but stay tuned! This version will offer YOU better means of communication amongst the congregation and with the church.

Men's Basketball

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

7:00-9:00pm

through May except holidays

Any questions?

Contact Frank Hoog @ 309-360-7980





MATURING ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Sunday Adult Electives

9:30-10:30 am

1. Breakfast Bible Class

Pastor Jeff / Pastor Mark

Room P1

- 10/1 Rick Steve Tour of Luther's Country DVD
- 10/8 Justification
- 10/15 Sacraments
- 10/22 Bible vs Tradition
- 10/29 Faith

2. First Bible Class

Led by Karen Remmele

A Family Ministry class for **second grade students and their parents** meet together in the 2nd Gr. SS class room

3. First Place for Health

Room P3

First Place 4 Health is a Christ-centered weight-loss and healthy-living program. The premise of the program focuses on the total person: emotional, spiritual, mental and physical to put Christ first in all we do. , **"A New Beginning"**. We will continue this Bible study through October 8 and then begin **"A Thankful Heart"** This study will help prepare us for the Holidays.. Led by Carolynsue Wolf / Mary Lou Nichols

4. "IF"

Room 126 (Prayer Room)

Watching clips from the IF Gathering Women's Conference. Speakers including Jennie Allen, Shelley Giglio, David Platt, etc. Each speaker will focus on a different topic about how we live out our faith IF Jesus is real to us.

* **May not meet every week. For more information contact Kayla Anderson (kayand721@gmail.com)**

5. "RLD in Action" Group

Room 111

Group of people that have completed the study, Real Life Discipleship, and desire to put what they learned into action.

6. "40 Days in the Word" by Rick Warren Laura Reiman / Tammy Curtis

Room 110

"40 Days In the Word" is designed to help you Love the Word, Learn the Word, and Live the Word like never before. This study will guide you through what it means to not just be "hearers" of the Word, but also "doers" of the Word! Reignite and strengthen your passion for God's Word . 6 week study. Workbook \$10

Living Way Bible Study
Tuesdays 10:00 am
Pastor Jeff

Begins September 5 Room P3

"The Study of Romans"

Bethel Brothers

Wednesday 6:00 - 7:00 am
Variety of men's studies. A great way to grow in your Discipleship journey.

Led by John Lovell / Phil Zobrist

T.G.I.F.

Friday 6:30 - 7:30 am Room 111
Men's Bible study. Open to all men.
Led by Ken Newman

Ladies Bible Study

Tuesday 9:00-11:00 am Room P3
Childcare available

We will be doing a study of the Book of Luke. We would love to have you join us. We are a group of gals at all ages and stages of life, from new moms to grandmoms. The variety of ages / stages is very stimulating as we learn from each other. For questions or sign up, Call Sheila Lovell at 925-5347

"Before Amen"

By Max Lucado

Wednesday 7pm Prayer Room
Begins September 20

We aren't the first to struggle with prayer. The first followers of Jesus needed prayer guidance too. In fact, prayer is the only tutorial they ever requested. 4 weeks. Book / Workbook \$15
Lead by Linda Bisping / Kim Jacob

Small Groups

Groups of 6-12 people who meet together for fellowship, prayer, Bible Study and Serving others.

If interest in getting connected with a Small Group!

Please contact

Pastor Mark

pastormark@bethelmorton.org
#309-263-2417



"... let your light shine before others that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16

Bethel Lutheran School PTL Dinner and Auction!

Make plans now to attend!

The event has returned to Morton and will be held at:

**Red Rock on Detroit Avenue
Saturday, October 28, 2017**

The silent auction begins at 6:00pm and dinner at 7:00pm. Following dinner, the LIVE auction will begin, featuring wonderful items made by our Bethel students and teachers!

Tickets are being sold for \$25 each or you can reserve a table of eight for just \$175. Purchase your tickets from PTL members after services and during the Sunday School hour on October 7 & 8 and 14 & 15.

Childcare is available at the school during this event.

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 event will go toward enriching the learning experiences of Bethel Lutheran School students.

To reserve your tickets or donate an item, please call Mark at 309-208-8883 or send an e-mail to mark@gingerichcrane.com.

We hope to see you for this evening of fun and fellowship to support our school!

Thank you to Music Drivers

A HUGE thank you to the following church members who have volunteered to transport 7th & 8th grade band / orchestra students to the Morton Jr. High so they are able to participate in their music programs.

Jim Jones	Wilma Reiman
Judy Kuhel	Beckie Dickerson
Karen Simmons	
Paul & Berdie Remmele	(as substitutes)



Scrip Available Every Sunday

**Last year Scrip earned around \$4,500!
\$3,300 went to the school & \$1,200 went to help
reduce tuition costs for families**

Scrip is available Sunday AM during Coffee Hour at the round table in coffee area. There will be a sign on table so you can identify where you can purchase it. **This is such an EASY way for our congregation to support the school.** PLEASE stop by to learn more about it!

Additional Details:

Scrip is available to be ordered online as a physical card and for many retailers as ScripNow (printable certificates) or ReloadNow (to reload cards originally purchased through scrip). Additionally, with the online payment feature, PrestoPay, you can order ScripNow electronic gift cards or reload previously purchased gift cards and receive your scrip in minutes! Online ordering is fast, convenient, and can be done from anywhere! Plus, you can access both ScripNow and reloads on ShopwithScrip's mobile website, MyScripWallet.com, which acts as an electronic wallet for your scrip. With MyScripWallet, you can order ScripNow or reload a card, use PrestoPay when you check out, and access your scrip right then and there on your smartphone! This means that you can shop for scrip whenever and wherever you need to ... no planning ahead necessary! If you are interested in online ordering, please contact Jennifer Behnke at 309-370-4570 or behnke4@comcast.net to get set up.



YOU ARE INVITED BETHEL PRESCHOOL FALL PROGRAMS

Wednesday, October 25
10:45am and 2:30 pm

Thursday, October 26
10:45am

Join with us in the school gym and be blessed by our smallest students as they celebrate Fall and share how much they love Jesus!



11 MILLION GOSPEL OPPORTUNITIES

Once again, our Bethel Family has the opportunity to participate in Operation Christmas Child which is sponsored by Samaritan's Purse. Operation Christmas Child collects shoeboxes filled with gifts and delivers them to children in need around the world. Every one of these shoebox gifts is an opportunity for the Gospel to reach children. In the hands of local churches, it is a powerful tool for evangelism, discipleship, and multiplication. Many shoebox recipients also enroll in a 12-lesson follow-up discipleship program, The Greatest Journey, where they learn to follow Christ and share Him with others. We can be a part of this worldwide effort to grow the Kingdom of God even in places where the Gospel has never been heard. Look for the display in the narthex and pick up a box or two to fill. Also, look for the information sheets that give suggestions about items you might want to pack. All boxes need to be returned to the display table by November 12. Please remember to include a \$9.00 check in each box to cover shipping costs. There's POWER in a simple gift!

"Go, therefore, and make disciples."
Matthew 28:19

Because Bethel will be an Operation Christmas Child drop-off location for Morton this year, several volunteers will be needed for the week of November 13-20. Job opportunities include moving boxes from cars to our storage room, doing the required bookkeeping for boxes received, putting boxes into shipping boxes, and placing shipping boxes into a covered trailer to be transported to Washington, Illinois. If you're interested and willing to help, please contact Sharon Rumbold at 309-222-4085 ASAP. Thanks so much!

Volunteer times:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday	9:00am-5:00pm
Tuesday and Thursday	4:00pm-7:00pm
Saturday	9:00am-1:00pm
Monday, November 20th	9:00am-Noon

THANK YOU

A heartfelt thank you for all the wonderful words of encouragement and cards of comfort you have showed upon us this last month at the passing of my dad. It is so wonderful to have a caring family. Your caring acts and words were very much appreciated.

Pastor Jeff and Renata Anderson

The Bethel Family would like to express our sincere appreciation and love to Julie Powell who has stepped down from her position at Bethel as Missions & Ministry Coordinator to pursue furthering her college career. With her life experience with her daughter and her compassionate heart from our Lord, she will become qualified as a CNA (Certified Nurses' Assistant) and help care for premature babies and support the emotional needs of their parents with her skills. She has been a real asset to our church body in her service to the Lord through this position here at Bethel. Encourage her with your words and prayers when you meet her in the halls!

It was such a joy to present to Bethel on August 12 & 13 and talk about Shepherd's Little Lambs of Kenya. Thank you to all the congregation for their generosity when filling the collection plate and buying items from the Kenyan table. You can donate all year round at our website www.littlelambskenya.com or you can just send a check to me, Janelle Crump, 828 Oakwood Road, East Peoria, IL 61611 and make the check out to A.I.M. International and put nothing in the memo line. If you want the money to go to a certain cause, please write it on another piece of paper and include it with your check. You can also like us on our Facebook page, Shepherd's Little Lambs of Kenya. God Bless you and pray for our Board as we travel to Kenya in October and continue to pray for our children. Thanks again for your continued support. I know I can always count on you!!

Janelle Crump

Shepherd's Little Lambs of Kenya

The American Red Cross Blood Drive at Bethel Lutheran Church August 24th was a success. Twenty-seven units of blood were collected! On behalf of the American Red Cross, I want to give "A BIG THANK YOU" to the individuals who volunteered to assist: Dave Lohnes, Deb Wise, Heidi Collins, and Linda Lopez. What a team of VOLUNTEERS!!! But, most important, a HUGE thank you to the blood donors! Each of you are "SO EXTREMELY VALUABLE."

Love and God's blessings,

Julie Powell

Bethel Lutheran Ministries

325 E. Queenwood Road

Morton, IL 61550

(Return Service Requested)

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage Paid

Morton, IL

Permit #50



KATIE LUTHER-FROM FISH BARRELS TO PIGS TO KIDS



Loving God, Husband & Family

In honor of the 500th Anniversary of Reformation, we will spend some time getting to know Katharina Luther. Renata Anderson and Kayla Anderson will be speaking.

This free event for Bethel women and their guests will be a time of fellowship and celebration of our Lutheran Heritage.

Refreshments will be served, a Mighty Fortress Cake Walk, and more!

Stop by Sign-Up Central
by Sunday, October 29

Fun-Food-Fellowship-Faith!

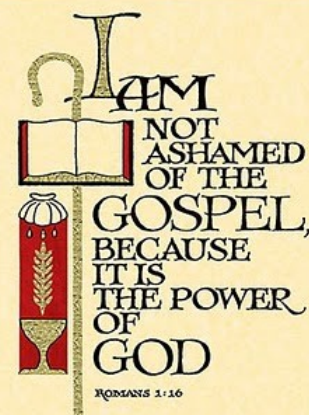
November 4, 2017 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Bethel Lutheran Church

325 E. Queenwood Road, Morton, IL 61550

309-263-2417

Women2Women Committee



**PLEASE JOIN US IN
CELEBRATING
PASTOR BENKE'S
55th Ordination Anniversary**

**Sunday, October 22
Immediately following the
Late Worship Service
Rooms P1; P2; P3**

**Light Lunch will be served.
Dessert compliments of
Hollybrook in Morton**

No Gifts Please!

**Card basket available
or mail to:
Pastor Richard Benke
1709 N. Main Street #10
Morton, IL 61550**