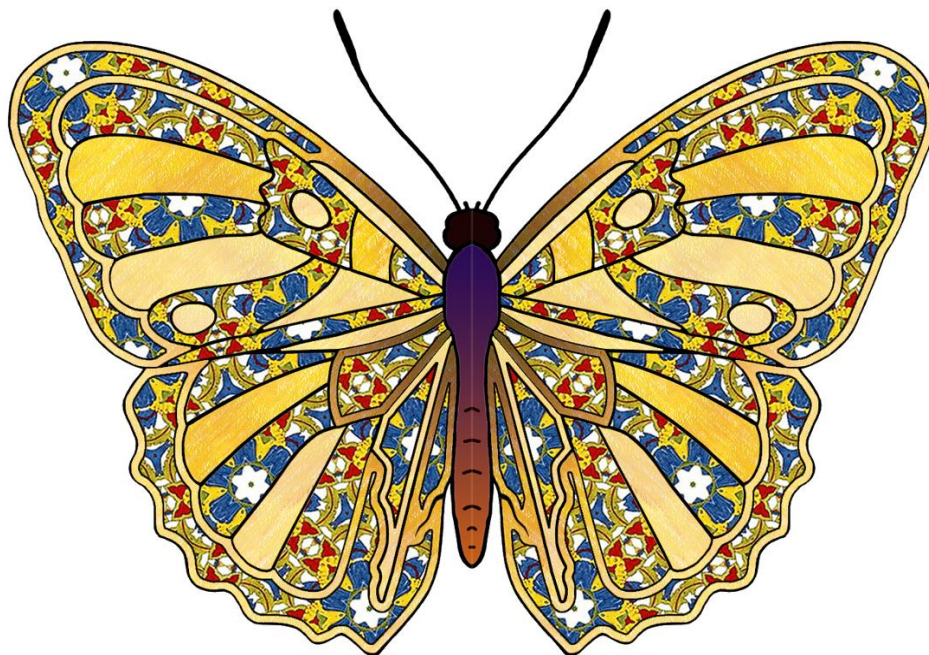


BeTheLight

A Publication of Bethel Lutheran Church
A member congregation of The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
7171 Pearl Road, Middleburg Heights OH 44130-4946
(440) 843-6663
www.gobethel.org

SEPTEMBER



2019

BetheLight



Let your light shine
before others so they may
see your good works and
give glory to your Father
in heaven.
Matt 5:16 NRSV

A Publication of Bethel Lutheran Church

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Church Office

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**Deadline for the October-November 2019
BeTheLight is September 19th**

The purpose of *BeTheLight* is to inform our members, friends and visitors of worship services and to encourage spiritual growth, Christian Education opportunities, missions and outreach, activities, fellowship events and volunteer opportunities. This newsletter is meant to be an informational tool of **Bethel Lutheran Church** where we serve together as a family in Christ.

The *BeTheLight* welcomes contributions and letters. Copyrighted material (including prayers and inspirational verses) cannot be published without written permission from the author.

Social Media Information:

CHURCH WEBSITE: www.gobethel.org

FACEBOOK: Bethel Lutheran Church,
Middleburg Heights, Ohio

TWITTER: @WeAreBethel

REMIND: Get reminder text messages
from

Bethel about meetings, events,
cancellations and more:

**MISSION
STATEMENT**

*The people of
Bethel Lutheran
Church are
called by God to
be faithful to the
word of God and
proclaim it to all
people. We share
Christ's love and
forgiveness by
being Christ's
hands, feet, arms
and voice as we
gather and as we
scatter.*

ONGOING PRAYER CONCERNS

PERSONS IN NEED OF HEALING

Marshall Camp, Eric Nemerovsky,
Kirk Nemerovsky, Eric Whitsel,
Maureen Zelina

PERSONS WHO ARE HOMEBOUND

Bob Breska~Viola Dase~Jan Harmon~Esther Johns~Jean Kellmer
Phil Long~Richard Larson~Helmut Link~Marie Link~Betty Powers~Jeannette Yanuzzi



*Please keep these friends in your
thoughts and prayers.*

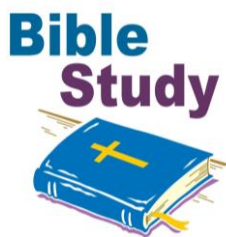


INTERESTED IN LEARNING ABOUT MEMBERSHIP AT BETHEL?

Beginning Sunday, September 8, group meetings will be offered during the LIFE Together time from 8:30-9:15 AM for those who are considering membership at Bethel. Visitors who have been joining us at worship and our other activities, but who have not yet made the commitment to "membership" have been invited to come for 6 meetings, which will be held in the sanctuary in the space just to the left of the altar area as you face the front of the church. Letters of invitation have been sent to all of our visitors. If somehow we missed you or you would like to know more about membership, please contact Pastor Krebill at 843-6663. At the end of the class those who wish to join this community of faith as "members" will be invited to do so on All Saints' Sunday, November 3.

LIFE TOGETHER CLASSES RESUME SEPTEMBER 8

LIFE TOGETHER classes for children ages 3 through grade 6 will resume on Sunday, September 8 at 9 AM. The high school class will resume when Pastor Krebill is finished with the "Invitation to Discipleship" class in October. Faith Explorer meetings for middle school youth will also resume in October and there will be more information about that in the October Bethelight.



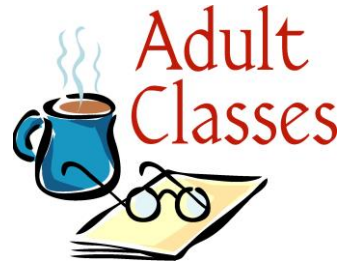
LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY RESUMES. BEGINNING ON TUESDAY

MORNING, SEPTEMBER 10th, from 10:00 – 11:15 A.M. in the Gathering Place conference room, Pastor Krebill will be leading a Bible Class which will focus on one or more of the three lessons designated for the following Sunday. All are welcome to attend and the class will continue throughout the year.

COME! ENJOY THE LIVELY, INFORMAL CONVERSATION! Don't miss this chance to study the weekly readings from the Revised Common Lectionary that appear every Sunday in the *Celebrate* insert! This class will provide you with a fresh, new frame of reference when hearing, reading, or studying scripture. You are guaranteed to gain biblical insight and understanding as Pastor invites participants to discover and develop new perspectives and learn different ways of looking at biblical truths. **BRING YOUR OWN BIBLES.**

NEW ADULT CLASS OFFERED ON MONDAY EVENINGS THIS FALL **"ROMANS: LIVING FAITHFULLY"**

This fall, Pastor Krebill is offering a new 12 week adult class on Monday evenings, starting **September 9 and going until November 25**, meeting in the Gathering Place at 7:00 PM. The class will use the book of Romans as a way of looking at our call to live faithfully. All are welcome.



At the very center of the Lutheran Reformation is the letter of the apostle Paul to early Christians in Rome. Martin Luther wrote in his introduction to Romans that "this epistle is in truth the most important document in the New Testament, the gospel in its purest expression. It is a brilliant light, almost enough to illumine the whole Bible."

This 12 session course (30 min. DVD presentations) explores the great themes from Romans but does so through study of specific passages. Dr. Walter F. Taylor, professor of New Testament at Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus Ohio, is the presenter.



WONDERING ABOUT WORSHIP

I've been thinking a lot lately about Sunday worship and how the way that we plan and shape it has changed in the time I have been a pastor, and I wondered if anybody else was curious about why we do what we do here. In the late 80's and early 90's there was a lot of talk about "worship wars" in American churches, with people arguing about whether worship should be "contemporary" or "traditional." Almost from the beginning,

one big challenge was defining what those terms even mean. For some people, "contemporary" brings images of a praise band or guitars and drums and keyboards. But for others, that style of worship strikes them as nothing more than aging baby boomers still "blowin' in the wind" from the 60's and trying to hold onto their youth. One of my pastor friends has waggishly suggested that all worship is "contemporary" in the sense that every week we are doing it "right now." You can't get more contemporary than that! For others, the definition of "traditional" worship was that they always used the same setting of the liturgy from the same page of the same hymnal week after week, year after year, with no change in the parts of the service, even if there was more than one setting in the hymnal they were using.

THE CORE OF LUTHERAN WORSHIP AND NEW WAYS TO ACCESS IT

When we began our mutual ministry at Bethel in 1998, the time of transition and new beginnings prompted a lot of discussion and concern about worship and how we do that here. Fortunately, the ELCA as a whole had just grappled with this issue the year before at the 1997 Churchwide Assembly, and a document called "**The Use of the Means of Grace**" was published to guide congregations in their discussions about worship.

In this document, the core of what was “traditional” Sunday Lutheran worship was defined as including four parts: **GATHERING** together as a worshipping community, hearing the **WORD** of God proclaimed, sharing in the **MEAL** of Holy Communion, and then **SENDING** the people of God back into the community for living out their Christian faith daily. Within that core there could be a lot of variety, both in musical style and content as well as elements of each part of worship, which could vary from elaborate to very simple. All of these elements were foundational to the ELCA’s “Renewing Worship” emphasis which started in 2003 and culminated with the publication of our most recent hymnal “Evangelical Lutheran Worship” in 2006. Here at Bethel we participated fully in that process, testing hymns and liturgical music, and sending feedback. One other factor that greatly changed how we plan and do worship was the advent of computers, desktop publishing and web-based worship resources such as “Sundays and Seasons” which is a website that gives us access to all the liturgies, prayers and music included in our worship books. These tools have freed us from being tied to a particular worship “book” even if we have a book in our pews.

FLEXIBILITY IS THE HALLMARK OF GOOD....EVERYTHING.

The way that this has played out in recent years at Bethel is that our worship is shaped around the “core” of **GATHERING, WORD, MEAL, and SENDING**, and there is a lot of variety of what we include or not, in each of those elements from week to week. For instance, the “**gathering** rite” begins as soon as we decide on Sunday morning that we are going to get up and go to worship, and then arrive at our “Gathering Place” and greet one another. Once we come into the sanctuary a gathering rite might include an order for confession and forgiveness or a processional, followed by a gathering hymn, and a sung Kyrie or hymn of praise. Most weeks at Bethel our gathering rite is much simpler than that. Once we are gathered we just stand to sing a hymn and then share in the prayer of the day. Music might be played on the keyboard, the piano or the organ, depending on the style of the song or hymn. As the pastor, I am the one who is specifically charged with care over how the **WORD** is proclaimed among us. Most weeks that proclamation means my preaching a sermon, but not always. The **WORD** can be proclaimed through a skit, a testimony, or special music. Even though preaching is my great privilege and joy, it doesn’t always have to be me doing it. That’s why I never announce in advance whether the proclamation for any given Sunday is going to be from a different preacher or in a different style or format. It shouldn’t make any difference as to who or how the **WORD** is proclaimed, as long as it is proclaimed. Likewise, the celebration of the **meal** of Holy Communion can be simple or elaborate depending on the occasion and the season. And finally the words “Go and peace, Serve the Lord” tell us that we are **sent** back into the communities where we live our daily lives to continue the “service” in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. What a privilege it is to do that together!

Pastor Krebill

Church Council NEWS

FROM THE CONGREGATION PRESIDENT

One of the challenges of serving a congregation getting ready to celebrate its 70th anniversary is maintaining buildings and infrastructure that have been here 50 years and longer. Many thanks to Bob Minut for all that he and others do to address the many needs of maintaining our buildings and property on a daily basis. Now I want to update you about two recent infrastructure issues:

PARKING LOT AND LIGHTING CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

It has been one year since we replaced our parking lot and I think we can all agree that the new layout and design is a wonderful addition to our church property. The total cost of this project including capital campaign expenses was approximately **\$289,000**. In the first year since the parking lot installation, we have paid more than **\$100,000** toward the retirement of these expenses. We have been able to make extra principal payments in many if not all of the last several months. Thank you for your financial support of this need. At the same time, we should note that there is a deficit between our regular giving and expenses at the beginning of August of approximately \$16,000. Please remember that we need to keep supporting our regular budget and expenses, and thank you again for your support.

SANCTUARY HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING

Earlier in the year our contractor informed us that the heating and air conditioning unit in our sanctuary, which is over 50 years old, is failing and needs replacement. The council sought input from two contractors about this issue, and in June we met with representatives of Strongsville Heating and Colling who have serviced our buildings for many years. They gave us the information we needed to move forward to the best solution to the problem. After a lot of information and deliberation, the council has decided to replace our old sanctuary unit with a new forced air heating and air conditioning system which will be relocated from the "pit" underneath the sacristy, to an area outside the church near the choir room entrance where we currently already have air conditioner condensers. This replacement will cost approximately **\$40,000**.

Because council came to the congregation last year requesting significant funds to construct a new parking lot and sanctuary lighting, we chose not to ask for additional funds or a new loan at this time. Instead we have chosen to take dollars from several existing special funds including Memorial, Thrivent Choice, Building & Remodeling and Gather Us In. If individuals wish to make a contribution to lessen our need to take from these special funds it would be appreciated.

A more precise accounting will be made available at our annual congregational meeting in November along with what dollars will still be in each of the special funds.

Construction will begin in September or October. If you have questions, comments or concerns please speak with me or any member of council.

Fred Sauvey



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Faithful living, joyful serving
is our mission and our call.
See the change God's grace is bringing
as we share Christ's love with all.
Freed by grace to witness boldly
is our duty and delight.
We thank God by loving others,
freed from sin and death through Christ.

Jesus showered great compassion
on the sick, unloved, and poor.
Still he offers consolation
to the ones whose hearts are pure.
We are members of Christ's body,
working in society.
As his Church, we strive for justice,
honor all humanity.

Blind to race and class and label,
Jesus acted with respect,
never shunning those disabled
with indifference or neglect.
Bias and discrimination
face and taunt us ev'ry day.
May our Savior's acts of kindness
show in all we do and say.

Reconciling and transforming
is the love that Jesus gave.
We are agents of his caring
for the world he died to save.
God is working in us, through us
when our faith directs our deeds.
We profess to follow Jesus
when we meet his people's needs.

When the call for help is urgent,
when the cry is, "Send relief!"
we are ready; God goes with us,
giving hope, assuaging grief.
Where disasters strike God's children,
that is where the church will be.
We can almost hear Christ saying,
"You have done it unto me."

Looking after God's creation,
is our charge, explicitly.
Ev'ry resource Earth provides us
must be guarded carefully.
Clean, fresh air and clear, pure water,
uncontaminated seas,
thriving forests, verdant land are
our responsibilities.

Joined in prayer with other Christians,
we are one in faith and life,
seeking ways to dwell together,
free from rivalry and strife.
Evangelical, our title,
ecumenical, our claim.
We commit to unity with
those who bear our Savior's name.

Worship is our faith-life's center
as we meet 'round means of grace.
In God's word, we're fed and nurtured;
at Christ's meal, forgiv'n, embraced.
All that God has undertaken
rightly merits greatest praise.
Blessed to serve, we go in peace to
serve the Lord for all our days.

written by **Jayne Cool**



BETHEL RECEIVES GIFT AS CAMP MOWANA ENDS MINISTRY

At the end of the Camp Mowana closing celebration weekend August 9 and 10, the cross and arrowhead that hung on the wall in Oswego Lodge for 63 years was presented to Pastor Krebill as a gift to Bethel Lutheran Church in thanksgiving for our years of support of camping ministry at Mowana and in honor of Pastor's years of volunteer service there. He was completely unaware that this was going to happen and did his best when he was asked to publicly respond to the gift at the closing celebration. As we go to press plans are underway to install the cross in a suitable location in the sanctuary. An announcement will be made as soon as the installation is complete. We are thankful for this kind gift and powerful symbol of God's love in Christ and the ministry that was Camp Mowana.



Happy Birthday, Thinking of You . . .

Every year since 2016, Bethel's Adopt-a-Member ministry has celebrated and comforted congregation members and others with greeting cards. Over the past twelve months, we have sent:

- about 300 birthday and 40 anniversary cards
- dozens of get-well, thinking-of-you, sympathy, and encouragement cards for those who are homebound, on the prayer list, receiving Pastoral care, in nursing homes, sick, hospitalized, in rehab, bereaving, etc.
- holiday and congratulations cards, and for other occasions as they occur
- keeping-in-touch cards for those in the military or in college
- Bethel visitors



Current team members are Jayne Cool, Kathy Maszczyński, Sandra Matlack, Jan Stanislav, and Ray Herzog. Our card ministry exemplifies Bethel's mission: "We share Christ's love and forgiveness by being Christ's hands, feet, arms, and voice as we gather and as we scatter."

We welcome your help with our ministry -- from your home (no committee meetings), with cards and postage stamps provided to you (free). By mailing a card, you are sending a small part of yourself, a way to go somewhere moving only your heart. And for the person receiving the card, nothing feels so inspiring as knowing that someone, somewhere, is thinking about them.

To help with this easy and self-rewarding act of kindness, see me after any Sunday service or call me (216-433-4396). I'll bring cards and stamps for you on the next Sunday, or mail a few to you.

Thanks . . . Ray Herzog, Ministry Leader



REDEEMER CRISIS CENTER “SOCKS FOR THE FLOCKS”

December Collection

"How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" (Romans 10:15)

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON!!



The Middleburg Heights Food Pantry is looking forward to the splendor of fall leaves. The pantry is in NEED of sugar, flour, cake mixes, condiments and canned fruit. Thank you for your continued support!



Birthdays and Anniversaries

2	Michael Salem
2	Sy & Kathy Maszczyński
4	Ed Harbart
6	Mary Stiene
6	Donnette Ipsaro
6	John and Bev Riehl
7	Gerald Neumann
9	Bob Pickens
10	Maria Salmen
12	Ron Zelina
12	Nancy Kuder
12	Gary & Lauren Einheit
13	Danny Kilkenny
13	Fred & Anita Holtz
14	Hannah Zwolenik
16	Sharon Vasil
17	Marilyn Brown
18	Ardane Ross
19	Jim Bondor
19	Konrad & Giesela Stiene
21	Ian Rescola
22	Laura Zwolenik
22	Beth Strobel
24	Karl Yanuzzi
24	Nate Haskell
25	Ed Salem
26	Jane Salem
26	Gail Gold
26	Kayla Geraci
26	Bradshaw & Becky Johnson Rescola
27	Beatrice Hovanec

September 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
1 Worship 9:45am	2  Church Office Closed	3 MEEC Parent Night 7PM Al-Anon 8pm	4	5 Al-Anon 10am	6 AA 8:00pm	7 Men's Bible study 8am
8 LIFE Together Class Resumes 9:00 am Worship 9:45am Adult Bible Study 8:30 & 11:30am	9 MEEC In-service Day "Romans: Living Faithfully" Adult Bible Class Starts 7PM	10 MEEC's 1st Day Back to School Lectionary Bible study 10am Men's Lunch 11:30 am Council Mtg 7pm Al-Anon 8pm	11 Patriot Day Men's Lunch 11:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM	12 Al-Anon 10am Road to Emmaus Bible Study 11:30am GFF Resumes weekly schedule 7PM	13 AA 8:00pm	14 Men's Bible study 8am
15 LIFE Together 9am Worship 9:45am Adult Bible Study 8:30 & 11:30am	16 "Romans: Living Faithfully" Adult Bible Class 7PM	17 Lectionary Bible study 10am Ladies Lunch 11:30 am Al-Anon 8pm	18 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM	19 Al-Anon 10am Road to Emmaus Bible Study 11:30am GFF 7PM	20 AA 8:00pm	21 Men's Bible study 8am
22 LIFE Together 9am Worship 9:45am Adult Bible Study 8:30 & 11:30am 29 LIFE Together 9am Worship 9:45am Adult Bible Study 8:30 & 11:30am	23 Autumn begins "Romans: Living Faithfully" Adult Bible Class 7PM 30 "Romans: Living Faithfully" Adult Bible Class 7PM	24 Lectionary Bible study 10am Al-Anon 8pm	25 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM	26 Al-Anon 10 am Road to Emmaus Bible Study 11:30am GFF - Birthday Dinner with Fashion Show 7PM	27 AA 8:00pm	28 Men's Bible study 8am

