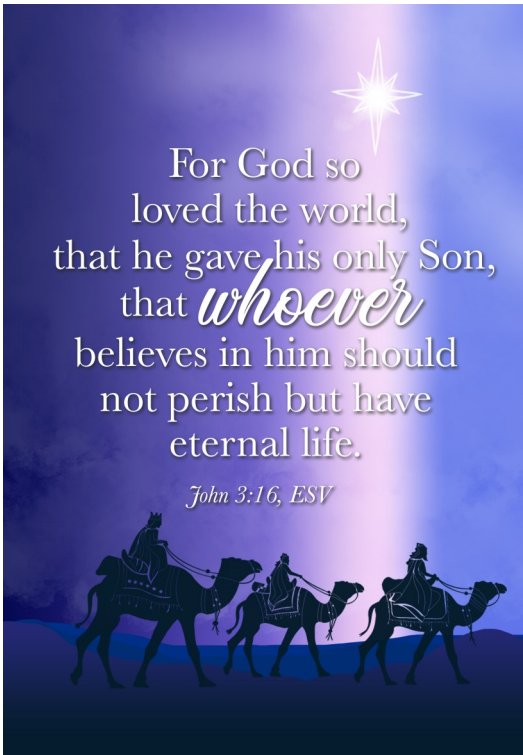


Celebrating 135 Years of Making Jesus Known

THE BETHEL NEWS



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<u>SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE</u>	
10:30	Inside w/communion (and streamed on FaceBook)
9:15	Children & Adult Sunday School





Pastor's Page

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ!

We are getting closer to the end of our series on the Augsburg Confession. We took a break last month for the Christmas holidays. The Lutheran Church is a teaching and confessing church that centers itself around the Word of the gospel of Jesus Christ and the Sacraments. Each month we are going through The Augsburg Confession which is the summary of our beliefs and what we have in common with the whole Christian church. This month we will look at the Twelfth article.

“Concerning repentance it is taught that those who have sinned after baptism obtain forgiveness of sins whenever they come to repentance and that absolution should not be denied them by the church. Noe properly speaking, true repentance is nothing else than to have contrition and sorrow, or terror about sin and yet at the same time to believe in the gospel and absolution that sin is forgiven and grace is obtained through Christ. Such faith, in turn, comforts the heart and puts it at peace. The improvement should also follow, and a person should refrain from sins. For these should be the fruits of repentance, as John say sin Matt 3:8 “Bear fruits worthy of repentance.

Wengert says this gets to the heart and initial cause of the Reformation: The sacrament of penance and the role of works in merit in forgiveness of sins. The gospel message of the Reformation was that you do not have to pay indulgences or work your way into God’s good graces and salvation. God’s love and salvation is a gift for you. No strings attached. Repentance was not a work but a description of the Christian life. As Luther posted in his 95 thesis: “When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, ‘Repent,’ he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.” We daily confess our sins and return to our baptism. Wengert concludes this article offers a practical application of the fourth and fifth article. Theology dare never reduce the doctrine of justification by grace through faith on account of Christ effected through the gospel to mere theory. Christians experience justification in real life. Wengert tells the story about a person who was dying who was unsure if they had done enough. “Have I done enough? This question haunts all who have, one way or another, heard law and little or no gospel in their lives. Oppressive piety coupled with bad preaching concocts a nasty brew, extinguishing faith and making one’s last days a living hell but also ruining all the days up into the last, as the needs to satisfy the law extinguishes the joy of the gospel. The only antidote for such terror-is the good news of the gospel. Our God does not simply judge and forgives but also lifts you up to heaven; does not simply put to death and crush the old creature but brings to life the New creation. Return to God’s promise! Return to Baptism! You are a loved, forgiven Child of God!

Whenever there is uncertainty about one’s relation to God exists, there the law and gospel work to destroy trust in ourselves by telling the truth about the human condition and create faith in Christ as the savior of the world by telling the truth about God’s unconditional mercy. That’s the good news for you!

Pastor Richard

If anyone is in *Christ*
he is a new creation. 



On Going Prayers including occasional homebound folks

Deanna Brannigan	Johnny Conti
Peggy Shaw	Lynn Henry
Janet Phelps	Audrey Wylie
Nancy Kissel	Linda Martin
Eleanor Laise	Cora Dixon
Arlene McAtee	Sharon Chase
Berta McGuire	John Beggs
Barney Davidson	Janice John
Teresa Krasinski	Joyce Fowler
Ron Kinnick	Doris Gluck
Alice Ogden	Joe DeArcangelis
Debbie Wilson	JJ&Helen LoSasso
Lou& Ruth Schenker	Elva Evans
Nicole Gettman Wells	Marie Klase

A Look at our Loyalty

The Church is a gift...assembly required.

General Operations Fund

To cover our 2024 approved budget, We need to bring in \$23,484 per month to our general fund.

Total received in November \$16,624.00

Capital Improvement Fund

Total received in November \$690.00

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS



Dear Members:



Contact for our e-mail for the Prayer chain is Nancy Kuivila. Her email is nkuivila@zoominternet.net

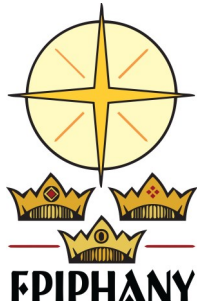
If you would like to be a part of the e-mail prayer chain, contact Nancy. ~Thank you Nancy!!~

If you would like an annual contribution statement, you must contact Beth Applegate either by putting your name on the sign up sheet in the Narthex, or by calling the church office. These statements will be available by the end of January to pick up at the church. If you would prefer yours to be mailed, please let us know at the time of your call and we will get it mailed out to you. There will also be a sign up sheet in the Narthex for you to request a statement as well.

Thank you!

Beth Applegate

NOTES TO THE CONGREGATION:



Deaths in Our Church Family

Barbara Mauch went home to be with our Lord on December 16th. Her funeral was held at Davis-Becker Funeral Home on December 22nd.



The church office will be closed from December 25th until January 2nd 2024. If you have an emergency, please contact Pastor Richard on his cell phone.



If you have **Altar Flowers** or a **Candle**: Please pay when you reserve your flower date. Make checks payable to the church **\$25.00** for flowers and \$8.00 for a candle, and mail to the church or put in the offering plate.
 If you have a **date** you want, let Susan know 330-758-4283
Thanks, Altar Flower Committee

2024 Church Council

President:	Tom Peterson
Vice President:	Gary Wollet
Secretary:	Linda Titus
Christian Ed:	Erin Conway
Communications:	Shelia Kidd
Finance:	Ed Rusinowski
Parish Life:	Candy Rusinowski
Property:	John Smiley
Outreach:	Karen Protzman
Worship:	Karen Marchese



Thanks from the staff!

The staff wishes to thank the congregation for the generous Christmas Purse. We love our congregation and are very appreciative of your gifts.
 God Bless all of you . May you be blessed with joy, love, and peace in the New Year.
 Georgette Kollay, Beth Applegate, Debbie Carrocce, Alison Morris, Marc Pupino, Jon Johnson, and Pastor Richard.

All Council Committee Meetings: If you would like to attend a Committee Meeting, please contact the Chair person of that committee to find out when that committee meets. All committee members and associate members should attend monthly meetings.
Church Council Meeting on the 3rd Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. each month unless notified of changes. All council members should attend monthly meetings.
Mickey Schuster Meeting will be as meetings are scheduled.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



- 1 Margaret Gibson
- 3 James Kwicccien, Koltin (Applegate) Rust
- 6 Mason Rassega, Andy Ragan
- 8 Mary Fabis
- 12 Ronald Liga
- 14 Maria Bachinger, Krista Sapp, Joyce Fowler
- 18 Kelly Swanson, Tina Selner-Sawtelle
- 19 Elliot Rusinowski
- 20 George Remis
- 21 Faith Morlan
- 22 Jan Anderson, Gianna DeNiro, Fern Kelly, Carmine LoSasso/Maggini
- 26 Banbi Liham
- 27 Ella Tallman, Joan Johnson, Marie Klase
- 29 Scott Adair, David Neuberger



24 Dave & Barb Buker

MISSION OF THE MONTH
FOR
JANUARY IS
PROTESTANT FAMILY SERVICES



Let the office know of any changes,
corrections or additions,
or if celebrating a
“milestone” birthday or anniversary.
Thank you!

ADDITIONAL NOTES TO THE CONGREGATION:

To My Bethel Friends,

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your prayers, generosity, and kindness that you showed to me through my surgery and recuperation. Thank you for the gift of money that I will put towards making my home more accessible for me. I love and appreciate you all.

Georgette Kollay



Beginning in February, we will host a monthly fellowship opportunity after the worship service. This is to celebrate the monthly birthdays and anniversaries. This will be held on the last Sunday of the month. February's date is the 25th. We will have refreshments and finger foods to share each month.

We are looking forward to fellowship with you!



All of the special Christmas music, including the Cantata that was held on December 17th, was gratefully provided by the Margit Zielke Memorial Fund.

Thank you to the Zielke family!