

Celebrating 135 Years of Making Jesus Known

THE BETHEL NEWS



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SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

10:30 Inside w/communion
(and streamed on FaceBook)

Children's Choir and Sunday School will
resume September 24th!!

The annual Bethel church picnic will be on August 27th at Boardman Park in the Master's Pavilion! Come at 9:00 a.m. for coffee, donuts, and fellowship, followed by worship at 10:00 and picnic after the service. Bring a covered dish to share. Hamburgers, hot dogs, as well as utensils and paper plates will be provided!



Pastor's Page

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

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 Eighth Article on the Church.

“Likewise, although the Christian church is, properly speaking nothing else than the assembly of all believers and saints, yet because in this life many false Christians, hypocrites, and even public sinners remain among the righteous, the sacraments—even though administered by unrighteous priests—are efficacious all the same. For as Christ himself indicates (Matt 23:2-3); “The Scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat....” Condemned, therefore, are the Donatists and all others who hold a different view.”

Who were the Donatists? They were a sectarian group from North Africa in the fourth and fifth century that believed Clergy must be perfect for their ministry to be effective and their prayers and sacraments to be valid. This became a concern after the Great persecution of the Church by priests that compromised with Rome but later repented and came back to the faith and the Donatists believed their ministry was no longer valid. Luther and the reformers also dealt with those who came out of the Roman church and taught that their sacraments of baptism were no longer valid which is a form of Donatism. We have groups today that think you must be baptized or take Communion only at their church to be a true Christian, and that position puts the emphasis on the person instead of God’s promise and word. The shocking truth is both the sacraments, and the word are efficacious because of the ordinance and command of Christ, even offered by sinful people. Have you ever heard people boast of their good deeds and righteousness? The religious leaders in Jesus’ day were notorious of making people know all about them and this happens even today. The good news is that God’s gift of Word and Sacrament is not dependent on them and even on me. God’s word of promise does it all! It is all God’s work!

“One of the last vestiges of a puritanical view of ministry rests with the preachers and pastors themselves, who in the pulpit sometimes worry over their own failings and weaknesses and unbelief and who go to great lengths to cover them up. But the Word efficacy does not depend on how clever our words or how deep our faith. Instead, the Holy Spirit takes our words—despite all their weakness—and speaks the Word in the hearers’ hearts... What is the attraction of insisting on a pure, holy clergy? It springs from the old creature’s insistence that it alone is in charge, able to judge right from wrong, and fully capable of producing a holy life.”—Timothy Wengert

Nikolai Groundtvig, Danish Lutheran who wrote the hymn “Built on a Rock, the Church now Stands” outlines what the Church should be focused on. Not the clergy perfection or our own but the Church on the Rock, Christ. Pointing away from ourselves to the merciful Christ and his Word and sacraments at the center of our assemblies and leading believers back to the Rock, Christ alone who stands with us forever. Amen.

*The Augsburg Confession: Renewing Lutheran Faith and Practice by Timothy Wengert Chapter 8



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	John Smiley
Ron Kinnick	Joyce Fowler
Alice Ogden	Doris Gluck
Debbie Wilson	Neil Gaines
Lou & Ruth Schenker	Joe DeArcangelis

A Look at our Loyalty

The Church is a gift...assembly required.

General Operations Fund

To cover our 2023 approved budget, We need to bring in \$22,914.00 per month to our general fund.

Total received in May \$16,975.00

Capital Improvement Fund

Total received in May \$1,460.00



Where women find shelter in God.



All women are invited to join us September 16th & 17th for our annual women's retreat at Camp Frederick in Rogers, Ohio. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday and the program begins at 10:00 a.m. Lunch is included! Cost is \$30.00. You can choose to spend the night and be there for our beautiful outdoor service at 10:00 on Sunday morning, or leave and come back on Sunday morning! Please see Rhonda Klase or Beth Applegate for more information. **Tickets go on sale soon!**

Dear Members:



Contact for our e-mail for the **Prayer chain** is Nancy Kuivila. Her email is nkuivila41@gmail.com If you would like to be a part of the e-mail prayer chain, contact Nancy. ~Thank you Nancy!!~



NOTES TO THE CONGREGATION:

HELP NEEDED:

Two Council Positions for 2023

- Finance Committee Chair
- Membership Committee Chair

Please Contact: Pastor Richard, Bill Conkey, Sue Mallery if you would be interested in filling these positions.

In addition, we need help one Sunday Morning a month after worship service to count the offerings. If you can help with this, please contact Bill Conkey at 330-727-0398. Thank you!!



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 330-360-4537
Thanks, Altar Flower Committee

2023 Church Council

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



Sunday School begins Sunday, September 24th! All kids are invited! We will also begin Children's Choir! We are looking forward to planning our Christmas Program with our children's music ministry! We are showcasing a brand new curriculum that we are very excited about!

Adult Bible Study will begin the same Sunday from 9:15-10:15!

Bethel's Christian Education Team can't wait to welcome you all back for another great year!

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 Tuesday 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



August
BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Diane Scacchetti
- 4 Donna Gbur
- 6 Eleanora Applegate
- 7 Mary Ann Wollet
- 8 Mary Burkey
- 9 Kari Harris
- 10 Sara Adair, Donato Nerone, John Smiley
- 11 Billy Shanabarger
- 14 Lou Schenker
- 15 Elijah Rusinowski, Virginia Mannion
- 17 Michael Applegate
- 18 John Klamer, Mary Kay Karsti
- 23 Kaitlin Applegate, Bill Lambert
- 24 Alice Ogden
- 26 Tony DeMartino, Alana Anderson, Ruth Schenker
- 27 Roy Lowe
- 28 Johnny Conti
- 29 Daryn Tallman
- 31 Ed Rusinowski



August
ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Alfred & Diana Thompson, Michael & Debra Gleydura
- 8 Roy & Beth Lowe
- 14 Bob & Tina Dunn
- 31 Ron & Jane Midgley

MISSION OF THE MONTH
FOR
AUGUST IS
RESCUE MISSION



Let the office know of any changes, corrections or additions, or if celebrating a "milestone" birthday or anniversary.

Mark your calendars!! The annual Bethel church picnic will be on August 27th at Boardman Park! Come at 9:00 a.m. for coffee and fellowship, followed by worship at 10:00 and picnic after the service. Bring a covered dish to share. Hamburgers, hot dogs, as well as utensils and paper plates will be provided! More details to follow!