

Bethany Herald

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
NAPERVILLE



Christmas Edition 2017

Welcome to Bethany! We are honored that you are with us this Christmas season. If you are visiting Bethany, please stop by our Welcome Center for information about Bethany and a gift. Also, please sign one of our visitor cards found in your pew. Today we worship Jesus. Our Savior is born. He is God-with-us, born to save us. Week in and week out, we all need the gift of Jesus. We invite you to join with us every week to share the joy of Christ.

Christmas All Year Round By Pastor Schumacher

You often hear the thought that it would be nice if it could be Christmas all year round. But what is meant by this thought is not really possible. We can't continue to celebrate with family members who live in distant cities and most of us have jobs or other vocations to tend to during the year. It is just not possible to have the fun and festivities of Christmas all year round.

Then again, in the best sense of Christmas, it is possible to celebrate Christmas all year round. If we view Christmas as part of God's promised salvation, then indeed we do have Christmas all year round at Bethany. For each and every Sunday, we confess in the Creed the Incarnation of our Lord. We have the Old Testament lesson every Sunday that shows God promising to send a Savior. Every Epistle and Gospel lesson is predicated on the fact that Jesus is true God and true Man, born of the Virgin Mary. And we receive the blessing of forgiveness of sins in baptism and the Lord's Supper. It is the same Jesus, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, who gives His salvation in the sacraments.

In the Bible, Christmas is not cordoned off from the rest of Christ's ministry. It is not cordoned off from the rest of the Bible. Christmas is about God keeping His promise of salvation first given to Adam and Eve after the Fall. Therefore Christmas has to be connected to the ministry of Jesus and His death, resurrection, and ascension. And our celebration of Christmas is connected to our certain hope that He will come again. When we remember God's gracious plan of salvation, Christmas is all year round.

In Jesus and His salvation we have the greatest and most lasting gift. He promises to be present where two or three are gathered in His name. The Jesus of Christmas, Good Friday, Easter, and Ascension is with us in the Divine Service. So be here every week to receive Him and His gifts given freely to you. Every week, gather with brothers and sisters who need the same Jesus. Every week, gather to sing His praises with the whole range of hymns.

The joy of Christmas is year round in Jesus. For unto us is born a Savior; unto us the benefits of His cross are given; unto us is given the sure hope by His resurrection; unto us is given the eager anticipation of His return. We have Jesus; we have Christmas.

In Our Prayers (as of 12/20/17)

All of our Members, especially:

Dudley Lusk, ill health; **Esther Mosher**, ill health; **Mike Westpfahl**, recovery from foot surgery. *Please renew/update prayer requests after one month*

All of our Family Members & Friends, especially:

Raymie Centell, (cousin of Amy Schumacher) breast cancer; **David Hildahl**, (brother of Amy Schumacher) eye problems; **Imelda**, (friend of Maria Simpson) guidance during family crisis; **Julia**, (friend of Amy Schumacher) diagnosed with breast cancer; **Valerie Kincaid**, (friend of Sally Wilson) continued improvement after stem cell transplant; **Deb Strand**, (friend of Maria Simpson) effective healing and peace during chemo treatments. *(please renew/update prayer requests after two weeks)*

Prayers that the Lord be with **Peter Johnson** as he continues to serve in the Air Force. Prayers for **Shalyn Martinek** as she continues to serve in the Marines and **Matthew Hinze** and **Michael Hinze** as they continue to serve in the U.S. Army.

For **Laurie Cade and family** at the death of her mother, Charlette Beutler on December 16, and for the **family of Laverne Colver** (friend of Sally Wilson) who passed away on Tuesday.

Bethany's Prayer Chain

We have a prayer chain! Please call Ina Johnson (630-369-6074) or email at muttiina@gmail.com with your prayer request.)

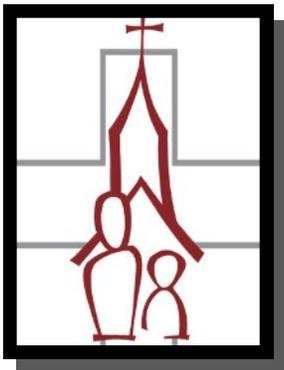
Chancel Flowers

Chancel flowers for this weekend are placed by the **Walsh Family** for Mike and Kaylyn's birthdays.

To Those Who Ordered Poinsettias

A sincere thank you to the many members who purchased poinsettias to beautify our sanctuary for Christmas: Tim and Diane Benecke, Dave Bodenstab, Loren and Jane Buntrock, Christensen Family, Franken Family, Elaine Gavin, Cheryl Groth, Chuck and Diane Guebert, Hahn Family, Jablonsky Family, Kolzow Family, Jean Martinek, Barb McKissick, Mullany Family, Martha Psaromatis-Stark, Splitt Family, Rich and Debbie Tatara, Taylor Family, Walsh Family.

Interested in joining Bethany or learning more about us?



At Bethany, we join in the confession of the Christian Church that's been given since the earliest centuries. As Paul proclaimed, "We preach Christ crucified" (1 Cor. 1:23)—and that's the basis of our confession today. Jesus Christ was crucified for sinners who need a Savior. Our faith, worship, and day-to-day lives flow from that basic and wonderful confession.

If you would be interested in joining Bethany or just learning more about the Faith we confess, join our Adult Instruction class! This class helps answer the question, "What do Lutherans believe?" The class will meet Sundays at 10:00 AM in the conference room of the Harris Wing, beginning January 14.

For more information, contact the church office or speak to one of our pastors!

Bethany News

An Invitation from.....

The Benecke's, Ferchen's and Lohrentz's invite you to a presentation by staff and clients of Lutheran Child and Family Services of Illinois (LCFS). These Bethany couples and other Bethany members have become acquainted with the great, and often unrecognized work LCFS is doing among us. So they want to bring this story of Christ-based love for our fellow man as it is delivered on our behalf to children and families of Illinois.

LCFS will be presenting in the gym at 10 a.m. on Sunday, December 31, 2017. There is no Adult Bible Study scheduled that day. This is not a fundraiser. The objective is to raise awareness of the wonderful work LCFS has been and continues to do on behalf of us Lutherans.

It's Time to Defend Our League Championship!

Bethany is again forming a women's volleyball team (high school and up) to play in the Lutheran Athletic Association of Greater Chicago League. The season is January 7-March 11. Games are on Sunday afternoons and are played at the various churches in the league. For more information and to express interest in joining, please contact Kari Janetzke at kjanetzke@bethanylcs.org.

Plans to Begin Military Care Group

Some of our members are interested in starting a Military care Group as an offshoot of our College Parent Care Group. If you are interested in getting involved, let the church office know or watch for more information in the new year.

Texas Work Group Mission Departs December 30!

The mission trip to Southeast Texas to rebuild homes damaged by Hurricane Harvey has achieved its goal thanks to your generous contributions through the December 3 Wine & Cheese Auction at the DuPage Children's Museum, your purchase of Pancake Café pancake coupons and your support through envelope

donations earmarked for this mission. The Texas mission trip is planned for Saturday, December 30 through Saturday, January 6. We currently have all 20 slots filled with Bethany members who will help install drywall in homes ravaged by the hurricane. We thank the following member for participating:

Rebekah Balla, David, Gretchen, Madalyn, Isabel, Allison Brouch, Rev. Seth Clemmer, Grace D'Amico, Dave and Sue Dumford, Don Hinze, Barrett Bailey, Jonathan Hynes, Chris Johnson, Tye Fox, Dominic Salvino, Rich Tatara, Rich, Kris and Erika Ford.

Additional Portrait Sessions Available in January

If you still need a picture taken for inclusion in the pictorial directory, Lifetouch is returning to Bethany on Friday, January 19 and Saturday, January 20. Online registration is now active, so click on the link located on Bethany's website and select your date and time. Sessions are available between 2 and 9 p.m. on Friday and between 10 and 4 p.m. on Saturday. These will be the last two dates of photo sessions. If neither of these dates are convenient for you, you may contact Lifetouch to find other possible dates being offered in the area. Don't worry if you can't schedule a portrait for this Edition; Lifetouch will be returning to Bethany this summer for additional date(s). Once those sessions are complete, a Fall 2018 Edition of the pictorial directory will be finalized and printed, and everyone who has a picture in the directory (existing and new) will receive a copy of the updated edition!

Pictorial Directory Status

The Winter 2018 Edition of Bethany Pictorial Directory will be finalized after the January sessions at Bethany.

Printing will occur in early February 2018. Currently, we have over 140 portraits that will be included in the directory. The "Winter 2018 Edition" is the first of many now that Bethany is participating in Lifetouch's "Community Connect" program.

Day School

“Always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect. 1 Peter 3:15.

The Role of Our School

We are committed to connecting children to Christ and keeping them connected to Him through education, and so we operate a Pre-K through 8th grade school. Our school is a major priority for us, along with preaching and teaching the Word in our regular services.

Bethany Lutheran School and the School Office is closed from December 22 through January 7 for Christmas break. School will resume on Monday, January 8.

What an amazing gift our school is to our students, families, and staff. As a church and school, we have an awesome responsibility to share the news of the greatest gifts, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, with these precious children and their families. We are daily reminded of the importance of our vocation as we see the wonderment of the students at hearing the Good News shared during our religion classes, chapel, and daily classes and activities.



Band 4th Graders

Given that this is such an important task, we must be diligent in making sure that we are offering the best education to our students.

In an effort to reach this goal, we are voluntarily accredited by the National Lutheran School Association (NLSA). To maintain this accreditation, we must go through a rigorous process every five years. Next year, 2018, is our accreditation year. As a church and school staff, we have begun to prepare for the NLSA visit in April. This preparation will take many volunteers and many hours to discuss, locate, organize, and assemble the required documentation for the accreditation team. We look forward to the opportunity to review our policies and procedures and begin to make changes where necessary.



Walcamp

As a staff, we take this responsibility very seriously and will put in the time necessary.

While preparing for our NLSA visit, we are also going about our regular school activities for the second half of the year. We have fun field trips planned to Feed My Starving Children, Wau-bonsie Valley High School Planetarium, the Wheaton Academy Musical, Sci-Tech, Cantigny and many others.



2017 Girl's Volleyball

Our bands and choirs will have concerts and assist with church services. Class parties will be enjoyed for Valentine's Day while our Jr. High has their annual Careers and Manners Luncheon at Tamarack Gold Club. In addition to those events, we are also planning for our fifth grade outdoor education week at Walcamp and our eighth grade trip to St. Louis.



3rd Grade Writer's Tea

We culminate the year saying farewell to our eighth graders with graduation on May 25.

Please pray for successful events at our school, continued blessings on our enrolment, and health and safety for our students, staff, and families during this holiday season and throughout the coming year.

Bethany Youth by Pastor Clemmer

Learning to think Biblically as young Christians

In Bethany's youth groups, we rejoice in the Lord's teaching, as He makes young disciples and strengthens the foundations of their faith. Our goal is to partner with parents in equipping our youth for navigating through the world in their relationships, schools, and future vocations.

Looking Back

We had fun in 2017! Thanks to our congregation for all of your support of the youth program! Here's a few of last year's events: March for Life Chicago, Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack, Servant Event at Camp Pioneer New York, Oktoberfest Clean-up crew, Pumpkin Carving Reformation Party, Leaf Raking for members, Christmas Caroling for some of our congregation's shut-ins, Bible Studies, and more! Our program event costs are kept low thanks to funds from our annual fundraiser. This next year, we're taking a break from the Annual Garage Sale, but we'll be replacing it with an Italian Dinner. More details to come—see the "Save the Date" below!



Camp Pioneer



Leaf Raking



Reformation Event

When We Meet?

The **Sr. High Youth** (9th-12th+) meets Sunday morning at 10 a.m. in the Youth Room for Bible study. Also, we try to meet each month (typically on the first Sunday of the month) in the Youth Room from 5-6 p.m. for Bible study, and our fun events and service project happen throughout the month.

The **Jr. High Youth** (6th-8th grade) typically meets on the 3rd Sunday event of each month for Mentor Night with the Sr. High from 4:30-6 p.m. for Bible study and fun.

Weekly updates and reminders are sent out via email. If you'd like to be on our email list, please email jmartinek@bethanylcs.org with your request!

Save the Date

That's Amore!

The Senior High Youth will be serving a romantic dinner on Saturday, February 10th.

****This fundraiser will be in lieu of our annual Garage Sale****

Come and enjoy a delicious Italian Dinner
(Choice of Entrée, Bread, Salad, Desserts and Drinks will be served)

Information regarding reservations and tickets will be coming soon.
Look for more details to come in the Herald and on the website.



Bethany's Music by Cantor Giuliani

Merry Christmas!

It has been a great year for the Music Ministry at Bethany, and I'm excited to tell you all about it!

Calling Our Assistant Cantor, Kevin Zorena

This past summer, we called Kevin Zorena to be our Assistant Cantor. Cantor Zorena primarily leads the school music program, teaching general music and band. He also directs the church handbell and brass ensembles. You probably have also seen him sing and play a variety of instruments during worship services.

The Bach Academy Expands!



In August 2016, we launched our community music school, The J.S. Bach Academy of Music at Bethany Lu-

theran Church and School (aka "The Bach Academy"). In case you'd like more information about this, here's a quick overview:

- * The Bach Academy is a **tremendous outreach opportunity**. Currently there are over 160 students coming to our campus each week for one of The Bach Academy's programs (not counting family and friends who come with them!) This is up from around 90 students one year ago.
- * In addition to the people that physically step foot on our campus, the advertisement that Bethany gets in the community is extensive. Here's just one example: each of our last three Naperville Youth Symphony Orchestra (NYSO) concerts have sold over 600 tickets—most of the people attending these concerts are from the community (although, we hope you will consider joining us too!). In addition to written ads in the concert programs, Bethany is verbally mentioned several times. The quality of this Bach Academy program (NYSO) has spread across the greater Chicago area—we regularly have students signing up to audition, and offers from musicians from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Lyric Orchestra, and multiple university professors, etc. to get involved with the



program by offering their services free of charge. What does this



mean? As **The Bach Academy's reputation grows in our community, so does the name of Bethany Lutheran Church & School**. It means that we are gaining access to people that we ordinarily would not have, and this gives us more opportunity to share the Gospel of Christ.

- * Also, the Bach Academy is our way of **servicing our neighbor** through the gift of music. For millennia, the Church has been the primary institution to develop, teach, and preserve music. The Bach Academy follows this tradition by offering excellent programs in music education to both Bethany and the community.

The Bach Academy benefits our congregation by **giving us (often free!) access to many professional and student musicians**, thereby enhancing our worship services and other musical needs.

The Bach Academy currently has five programs:

- * **Music Lessons** for all ages and on various instruments and voice taught by a distinguished faculty of artist-teachers.
- * **Early Childhood Music Education** for ages birth through four years old.
- * **The Bethany Lutheran Schola Cantorum**, a tuition-free choir which regularly supports the worship at our church. Schola Cantorum currently has three choirs: The Preparatory Choir (grades K-2), the Choristers (Grades 3-8), Young Men and Young Women (boys and girls with mature voices).
- * **The Naperville Youth Symphony Orchestra (NYSO)**, a community orchestra and chamber ensemble program.
- * **The Bach Academy Viols**: A unique period – instrument ensemble of Violas da Gamba led by Baroque expert Dr. Phillip Serna.

If you would like to learn more about what's going on in the Music Ministry, or would like to get involved, please contact me at mgiuliani@bethanylcs.org or stop by and visit!

A View From the Pews

What bible study or activity or group have you been thinking of joining? Make it a priority for 2018! This year we asked those who are actually involved in activities and studies at Bethany what they like about it. Read on and then find a spot. Join us in 2018!

We do like our Bible Studies at Bethany. There are hardly any days of the week where we don't have an organized bible study scheduled. On the days that we don't, you will likely be able to find one of our boards beginning their meeting with a short devotion or study.

Starting with Sunday mornings—we call this our Feature Bible Class. Attendance usually varies from 50 to 90 and we all enjoy coffee and cookies before this study. The pastors alternate teaching duties here and topics vary. You are encouraged to ask questions but you will never be called upon to answer a question so come and learn.



Amy and I have been attending the Sunday Morning Bible Study for years. It is nice to grab a cup of coffee and a cookie, chat with others, then sit down to study the Word of God. It can be inspiring to see so many people learning together.-Troy Darcy

Children's Sunday School runs at the same time as the adult Bible Class. There are classes for children in preschool through grade eight and there is also a separate class for high school students. We have a group of dedicated teachers that love to share the Gospel with our parish children each week.

Children's Sunday School



I have great childhood memories from my Sunday School classes. I enjoyed seeing my friends each week and learning more about Jesus.

What keeps me teaching? The kids! I love watching them grow in Christ! This is my 11th year of teaching Sunday School. I have taught younger children as well as older ones. No matter the age, it is a fulfilling experience.

Through the years, I have built friendships with fellow teachers and parents. It has also helped me continue my personal study of the Bible. The older kids ask challenging questions that keep me on my toes!-Kim Burnell, Grade 5/6 Sunday School Teacher

On the third Tuesday of each month, Theology on Tap meets at Hopvine Brewing Co. at 4030 Fox Valley Center Dr. in Aurora. The size of the group varies for this casual theological conversation/study with Pastor Clemmer which meets from 6:30pm-8:00pm. On a typical evening, the group reads and discusses selections from the writings of Luther and their Biblical foundations. Everyone is welcome - bring a friend!



Theology on Tap is an easy/fun way to dig deeper into the foundation of being a Lutheran with my fellow Bethany members. Pastor Clemmer leads the discussion at a local brewpub... this lends itself to a unique blend of interesting conversation in a relaxed environment with great beer choices. Don't wait for a personal invitation like I did... register online today for next month's Theology on Tap!- Mark Wolfgram

On Wednesday mornings, our Ladies LifeLight group meets from 9 to 11 a.m. in our Harris wing Boardroom. Part of the two-hour study is pastor led each week. There is preparation that needs to be completed outside of class for this in-depth study but new students fit in quickly. The ladies are currently studying Ezra and Nehemiah and are a very welcoming group.



I started the Ladies LifeLight Bible study because I was looking for a Bible study that would help guide my personal, at-home Bible reading. I wanted to regularly read the Bible on my own during the week, but always struggled to know what to read and how to understand it.-Karen Perry, LifeLight Lay Leader/Organizer

The study itself varies each session-sometimes Old Testament, sometimes New Testament-which keeps me interested and challenged. The first hour is just us ladies going through the lesson. Pastor joins us for the second hour and answers all of our questions and makes sure we get the main messages. I learn something each week-sometimes it's a big light bulb"moment for me; other times just a valuable nugget to take away. I thought I would be intimidated starting the class as I'm not a bible scholar and the group had several members that had already been together for years. However, everyone is there to learn and share-not judge. I also appre-

ciate that it's a diverse group of ladies with different backgrounds and experiences to share.

This group of loving sisters in the faith has had a profound impact on me.

I look forward to this study each week and hate to miss it!
-Jody Taylor

We also have a Thursday evening LifeLight class that is open to everyone. It is similar in format to the Ladies class, but with a slower pace. The pastors teach the class every other week here at church and then the group meets offsite the other week.

Judy and I have been participating in Evening LifeLight for about two years and we're now on our fourth study. It's been a very engaging and enjoyable experience; here are some highlights:

The Bible may not be the book that you think it is. We find it intriguing, with fascinating accounts of real, historical characters who have the same flaws and encounter the same challenges that we face today. God uses imperfect people to accomplish his plan, the only exception being, of course, his Son.

Our bi-weekly in-house meetings feature lively discussions among people with varying degrees of biblical experience, and our fellow students have become good friends.

Bethany's pastors have an amazing depth of expertise and experience, including knowledge of the Greek and Hebrew languages; their insights have been invaluable in helping our understanding of challenging texts.

-Rich and Judy Fick

Saturday Morning Men's Bible Breakfast is the name we give to the group that meets on the first and third

Saturday of each month from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. This group of around 15 men is currently studying Luther's Large Catechism with Pastor Schumacher.



I started participating in this study at its outset because the schedule works for me and provides a personalized study of the Word with one of our pastors. Part of what keeps me going in the group is the chance to meet and know members whom I am not familiar with and the chance to meet men who recently joined Bethany. I like hearing and participating in discussion with our members on the issues we are studying and how the members of our group understand what it means to be

a confessional Lutheran Christian. We get a chance to hear and talk about what is going on in all our lives. As a side benefit, we get to know each other on a personal level. We're able to talk about stuff that affects men as individuals, as fathers, as sons, as grandfathers and so forth. I appreciate Pastor letting us get off topic sometimes when we're in a discussion. A current event that is in the news will often pop up during our discussions and we talk about it, often with hilarious commentary.

If you're up early on a Saturday morning, come on over and check us out.-Keith Luhrs

As you have heard, our Day School is our most important mission, after dwelling in the Word and receiving the Sacraments. Here we provide a Christ-based, solid academic education to our parish children and to community children as well. The majority of our staff are commissioned by the LCMS and many have advanced degrees.



My wife and I sometimes reflect on whether we would choose to send our children to Bethany if we had it to do over, particularly around the times that the tuition bills are due and given amazing public options we have in (district)203. The answer always rings true, however, that given the opportunity to have their faith reinforced every school day has been one of the best investments we have made. The foundation and belief in Christ will serve them well in the challenges as well as successes ahead.-Jay and Susan Flood

Maybe you enjoy music and want to get back into singing or playing an instrument for worship. Wednesdays are popular rehearsal days here at Bethany. Here are what we have to offer in the area of music for all ages.

Contact Cantor Giuliani with any music questions.



Our Schola Cantorum, part of the Bach Academy, is open to parish and community children in grades kindergarten through 12 and meets on Wednesday afternoons, starting at 3:30 p.m. Schola Cantorum is considered a choir school and the students will learn and progress through levels of achievement—Preparatory (K-2),

Choristers (3rd+), Young men and young women (mature boys and girls voices).

My daughter, Sophia, joined Schola because she loves to sing and be with her friends. They have so much fun with Cantor Giuliani, I don't think his students realize how hard they are working or how much they are learning. And of course, I love that Sophia has learned so much of our rich Lutheran & Christian hymnody! I am so glad that Cantor has begun the transitional choirs of "Young Men & Women" so she can continue to participate in the years ahead.-Suzanne Teske

 **Praises Ring! is the name of our handbell choir** that meets on Wednesdays from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. They play in church about twice a month. They periodically run classes for novices so watch for details or contact Assistant Cantor Kevin Zorena if you would like to join this group.

I joined Praises Ring 7 years ago when I was a new stay at home mom, as a way to get out of the house, meet new people, and use my brain a bit! I was a pretty nervous as I hadn't played any instrument since high school band and had never played a handbell, but everyone was very inviting and encouraging. Rehearsals quickly turned into something I very much looked forward to every week!

Years later I still look forward to our weekly rehearsals, but now it's more of a time to clear my head of my to-do lists and busyness of everyday life for an hour. I can just focus on creating beautiful music for the Lord (and try to figure out how to hold all of my bells without dropping them). :)

I have made some great friendships with other ringers over the years and I love that my children have taken more of an interest in making music and can recognize some of the hymns we play. Praises Ring has really been a blessing for me.-Kristin Wolfgram

 **We call our adult choir Proclaim** and they meet on Wednesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. Our Festival Choir forms for special services so if your schedule is tight, consider joining Proclaim just before Christmas or Easter. Proclaim sings about 3-4 times per month.

 Our music program includes **Subcantors** that assist with liturgy. Vocalists and Instrumentalists fill out our musical roster throughout the year. They may perform as soloists or might enhance our worship by

accompanying other groups. If you are interested in this opportunity, contact Cantor Giuliani or Assistant Cantor Zorena.

Bethany is also home to the Bach Academy which is described in detail on page 6.

We wanted Paul to join NYSO to give him the opportunity to have musical experiences outside of his high school band program. His time with this ensemble has taught him to be more responsible, reliable, and dedicated. NYSO also provides the opportunity for Paul to have relationships with fellow musicians of similar caliber. Paul will most likely continue with NYSO so that his musical talents can be further developed.-Carmen Kelly, parent of NYSO student.

The Bethany Youth Program provides opportunities for bible study and fun for those in grades six through 12. See page 5 for a rundown of this past years events and a look at 2018.

Bethany's youth group typically meets every other Sunday evening, and is a place for high school students who go to Bethany to meet together and do Bible study, service events, or hang out. I started coming to youth after our Higher Things trip to Colorado in 2016 and I've made a lot of really good friends because of it! Having this time with Pastor Clemmer and the other high school students at Bethany has really helped me to become more sure of my faith and find a good group of people who share my beliefs.-Kaylyn Walsh

But wait, there is so much more to do at Bethany. Some of our groups meet just to have fun or share a special interest. All of our groups welcome new participants. How about looking into...

Cheers is the name we have given our new group that is all about setting up fun events for our adult members. We eventually hope that, if you show up enough, everyone will know your name. Our first event is bowling at Bowlero in Naperville on Saturday, January 20. We are also trying to get tickets to "Hamilton" (sign up on the tower if you're interested) and organize a progressive dinner this spring.

The premise of starting the Cheers group was to create a way to build deeper friendships and camaraderie among the members of Bethany. We felt that meeting fellow members at church/school is a good start, but meeting outside church/school will help create additional memories



and friendships that will grow and strengthen. It also will help to get to know each other on a more personal level. The "why" from above has already made an incredible impact for me. Just planning the events for this newly formed group has helped me meet with other members of Bethany that I probably would never have gotten to know. There are already four members who I would say "hi" to at church, that we now stop and really "talk" to each other. We really have great people at Bethany!

I not only look forward to worshipping at Bethany, I look forward to seeing my friends. It's great to share interests and create new experiences with newly-found friends. These are friends that were sitting and worshipping with me that I never realized I had. All I had to do was invest some time on showing up at things that I enjoy doing anyway, and we are just in the planning stage! I CAN'T WAIT until our first event, bowling, to be with good friends that I never knew I had! Sharing good times and laughing together is so important to building and strengthening friendships and our common church, Bethany!-Jan Lechowicz

The OWLS (Older, Wiser Lutheran Seniors) meet once a month for local trips, lunch, to hear a guest speaker and more.

The OWLS (Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors) are the seniors group at Bethany. I began attending the group after I retired from teaching at Bethany. I stay involved with this group because I enjoy the fellowship and the new things that I learn with this group. We have gone to Fermi Lab, Clow International Airport to learn its history, learned some of the history of Bethany, learned about wills and trusts, and many more activities. We have had a cookie exchange, played board games, sang hymns with Cantor, and lots more. I appreciate that we get to learn more about each other and our staff at Bethany.-Nancy Yendrejczyk



We have had opportunities for Parents of College Students to meet over the years and at present our **College Parent Care Group** does a great job of staying in touch with college students of our congregation, often allowing other members to participate in the packages that are sent out.



The College Parent Care Group sends packages to our college students three times each year to let them know their Bethany family cares for them. The parents gather to plan and pack the boxes and also have occasional fellowship events. The students appreciate the packages and the parents enjoy each other's company and support as our children go through college.-Michelle Grimes, College Parent Care Group Organizer.

Some members have expressed an interest in reaching out to our **Active Military** members. We would need to get a few interested members together to determine how to organize this effort so if you have thoughts, pass them along to the church office.

Our **Bethany Ladies Guild** or Lydia Ladies has always been a group of women that work for the Lord. They currently meet the first Thursday of the month from September to June.

Do you remember the year that over 100 quilts were made and sent to Lutheran World Relief? They were on display in the church at 919 South Washington (hung from the upper choir area and across the pews). What a sight!!



Bethany Ladies Guild includes Great-grandmothers to mothers that have children in school. Our objective of working for the Lord has not changed, although the way we do it has. It is Crafter's Paradise now.

As you sit in church, look around at the paraments, communion ware, baptismal napkins, etc. – these are some of the ways we work for the Lord here at Bethany. Lifelong friends are created by working on projects like the quilts in the past and the projects we currently do. Spending a pleasant time with Bethany friends is wonderful. Conversation and ideas are diversified and that is what I personally find very rewarding. (Dessert and coffee is served!). -Iris Fischer and Barb McKissick

This list is by no means inclusive as there are many more groups that or are organized around other activities, such as service during worship, school-related organizations or our governance boards and committees. We hope you find a place to join in and connect in 2018!

Bethany Staff

Program Staff

Vacant Pastor (Team Leader, Administration)
 Rev. Stephen Schumacher Pastor (Mercy)
 Rev. Seth Clemmer Pastor (Witness, Youth)
 Neal Kaspar School Principal
 Michael Giuliani Cantor
 Linda Fox Admissions Director
 Erin Dunwell Assistant Principal
 Donna Linnemeyer Program Administrator

Faculty

Jennifer Gutzwiller Pre-School
 Angela Hess Pre-School
 Jamie Rogoz Pre-School
 Diana Guebert Pre-School
 Beth Schultz Pre-School
 Nadine Parmenter Pre-School
 Traci Downs, Justine Kaczmarek, Heather Schmidt... Instructional Aides
 Kristin Gemkow Kindergarten
 Cyndi Niccolai First Grade
 Kari Janetzke Second Grade
 Carole Staunch Art/Kindergarten Aide
 Chad Baganz Third Grade
 Michelle Stehle Fourth Grade
 Nancy Yendrejczyk Library
 Debby Buckman K-5th Phys. Ed.
 Josh Schultz Sixth Grade
 Rob Johnson Seventh Grade
 David Bremer Eighth Grade
 Glenn Sonlitner Eighth Grade English/Sixth Grade Math
 Jill Diriltzen Teacher/Speech
 Holly Fletcher Special Education
 Kevin Zorena Band Director
 Chad Baganz/David Bremer Athletic Directors

Administrative/Support Staff

Pam Kolzow Finance Administrator
 Patty Compton School Administrator
 Melanie Colt School Secretary
 Agnes Giuliani Confirmation/Sunday School Coordinator
 Lynn Hart Worship Secretary
 Jean Martinek Youth/Evangelism/Membership Secretary/Printer
 Jake Mathley Facilities Manager
 Pam Splitt Herald Editor

To e-mail any staff member: First initial of first name last name
 @bethanylcs.org (ex. sschumacher@bethanylcs.org).

Voters Board effective 1/1/18

Rich Tatar Chairman
 Keith Luhrs Vice Chairman
 Tim Gavin Treasurer
 Scott Collins Head of Day School Policy Board
 Tim Benecke Head of Board of Elders
 Mike Walsh Head of Board of Trustees
 Pat Bowman Recording Secretary
 Pastor Clemmer Pastor
 Pastor Schumacher Pastor
 Neal Kaspar Principal

Board of Elders effective 1/1/18

Tim Benecke, Head Elder

Pastor Clemmer Matt Krock Jay Schafer
 Tye Fox Don Lohrentz Pastor Schumacher
 Martin Franken Dominic Salvino

Calendar

DATE	TIME	DESCRIPTION
Sunday 12/24 Christmas Eve	8:30AM 5:00PM 7:15PM 11:00PM	Worship w/communion No 11:00AM Service Christmas Eve Family Service of Lessons/Carols Christmas Eve Divine Worship w/communion Christmas Eve Divine Worship w/communion
Monday 12/25 Christmas Day	10:00AM	Christmas Day Divine Worship w/communion
Tuesday 12/26		No School—Christmas Break –Church/School Offices Closed
Wednesday 12/27		No School—Christmas Break—School Office Closed No Lifelight
Thursday 12/28		No School—Christmas Break—School Office Closed
Friday 12/29		No School—Christmas Break—School Office Closed
Saturday 12/30	7:30AM 5:00PM	Saturday AM Men’s Basketball Worship w/communion East Texas Work Group Leaves
Sunday 12/31 New Year’s Eve	8:30AM 10:00AM 11:00AM	Worship w/communion No Bible Class/Sunday School Worship w/communion
Monday 01/01 New Year’s Day		No School—Christmas Break—School/Church Office Closed
Tuesday 01/02		No School—Christmas Break—School Office Closed
Wednesday 01/03	5:30PM 7:00PM	No School—Christmas Break—School Office Closed No Lifelight Praises Ring Proclaim
Thursday 01/04	12:30PM	No School—Christmas Break—School Office Closed Bethany Ladies Guild
Friday 01/05		No School—Christmas Break—School Office Closed
Saturday 01/06 Epiphany	7:30 AM 7:30 AM 5:00 PM	Saturday AM Men’s Basketball Saturday AM Men’s Bible Study Worship w/communion
Sunday 01/07	8:30 AM 10:00 AM 11:00 AM	Worship w/communion Sunday Classes Worship w/communion No Youth East Texas Work Group Returns
Monday 01/08	7:00PM	BLS Resumes—School/Church Offices Open Day School Policy Board

Please Let Us Know You’re Here!

We use the member attendance cards to record the attendance of our members in our church database. Once recorded, we can run reports for mailings, activities, and to help us better meet the needs of our members. Thanks for helping us keep accurate records!

The Year 2017 at Bethany

God's most amazing blessing is the gift of His Son who came to bear our sins and be our savior. Each week God offers us his Word and Sacraments to strengthen our faith. We need only to come and let Him serve us. But membership at Bethany offers even more. Our blessings continue to increase as we set about getting to know each other better and interacting with our fellow brothers and sisters in the life of our congregation.



In 2017 we again celebrated some special occasions together. In February we gathered for dinner to celebrate the 20th anniversary of our move into our great school and church building here at 1550 Modaff Rd. We looked back at our years together at this site and recognized those who have been with us for many years before the move. In the photo above, long-time members Fred and Sylvia Berg and Esther Mosher stand as the members with the most tenure here. Fred was called home to Jesus this year and is already missed as a steadfast worshipper and volunteer here at Bethany.



We bid our dear principal Pam Mueller farewell in May with a gala dinner and tribute. Pam served as first grade teacher, assistant principal and finally principal in our Day School. Although we are happy that she is enjoying retirement, we miss her cheerful presence and her willingness to help in so many areas of congregation life here at Bethany.

Later in the summer we welcomed our new principal, Neal Kaspar and our new Assistant Cantor, Kevin Zorena. These two new servants have already assimilated into the Bethany family as hard-working and dedicated staff members.

By late September we were ready for our third Oktoberfest. This year we held a fun Trivia Night before the day of Oktoberfest which was a smashing success. The weather was unseasonably hot but we still had a great day of fellowship and outreach to those in our community.



To celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, we held a Hymn Festival here at Bethany, featuring the festival setting by Jonathan Kohrs, with special instrumentalists and vocalists joining our Bethany musicians to make it a really special evening.

We finish off 2017 with a mission trip to Southeast Texas to rebuild homes damaged by Hurricane Harvey.

How To Reach Us

The church office is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday; the phone number is (630) 355-2198. When school is in session, the school office is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The school can be dialed directly at (630) 355-6607. After hours, our system has an auto-attendant and those in the building can be reached or messages can be left by using the directory. You can reach any member of the staff by dialing (630) 355-2198. As always, if you have a pastoral emergency, you may phone the pastors at home. Pastor Schumacher, (630) 428-9174; Pastor Clemmer, (601) 951-2787.

To e-mail any staff member: First initial of first name last name @bethanylcs.org (ex. ssschumacher@bethanylcs.org).

Bethany Lutheran Church & School

1550 Modaff Road Naperville, IL 60565
 Church: (630) 355-2198 School: (630) 355-6607
 www.bethanylcs.org

Service Times

Saturday 5 p.m.
 Sunday 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Communion Communion at all services.

The nursery is staffed for the 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. services and during bible study.

Adult Classes; Fellowship In addition to our three worship services, Sunday morning classes are held weekly and are open to all members and friends. From 10 to 10:15 a.m. we share a time of fellowship in the Gym. All are welcome.