



# HERALD

March 4, 2018  
Third Sunday in Lent

On behalf of the family of Bethany Lutheran Church & School, we welcome our members and our guests in the name of Jesus Christ, our Risen Savior. If you are a visitor, we ask you to fill out the guest registration card in the pew. We also invite you to stop by our welcome center in the Narthex for a gift and more information about our church.

## Everyday Apologetics: How Might I Discuss the Gospel with my Neighbor?

By Pastor Clemmer

Each day, we hear how our society is plummeting further into immorality and anti-Christian aggression. Christians are forced out of business for not embracing the LGBTQ+ agenda. We may have coworkers who are coerced to go along with the current demands of today's false god of tolerance, and we likely have friends or relatives who have lost jobs because of their faith. With such aggressive forces seeking to stomp out Christian morality and the Gospel of Jesus itself, it's understandable that we may be reluctant to talk about such things outside the safety of the church's walls. The problem is, if *we're* not confessing the Gospel to our neighbor and giving a defense for the hope we have in Jesus, *who will?*

Apologetics is the Christian discipline of defending the hope that you have in Jesus. You don't go out looking for a fight, but when someone asks you about your faith or the rationale for your moral actions (or immoral inactions), we are patiently and kindly to give an answer. This is how we show love to our neighbor—not by avoiding conversations, but by desiring that our neighbor might have the same comfort of the Gospel as we do. However, when an opportunity arises for us to defend the Gospel or to bring the 10 Commandment's moral clarity where there is disorder, we likely hesitate to speak. We know that our response will likely not change someone's hardened opinion but is more likely to bring us some sort of retaliatory persecution.

For example, when you're standing at the office copier and someone flippantly says how much they're sick of all fighting about gay "marriage" in America and that "People should be allowed to do what's in their heart." What do you say? What if a person's heart believes that *you* should be fired, beaten, and publically shamed—should they be allowed

to do that just because it's in their heart? Surely they don't mean what they said, but no one has forced them to think about it. You don't know what to say, plus you know that your reply will not alter the course of history, repeal laws, or change that person's opinion.

Fine. *So why not change your goal?* Rather than thinking you can change their mind, perhaps a better goal would be **to have them think more carefully about their opinion**. But how? Rather than hesitating to speak because you're scared of what that conversation may do to you, why not start a simple conversation by **asking a question?**

Questions are not opinions, after all. You're simply digging for more information. You haven't laid anything on the line, but you *have* started a conversation. **Simply ask, "What do you mean by that?"** This forces a person to rethink their view rather than simply repeating what they saw on some meme or headline. With a smile, you might ask the person in the example above, "I'm curious. Do you mean *all* people should be allowed to do what's in their heart? What if the heart has evil things it wants to do, like a school shooting?" The response will likely be, "Well, not *all* people." Then you can ask, "So, are you saying there *are* some things that people shouldn't be allowed to do?" or "Are you saying there *is* a standard of right and wrong?" Just keep digging for clarity with questions.

You haven't started an argument, since after all, you haven't given an opinion. You're simply asking questions because you're curious. Your goal is not to change their mind immediately, but to start a conversation that has them rethinking *why* they believe what they believe. The Gospel hasn't been spoken yet, but a conversation has been started that may one day lead toward the cross of Jesus for sinners.

### Lenten Worship Schedule 2018

Wednesday, March 7, 14, 21

9 a.m. *Lenten Service of Prayer and Preaching*

7:15 p.m. *Evening Prayer*

### Lenten Soup Suppers

Begin at 6:15 p.m.

## This Week's Calendar

### Sunday, March 4

#### Third Sunday in Lent

8:30 am—Worship w/communion  
 10:00 am—Bible Class/Sunday School  
 11:00 am—Worship w/communion  
 3:15 pm—Women's Volleyball  
 5:00 pm—Sr. Youth

### Monday, March 5

7:00 pm—Telecare

### Tuesday, March 6

7:00 am—Day School Policy Board

### Wednesday, March 7

9:00 am—Lenten Prayer & Preaching/Chapel  
 9:00 am—Women's LifeLight  
 3:30 pm—Schola Cantorum  
 5:30 pm—Praises Ring  
 6:15 pm—Lenten Soup Supper  
 7:15 pm—Lenten Evening Prayer  
 8:00 pm—Proclaim

### Thursday, March 8

7:00 pm—Evening Lifelight—offsite

### Friday, March 9

4:00 pm—BLS Bowling

### Saturday, March 10

7:30 am—Saturday AM Men's Basketball  
 10:00—Sunday School Teachers Meeting  
 10:00 am—Naperville St. Patrick's Day Parade  
 5:00 pm—Worship w/communion

### Sunday, March 11

#### Fourth Sunday in Lent

#### Daylight Savings Time Begins

8:30 am—Worship w/communion  
 10:00 am—Bible Class/Sunday School  
 11:00 am—Worship w/communion  
 12:00 pm—Sr. High Youth  
 2:00 pm—Women's Volleyball—offsite  
 5:00 pm—Dignity for Girls

## Remember! Daylight Savings Time Begins March 11.

### Chancel Flowers

Chancel flowers for this weekend were placed by **Gertrude Bartha** in memory of husband Bernard and by **Al, Blake and Landon Barnickel** for support of Jennifer during cancer treatments.

### Sign Up for Easter Flowers

Sign up this weekend to order your Easter plants for our altar and your home this Easter. The sign up sheet/payment envelopes are at the flower chart in the narthex.

## Prayers

### In Our Prayers.....

**All of Our Members, especially:** Fred Glatzhofer, rehab. (*please renew after four weeks*).

#### All of our Family Members & Friends, especially:

**Jackie Bentson**, (granddaughter of Joel/Mary Burke) difficult issues with pregnancy; **Hollie Ervin**, (friend of the Anderson family) recovery from surgery; **Deborah Huff**, (friend of Judy Teske) cancer; **Valerie Kincaid**, (friend of Sally Wilson) continued strength and healing after stem cell treatments; **Tom Rodgers**, (father of Cyndi Niccolai) diagnosed with ALS; **Dana Stasiak**, (cousin of the Gutzwiller family) cancer treatments. (*please renew 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 US Army.

For **Cheryl Airhart and family** at the death of her sister, Betty Lindon on Tuesday.

Prayer of thanksgiving that **Aaron Airhart**, son of Bob/Cheryl Airhart, is well and continuing to recover from a serious car accident this past week.

### Theology on Tap

Theology on Tap will meet on Tuesday, March 20, 6:30-8 pm. at Hopvine Brewing Co. (4030 Fox Valley Center Dr.). We are studying the Large Catechism covering the 8th-10th commandments. Please see Bethany's website to register. We hope you will join us!

### Lenten Soup Suppers

Soup Suppers during the Lenten season begin every Wednesday at 6:15 p.m. This Wednesday the church office and Men's Saturday Bible Study will sponsor the supper. We thank Elders, Trustees, Board of Finance, the Music Department, BLS staff and school board for providing suppers the past three weeks. Desserts are always welcome.

### Stewardship

#### Weekly Contributions - Week of 2/25/2018

Actual	Budget	Surplus/Deficit
\$21,816	\$20,375	\$1,441

#### Year to Date Contributions 07/1/17 - 2/28/2018

Actual	Budget	Surplus/Deficit
\$686,482	\$708,400	(\$21,918)

### Attendance

#### Feb 2018

#### Feb 2017

	Feb 2018	Feb 2017
Avg Weekly Attendance - Feb	379	428
YTD Attendance July - Feb	14,540	14,665

## News

### Voters Assembly to Meet on March 13 at 7 p.m.

The first quarterly Voters Assembly meeting of the year will be held on Tuesday, March 13 at 7 p.m. The agenda for the meeting is available in the Narthex today. Voters will be asked to affirm two new elders and to address four motions under old business and two motions under new business. All confirmed members age 14 or older are eligible to become members of the Voters Assembly. To do so, eligible members must state their intent to become a voter at one meeting and attend a second meeting within a year. To retain voting status, members must attend one meeting per year.

### OWL's to Celebrate St. Paddy's Day March 8!

The OWL's are going to have a "Wee Bit" of Irish fun for their March outing. We will be meeting at Quigley's Irish Pub (43 E Jefferson, Naperville) on Thursday, March 8 at 11:30 a.m. Please call/text Jan Lechowicz at 630-404-4948 or email [janlechowicz@aol.com](mailto:janlechowicz@aol.com) by Tuesday, March 6 if you plan to attend. *A Good Friend is like a four leaf clover, hard to find and lucky to have!* (Irish Proverb). See you there my Friends!

### College Parent Care Group

All college parents are invited to join us for our packing party on Thursday, March 22 at 7:30 p.m. in the board room at Bethany. If you would like to donate items for the boxes, check the board in the narthex and return the items to the box outside the church office by Sunday, March 18. Please contact Sue Hannenberg at [Dash7alh@wowway.com](mailto:Dash7alh@wowway.com) or call (630-369-3898) with questions.

### Join Us for the St. Paddy's Day Parade!

On March 10 Bethany Lutheran School will have a float in this year's parade and would like you to walk the parade with us. Please call/email Linda Fox on how you can help build the float and to register to walk (630-355-6607 or [lfox@bethanylcs.org](mailto:lfox@bethanylcs.org)). Come help us represent Bethany!

### Come to the BLS Elementary Musical!

The students in grades 1-5 invite you to continue the 500th Anniversary celebration of the Reformation and attend this year's elementary musical, "Echoes of the Hammer", on Friday, March 16. The main performance is at 6:30 p.m., but you could also attend the dress rehearsal on the same day at 1:30 p.m. Stay tuned for information on a fundraiser dinner before the evening show!

### Attention Sr. Youth!

Be sure to join us on Sunday, March 11 from noon to 2 p.m. in the youth room for pizza and games. You are always welcome to bring a friend and bring your favorite game too. Email Debbie Clasen with questions at [debbie.clasen@bps101.net](mailto:debbie.clasen@bps101.net).

### New Bible Class Beginning March 11 The Bible in the Liturgy

Many people know that the texts of the liturgy of the Divine Service are from the Bible. But what texts? What is the context of these texts? In the main adult bible study Pastor Schumacher will look at the texts of the liturgy and their contexts so that the members of Bethany will have a fuller understanding of the depth and riches of our liturgical texts. Knowing better the Scriptural background of the Gloria in Excelsis, Agnus Dei, Nunc Dimittis, and other texts will be of great benefit for all who sing these texts week after week.

### District Convention Will Elect New President

Our Northern Illinois District meets in convention every three years. This year, portions of the NID Convention, being held Friday and Saturday, March 9 and 10, will be live streamed on the NID Facebook page as well as through a link on the convention web page [nidlcs.org/convention](http://nidlcs.org/convention). At the beginning of the Convention a new District President will be elected, replacing our current President Dan Gilbert who is retiring. Bethany's delegates are Pastor Schumacher and Tye Fox.

### Looking Forward to Visiting Choirs at Bethany

This Sunday the Cornerstone University Choir will be participating in both Sunday worship services. Cornerstone is a Christ-centered university located in Grand Rapids, Michigan. On April 15, the choir from Lutheran High School South, St. Louis, Missouri will sing at the 11 a.m. Divine Service. We thank both choirs for enhancing our worship.

### Please Help by Filling LWML Mite Box

"Mercy in the Midst of the Storm" describes a Disaster Response Center in the Dominican Republic, funded by a \$100,000 grant from the ladies of LWML. Hurricane Irma first put this center to the test, being filled with supplies, and centrally located to be a safe shelter. It also serves as a seminary for training deaconesses for human care and mercy ministry, and this last fall the first class of seminarians began there. Please remember to contribute your "Mites" for endeavors such as these. They may be dropped in the big Mite Box at the Welcome Center or in the church office.

### Serve Through Dignity for Girls

"March" in like a lion and make a difference! Sunday, March 11 from 5 to 7 p.m. join us as we "fiercely" attack this mission! Learn more about the mission at [www.dignityforgirls.org](http://www.dignityforgirls.org). *Serve one another in love* (Gal. 5:13). Sewing machines, rulers and scissors will be helpful.

### Youth News

**March 4**—Sr. High Youth (5 to 6 p.m.)

**March 11**—Sr. High Youth—Games/Pizza (**noon-2 p.m.**)

**March 18**—Mentor Night (4:30-6 p.m.)

Weekly updates and reminders are sent via email. Contact Pastor Clemmer or Jean Martinek with questions.

## Lenten/Holy Week

**Saturday/Sunday, March 25—Palm Sunday**  
5 p.m., 8:30 and 11 a.m.

**Thursday, March 29—Maundy Thursday**  
7:15 p.m. Divine Service

**Friday, March 30—Good Friday**  
Noon-3 p.m.—individual confession/absolution  
4 p.m.—Divine Service  
7:15 p.m. Tenebrae

**Saturday, March 31—Easter Vigil**  
7:14 p.m. (sunset) Divine Service

**Sunday, April 1—Easter**  
6:30 a.m. (sunrise) Matins  
8:30 a.m. Divine Service  
11 a.m. Divine Service

*Easter breakfast is in the gym. Breakfast from 7:15 to 10:45 a.m.*

*There are no Sunday classes on Easter*

*Easter Egg Hunt at 10 a.m.*

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
Vacation Bible School—June 11.  
More information to follow.

## Board of Finance

Richard Fick	Rick Grimes	Bill Hahn
Sam Harris	Pam Kolzow	Russ Lenich
Sue Sreniawski	Doug Quinn	Richard Sutis
	Mark Wolfgram	
	Tim Gavin, Treasurer	

## Our Sunday School Teachers

PreK – Kindergarten.....Nicole Kaim  
1/2 grades.....Traci Downs  
3/4 grades.....Sue Sreniawski  
5/6 grades.....Kimberly Burnell  
7/8 grades.....Matt Krock

## Bible Studies at Bethany

### Our Feature Bible Study in the Gym

Our feature Bible Class, taught by Pastor Clemmer will end this weekend. Pastor Schumacher's new class titled "The Bible in the Liturgy" will begin March 11. See page 3 for more information. This class meets in the gym at 10 a.m.

### Sunday School

All classes meet each week at 10 a.m. in our school wing and grade levels are marked on the doorways.

### Adult Instruction Class

Adult Information Class continues at 10 a.m. in the Harris Wing Board Room. If you're interested in joining Bethany or learning more about the Lutheran faith contact Pastor Schumacher at [sschumacher@bethanylcs.org](mailto:sschumacher@bethanylcs.org) or Pastor Clemmer at [sclemmer@bethanylcs.org](mailto:sclemmer@bethanylcs.org) or call 630-355-2198.

### Ladies Wednesday Morning LifeLight

Ladies LifeLight Bible Study began a new study on February 28, studying the Wilderness Wanderings of the Israelites after God brought them out of slavery in Egypt and before entering the Promised Land as recorded in Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. All women are invited to join this in-depth Bible study, meeting Wednesday mornings from 9 to 11 a.m. in the Harris wing conference room. Contact Karen Perry (630-904-1043 or [ksperry62@gmail.com](mailto:ksperry62@gmail.com)) with any questions.

### Evening Lifelight

The Thursday Evening Lifelight Bible Study meets with Pastor at church one week and in a home the next. We are studying the book of Genesis. For more information, please call the church office.

### Saturday AM Men's Bible Breakfast

All men of Bethany are invited to the Men's Bible Breakfast which meets on the first and third Saturday of each month from 7:30 to 9 a.m. We are studying Luther's Large Catechism.

### Bethany Lutheran Church & School

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

#### Service Times

Saturday 5 p.m.  
Sunday 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.  
(Communion at all services)

Sunday worship is followed by Coffee Fellowship time. Sunday School, Adult and Youth Bible Study begin at 10 a.m.

**Nursery** The nursery is available as a cry room during worship services and during Bible Study hour. Our nursery is no longer staffed.

**The deadline for the March 11  
is Tuesday, March 6.**