



HERALD

June 30, 2019

The Feast of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles

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.

Baffled by Raffles

By Pastor Clemmer

There seem to be conflicting teachings among Christian churches regarding raffles (buying a chance to win something), so let's clear the air.

Are raffles gambling? Yes. There is a risk of losing money and the chance at winning more of it.

So, is gambling sinful? No. (awkward silence) Which commandment forbids it?

Well, if money is our god, then the 1st commandment is broken—but can't a person gamble for fun (or even seeking money) and *not* make it a god? Sure. If a person makes it a god, then it's sinful—but not for all. Likewise, if gambling causes us to steal, murder, lie, etc., then *those* are the sins—but not gambling itself. If the addiction to gambling has me squandering my family savings, taking food off the kids' plates, and tearing apart my marriage and family, then I have a problem.

The issue is the *addiction* and the *idolatry* that led to those sins—but the gambling itself is not the root issue. Similarly, a zealous Cubs fan might cause the same family upheaval by spending countless dollars and hours at the Wrigley altar. Does that mean the Cubs are sinful? No—rather, you have sinned by making them your idol.

The fact is, the Bible doesn't forbid gambling (or drinking alcohol) but it can be abused by our sinful nature (like drinking alcohol) and can do damage to our vocations—even leading us to sin. Can a person throw a few bucks at a raffle, fully knowing it's a fundraiser, and not slide down a slippery slope toward poverty and casino addiction? Obviously. Might a person with a gambling

addiction find himself burdened by “an innocent church raffle”? Perhaps—just as the beer at Oktoberfest might present a challenge for the alcoholic, and casseroles at a potluck might be a temptation for the glutton who has made a god of his belly. That doesn't make eating or drinking sinful, it just means we need to be aware of “the weaker brother” (*1 Cor. 8:7-13*) and mindful of the burdens he might carry.

Are all gambling opportunities the same? No. Life insurance, lottery tickets, and blackjack are each different and have different intentions or implications for the gambler—so they shouldn't all be thrown together. State-sponsored lotteries typically prey on the poor and have the hopeless looking to them for hope—so it's unhelpful to encourage such preying on the weak. Life insurance, however, is toward the love of neighbor, as I seek to care for my family after my death. Blackjack, while it may be an addiction for some, might for others simply be a fun way to spend a few bucks on a game. How many dollars might be spent on a much-deserved “treat-yo-self” trip to the spa? If a husband would rather spend the same amount of money at the casino's poker table while the wife is pampered in the casino's spa, how is his spending of money somehow more sinful? It's not. Each manner of gambling should be considered individually.

In conclusion, the act of gambling is not a sin, but the abuse of it is. The same is true for MOST of the Lord's gifts—if they become your god, they tear apart your life and vocations, leading to sin. Raffles are fine—maybe annoying to some—but not inherently sinful. Are they helpful? Maybe—it depends on what they're for and how

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Calendar

Sunday, June 30
The Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, Apostles
 8:30 am—worship w/communion
 10:00 am—Bible Class/Sunday School
 11:00 am—worship w/communion
Monday, July 1
Tuesday, July 2
 7:00 pm—Day School Policy Board
Wednesday, July 3
 9:00 am— Ladies LifeLight
Thursday, July 4
 School/Church offices closed
Friday, July 5
 School/Church offices closed
 7:00 pm—Youth Game Night
Saturday, July 6
 7:30 am—Saturday AM Men’s Basketball
 7:30 am—Saturday AM Men’s Bible Study
 5:00 pm—worship w/communion
Sunday, July 7
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
 8:30 am—worship w/communion
 10:00 am—Bible Class/Sunday School
 11:00 am—worship w/communion

Prayers

In Our Prayers.....

All of Our Members, especially: Diane Benecke, strength/ dealing with early onset Alzheimer’s Disease; **Mike Broggi**, recovery from open heart/by-pass surgery; **Jane Buntrock**, ill health; **Carol Dikeman**, recovery from broken hip/broken foot/ eye issues; **Roger Fiene**, recovery from heart procedure; **Sam Harris**, recovery from chemo side effects. *(Please renew after four weeks).*

All of our Family Members & Friends, especially: Jeri Harmon, (friend of Pam Splitt) recovery from surgery; **Don Koenig**, (father of Chris Koenig) cancer; **Neal Oppenheimer**, (godfather of Jennifer Gutzwiller) cancer/hospice care; **Vladislav Piperski**, (father of Nada Salvino) ill health; **Mary Walsh**, (mother of Mike Walsh) healing/chemo treatments; **David Wohlrab**, (brother of Jean Quetsch) cancer. *(please renew after two weeks).*

Prayers that the Lord be with **Matthew Hinze** and **Michael Hinze**, **Adam Horton**, **Peter Johnson**, **Savanna Lugay**, **James Maher**, **Shalyn Martinek**, **David Nordman**, **Pierce** and **Quinn Parlier**, **Ryan Skarin**, **Jennifer** and **Nicholas Camm Williams** as they continue to serve in the Military.

For **Paul and Carmen Reimer** on their 39th wedding anniversary.

Chancel Flowers

Chancel flowers for this weekend were placed by **Al, Jennifer, Blake and Landon Barnickel**.

Stewardship

Weekly Contributions - Week of 6/23/2019

Actual	Budget	Surplus/Deficit
\$12,521	\$15,200	(\$2,679)

Year to Date Contributions 07/1/18 - 6/26/2019

Actual	Budget	Surplus/Deficit
\$1,015,079	\$1,014,800	\$279

Attendance

	June 19	June 18
Average Weekly Attendance - June	369	341
YTD Attendance July - June	22,186	21,787

News

Thank You for Farewell Reception

I would like to thank the members of Bethany Lutheran Church and School for the lovely farewell reception last weekend. I have enjoyed working at Bethany and thank all who have made my years here so enjoyable. I plan to stay in the area so I look forward to volunteering along with everyone else in my retirement years. May God continue to bless our congregation.

Donna Linnemeyer

LWML:

Little Donations Make Big Impact

The LWML, or Lutheran Women's Missionary League, continues to collect used eyeglasses, sunglasses, and cancelled stamps. As you travel this summer, or receive postcards from friends who travel, please KEEP THE POSTCARDS INTACT, as these have more value than if stamps are cut off. Especially cards from foreign countries are valued. On letters, cut off stamps leaving a quarter inch margin. Do not save the flag stamps, but all others are accepted.

Voicemail Repairs Coming Soon to Church/School!

We were able to purchase a re-furbished voicemail component to get our current system back in service. Our long term plan is to replace this original (used) system with a new system but this fix will get us back up and running for now. Installation will happen soon.

Theology on Tap will not meet in the month of July!

Bethany to Change to LED Bulbs

Our Trustees have been working on changing over all of the light bulbs in our facility to the more efficient LED bulbs and recently received a grant through the city of Naperville and the state of Illinois to fund a good part of the project. To use these funds most efficiently we plan to do a good part of the changeover ourselves. If you would like to assist with this project, email our Facilities Manager, Jake Mathley at jmathley@bethanylcs.org to find out when you can plug in.

BLS Seeks Part-Time Teacher

Bethany Lutheran School is accepting applications for a part-time 5th grade teacher. The position is 20 hours per week from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. A teaching degree is required. Interested applicants should send a resume to pcompton@bethanylcs.org.

Gauthier Family Welcomes Daughter

In the latest issue of their monthly newsletter, missionary Pastor Brian Gauthier and his family announced the birth and baptism of their new daughter, Aviva Eliana. Pick up a copy of the newsletter and learn the meaning of her name and about the new deaconess program that began this month in Panama.

Youth Game Nights!

Attention Jr. Sr. and College Youth

The Youth Room is open on Friday nights this summer from 7-9 p.m. through August 9th for kids to come and hang out, play board games, video games, pool, etc. An adult will be there each week to supervise. This will be open to anyone who will be in Jr High through College age youth. It's a great opportunity for our youth to just get together, relax and get to know each other better.

Bring a favorite game or favorite snack to share. Non-church friends are always welcome. Please contact Molly D'Amico or Chris Johnson for more details.

mollydamico@comcast.net or 500.00chris@gmail.com.

Baffled by Raffles

By Pastor Clemmer

they're used. If they're abused in the church, they can distract from the Gospel—and Jesus warned how money will always strive to be our idol—so we have to be aware of potential abuse.

Raffles show up around church from time to time, as organizations of the church or school try to raise a few bucks in a fun way. Let this not burden your conscience. It's not sinful. BUT, if you have a problem with gambling and need help, your church family is NOT interested in causing you pain or burdening you—so please reach out to the pastors or elders for help and guidance. We can have fun in a raffle, but we should never let the quest for money trump our love for the weaker brother who may be struggling. If you have further questions, please ask me. Also, you can find extensive articles regarding gambling on www.lcms.org.

The deadline for the July 7 Herald is Tuesday, July 2.

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 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.

Bible Studies at Bethany

Two Sunday Classes Available

Stewardship Basics

Continuing this Sunday, Pastor Clemmer teaches a class on Stewardship Basics in the multi-purpose room. This class is designed to help congregations start a discussion of whole-life stewardship for their members as those created and redeemed to be stewards of the Lord's gifts.

Pastor Schumacher continues to teach a Bible class in the board room on Lutheran Education. In this class we will learn how Luther, Lutherans and we in our time can best serve our children by an education that teaches them the faith and how to serve the Lord in life.

Both classes meet at 10 a.m. each Sunday.

Interested in Joining Bethany?

If you're interested in joining Bethany or learning more about the Lutheran faith, please contact Pastor Schumacher at sschumacher@bethanylcs.org or Pastor Clemmer at sclemmer@bethanylcs.org or call 630-355-2198 with questions.

Sunday School for Children

All classes meet at 10 a.m. in our school wing and grade levels are marked on the doorways. We have Sunday School classes for preschoolers through grade 8.

High School Bible Class Meets in the Youth Room

Bible Class for high school students meets in the youth room each Sunday. If you have questions or want more information contact Matt Carlson at mcarlson@bethanylcs.org.

Women's Summer LifeLight

The Women's Wednesday Morning LifeLight Bible Study group is taking a summer break from in-depth study (and homework). We meet on Wednesdays from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. and are studying the minor prophets together and enjoying discussion. Simply bring your Bible. Please contact Sheri Walsh with questions at ssmdw@wideopenwest.com or call or text 630-816-4647.

Evening Lifelight Meets Thursdays

The Thursday Evening Lifelight Bible Study meets with Pastor at church one week and in a home the next (7 p.m.) **This group is taking a break for the summer and will start up again in fall.** Watch the Herald for the start up time. For more information, please call the church office.

Saturday AM Men's Bible Breakfast Meets at 7:30 a.m.

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.

Voters Board/Officers

Rich Tatara, Chairman
Keith Luhrs, Vice Chairman
Tim Gavin, Treasurer
Pat Bowman, Secretary