



HERALD

*July 2, 2017
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost*

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.

Freedom by Pastor Schumacher

As the Fourth of July approaches one word that you hear often is “freedom.” “We live in a free country,” we hear. In the Bible we hear “For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery (Galatians 5:1).” But there can be confusion over this word “freedom.” If Jesus sets us free, we are free indeed (John 8:36). But what does Christian freedom mean. In what sense am I free?

First of all, Jesus sets us free from sin, death, and hell. We are set free from God’s judgment on sin; death cannot claim us; and we will not suffer in hell. Jesus took our sin on Himself, suffered death, and the pains of hell for us on the cross. We are set free by Jesus.

Second, we are now free to be God’s people. We can hear His Word together, receive the Sacrament together, pray together, and rejoice in each other being part of the Body of Christ. This also means that we have the freedom to care for each other. We also have the freedom of knowing that we can serve the Lord in our vocation in our daily lives. We are husband, wife, father, mother, son, daughter, citizen, worker, employer according to our God-given vocation. We are free to serve God in our vocation.

Think about it. Who were the most free people in the history of mankind? They were Adam and Eve before the Fall. They were free to walk and talk with God. They were free to eat of any tree except the one forbidden by the Lord and free to live in total harmony with each other as the first married couple. They were free to take care of God’s creation without any hindrance and so free that they could be naked and have no shame. They were the freest people ever. They were not free to be selfish or to disobey the Lord. They were free to be His and to love and serve each other. If we understand their freedom, we will now understand our freedom to be servants, and not to be selfish at all.

Third, we are free to be set free. The freedom that was Adam and Eve’s in the Garden of Eden has been lost. We have a taste of it now in Christ. But at the Second Coming of Christ, we will be entirely restored to the freedom that Adam and Eve had before the Fall. We will all be gathered around Christ in perfect unity and peace. All tears will be wiped away. And we will freely sing the Praise of the Lamb who has set us free.



July 2, 2017

Sunday, July 2

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

8:30 am—Worship w/communion

10:00 am—Bible Class

No Sunday School Classes

11:00 am—Worship w/communion

No Jr./Sr. High Youth

Monday, July 3

Parking Lot Pavement Reseal—School/Church

Offices Closed

Tuesday, July 4

Independence Day—School/Church Offices Closed

Wednesday, July 5

9:00 am—Woman's Summer Bible Study

Thursday, July 6

Friday, July 7

Saturday, July 8

7:30 am—Bethany Saturday AM Men's Basketball

10:00 am—Sunday School Teachers Meeting

5:00 pm—Worship w/communion

Sunday, July 9

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

8:30 am—Worship w/communion

10:00 am—Bible Class

10:00 am—Sunday School Classes

11:00 am—Worship w/communion

5:00 pm—Jr. High Youth

Prayers

In Our Prayers.....

All of Our Members, especially: Shirley Grudzien, recovery from foot surgery; Sam Harris, ill health; Claudia Scarpine, chemo treatments; Mike Westpfahl, recovery from foot surgery. *(please renew after four weeks).*

All of our Family Members & Friends, especially: Ben Blanchard, (uncle of Beth Hahn) cancer; Valerie Kincaid, (friend of Sally Wilson) recovery from bone marrow transplant/continued chemotherapy; Marianna Saucedo, (former student of Shelly Quinn) continued stability following treatment for brain tumor; Lauren Schneerger, (sister of Jenna) 29 weeks pregnant/hospitalized; Mike Stache, (former BLC member) cancer; Merle Steva, (brother of Denise Bruno) health issues. *(please renew after two weeks).*

Prayers that the Lord be with Peter Johnson as he continues to serve in the Air Force.

For Stewart Simpson on his birthday. For Sonja (aunt of Maria Simpson) on her birthday.

For Stewart Simpson's job search/summer school.

Prayer of thanksgiving for a successful move to Chicago and new job position for Maria Simpson.

For Gerry Corbino and family at the death of his mother, Florence on Monday.

Stewardship

Weekly Contributions - Week of 6/25/2017

Actual	Budget	Surplus/Deficit
\$12,364	\$16,500	(\$4,136)

Year to Date Contributions 07/1/16 - 6/28/2017

Actual	Budget	Surplus/Deficit
\$1,029,505	\$1,033,000	(\$3,495)

Attendance

	June 2017	June 2016
Avg Weekly Attendance - June	350	393
YTD Attendance July - June	21,972	24,537

News

Parking Lot Work Has Started!

The cracks in our parking lot were filled last Sunday and, weather permitting, sealcoating and remarking will take place on Monday, July 3. The entire church and school building will be closed on July 3. Thanks to Head Trustee, Mike Walsh, for taking the lead on this project!

Update on the Roof Fundraiser - We Celebrate in Two Weeks!!

We are pleased to report that contributions to our roof fundraiser have already started to come in! We hope to gather up gifts totaling \$75,000 that will cover the cost of a new roof over the flat portion of the education wing. We have set aside Sunday, July 16 at 12:30 p.m. as our celebration lunch for this fundraiser. We still need some help with the lunch so if you can lend a hand, please sign up on the tower in the Narthex. We need those attending to sign up as well to plan for food. The big THANK YOU to those who have turned in the early gifts totaling \$7953.00.

Clean Up the Kitchen with Us !

Our kitchen is ready for a summer clean up and we have set aside Saturday, July 15 for this task. This is a great opportunity to find a friend and tackle a small clean up job together. If you are a newer member, come meet others and get acquainted with our kitchen. Most of the tasks will take less than an hour but we will need someone to give the stove a good cleaning as well. If you can sort and wipe down a cabinet or a few drawers, please plan on joining the rewarding effort. Watch the message tower for a complete list of tasks and supply needs. Oh, and men are welcome too!

Read About Important Decision

The U.S. Supreme Court handed down an important ruling this past week regarding an LCMS preschool qualifying for playground safety improvement funding from the State of Missouri. To read the article on this decision, go to the LCMS website (LCMS.org), then to News & Blogs, then to the Reporter.

Peace Lutheran Church Invitation

The members of Peace Lutheran Church invite you and your congregation to share with us in the joy of welcoming Pastor David Balla as the pastor of our church. The Installation Service will be held on Sunday, July 9 at 2 p.m. at Peace Lutheran Church, 24024 W. Main Street of Plainfield. We are excited about the future ministry of our church under the leadership of our new pastor. We desire that you join us as we welcome him to our church and to the community.

What Do You Eat at A Roof Fundraiser Party?

Flat roof sundaes? Roof shingle sandwiches? If you have any other ideas or want to help with this simple meal and fun celebration, please contact Donna Linnemeyer at dlinnemeyer@bethanylcs.org or 630-355-2198.

Member in Need of TV

A Bethany member could use an old TV set that has the connections in the back for a video player. Please contact the office if you have such a TV that you're willing to donate.

Save The Date
Bethany's Oktoberfest
Saturday, September 23
1 to 10 p.m.

Youth News

July Youth News

July 2—No Jr./Sr. High Youth

July 9—5 p.m. Jr. High Youth in the Youth Room

July 16—5 to 7 p.m. Sr. High Youth BBQ at the Hahn home. Details TBA.

July 23—No youth.

July 30—5 to 7 p.m.—Jr. High Youth Family Movie Night—Details TBA.

Attention All Incoming 6-8 Graders!

Join us on Sunday, July 9 at 5 p.m. in the Youth Room.

Attention All Incoming 9-12 Graders!

Plan on joining us on July 16 from 5-7 p.m. at the Hahn home.

