



# HERALD

July 29, 2018  
Ninth Sunday after the Holy Trinity

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.

## What is the Good Life?

*The Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.*

Is it the enjoyment of things? Is it the absence of suffering? Is it possession of wealth? Is it living a moral life? A virtuous life? A religious life?

Every serious or armchair philosopher in history has had an answer to the question. The Bible's answer to the question is deep and multifaceted. I think first of John's Gospel. John tells us that everything was made through the pre-incarnate Word, and that "in him was life, and the life was the light of men" (*John 1:3-4*).

The very meaning of life is found in the source of life. How do we know this source of life? In Him is the "light of men." John's Gospel tells us John the Baptizer witnessed to the light: "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (*1:29*). John's witness is recorded in the inspired text of Holy Scripture for all time. Jesus said of all the Old Testament Scriptures: "These are they which testify of me" (*5:39*). Knowledge of the good life begins with knowledge of the source of life, Christ. And that knowledge is found in the sacred Scriptures.

The "good life" — yes, the very best life — is lived knowing our Creator. The Father created all things through the Son. In the face of the light of truth, another truth about us becomes manifest. We are sinners. The greatest impediment to life itself, let alone the "good life," is found in ourselves. When the bright holiness of God, Christ or even angels confronts men in the Scriptures, the universal refrain is, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" (*Luke 5:8*). "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips ..." (*Is. 6:5*). Humility is certainly a universally recognized virtue, but repentance is a profound humility which recognizes one's complete unworthiness in the sight of God and His perfect holiness.

How bitter life is when humans are forced to carry on a charade of self-superiority over others! What damage is done to relationships! How sordid and sour the life of the "superior one"! How joyless the lives inflicted by such "saints"! The best life recognizes the finger of Nathan, John the Baptizer, even Jesus, pointing

and saying, "You are the man!" (*2 Sam. 12:7*). "Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" (*Luke 3:7*).

Zacchaeus, I suppose, was convinced that he was pursuing the path to the good life. But in his encounter with Jesus, he repented. He believed. And he acted to correct what he had inflicted on others. Zacchaeus "hurried and came down and received [Jesus] joyfully" (*Luke 19:6*). The good life is set just about as soon as one realizes that "Jesus receives tax collectors and sinners and eats with them," and I'm one of those. The conscience cannot be at peace with any "good life" that exists apart from Christ.

The conscience can be seared, it can be muffled, it can be ignored, perhaps for a long time. But the troubled conscience, carrying sin — even while denying its own sin — will manifest itself in myriad ways of discontent, selfishness, greed, hatred, jealousy, anxiety and the like.

The Bible (and the Lutheran Confessions also explicitly claim this for themselves) is nothing if not a handbook of consolation for the troubled conscience. "Come to me all you who are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (*Matt. 11:28*). "I came not to call the righteous, but sinners" (*Matt. 9:13*). "At the top of his voice, Paul cries out that sins are freely forgiven for Christ's sake" (Apology to the Augsburg Confession, Article XX, paragraph 87).

The "good life," the greatest life, is life reconciled to God our Maker and to our fellow human beings. The greatest life is living in love, forgiveness, and yes, great joy with those whom God has placed all about us in our sacred vocations. When trials come and would threaten the "good life," we find this ironic twist to be true: "When I am weak, then I am strong" (*2 Cor. 12:10*). Our trials bring the vintage to fruition. How profound the forgiveness, the love, the sorrow, the joy in the midst of the challenges of this life! They cause us to look forward to the "good life" — even better, our life eternally with Christ.

We are freed in Christ, and the Bible shows us just how fabulous our freedom is to enjoy faith, spouse, family, vocations, work, food, drink, neighbors, Christ, forgiveness, Baptism, Absolution, Supper, friends — indeed, all creation. What a wonderful way to live!

## This Week's Calendar

### Sunday, July 29

#### Ninth Sunday after the Holy Trinity

8:30 am—Worship w/communion  
 10:00 am—Bible Class/Sunday School  
 11:00 am—Worship w/communion

### Monday, July 30

10:00 am—BLS Basketball Camp

### Tuesday, July 31

10:00 am—BLS Basketball Camp

### Wednesday, August 1

9:30 am—Ladies Summer Lifestyle  
 10:00 am—BLS Basketball/Volleyball Camp  
 10:30 am—LWML Sewing

### Thursday, August 2

9:00 am—LWML Sewing  
 9:00 am—BLS Basketball/Volleyball Camp

### Friday, August 3

10:00 am—BLS Basketball/Volleyball Camp

### Saturday, August 4

7:30 am—Saturday AM Men's Basketball  
 7:30 am—Saturday AM Men's Bible Study  
 5:00 pm—Worship w/communion

### Sunday, August 5

#### Tenth Sunday after the Holy Trinity

8:30 am—Worship w/communion  
 10:00 am—Bible Class (NO Sunday School)  
 11:00 am—Worship w/communion

## Prayers

### *In Our Prayers.....*

**All of Our Members, especially:** Jennifer Barnickel, cancer treatments; **Jane Buntrock**, recovery from pacemaker procedure; **Donna Holecsek**, recovery from surgery; **Karen McKissick**, cancer treatments; **Troy Roberts**, cancer treatments. *(please renew after four weeks).*

**All of our Family Members & Friends, especially:** Linda Collins, (mother of Scott Collins) recovery from stroke; **Fred Collins**, (father of Scott Collins) strength while caring for wife Linda; **Debbie**, (friend of Maria Simpson) ill health; **Paul Enderle**, (friend of Bob/Pam Splitt) rehab/cancer treatments; **Mr. Mrs. LaMantina**, (friends of Maria Simpson) ill health; **Linda**, (friend of Maria Simpson) ill health; **Lorie**, (friend of Maria Simpson) ill health; **Joann Murphy**, (neighbor of Tom/Lynn Hart) cancer recovery; **Betty Niccolai**, (mother of Brian Nicolai) recovery from surgery; **Tomi**, (friend of Maria Simpson) ill health; **June Wilson**, (neighbor of Tom/Lynn Hart) cancer recovery; **Aimee Zajc**, (friend of Tom/Lynn Hart) cancer treatments. *(please renew after two weeks).*

Prayers that the Lord be with **Matthew Hinze** and **Michael Hinze**, **Adam Horton**, **Peter Johnson**, **Shalyn Martinek** as they continue to serve in the Military.

Safe travels for **Arni Masibay** (brother of Maria Simpson).

### Pastor Fisk to be Installed in Rockford

#### August 12

Former Bethany Pastor Jonathan Fisk, will be installed on August 12 at 6 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Rockford, Illinois. More information is available on the tower in the narthex.

### Stewardship

#### Weekly Contributions - Week of 7/22/2018

Actual	Budget	Surplus/Deficit
\$10,473	\$15,680	(\$5,207)

#### Year to Date Contributions 07/1/18 - 7/25/18

Actual	Budget	Surplus/Deficit
\$71,149	\$62,720	\$8,429

### Attendance

	Jul-2018	Jul-2017
Average Weekly Attendance - July	346	338
YTD Attendance July	1,385	1,354

### Church Family Sunday

Look for the sign up sheet on the Tower today! We are looking for:

- Volunteers to set up on Sunday morning at 8 a.m.
- Kitchen Helpers
- Beverage Volunteers
- Children's Game Helpers
- Clean Up Volunteers

Looking forward to a fun event!

# News

## Big Thanks from LWML!

Thanks to all of our members who helped with the NID LWML event that we sponsored last Saturday. We had a great response from bakers, servers and more. The ladies that attended the meeting were very impressed and appreciative of our hospitality.

## Bethany Stained Glass Replicas Available

Shortly after our original Bethany stained glass window was installed in the back of our sanctuary we arranged for the production of a limited number of miniature replicas and sold them to our members and friends. There are eight of these replicas still available. If you are interested in purchasing one for \$40, please stop in or contact the church office.

## Do You Have Some Time to Help?

We are looking for volunteers to help in Bethany's music library. We need people to help entering information from a piece of music into a form on a computer. Reading music is not required and we will help with what you need to do. Please contact Cantor Giuliani ([mgiuliani@bethanylcs.org](mailto:mgiuliani@bethanylcs.org)) and let him know when you can serve. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

## “Church Family Sunday” August 19!

Plan to attend all of our special events on Sunday, August 19 as we celebrate our blessings as the Bethany Church Family. We will only have one service that day, at 10 a.m. but will have our regular service on Saturday, August 18 at 5 p.m. At the 10 a.m. service we will dedicate our Day School and Sunday School teachers as they begin a new year. Afterwards we will exit the building and enjoy a wonderful Potluck lunch and fun activities for the kids. During this time we will also have Sunday School registration and showcase the many volunteer opportunities we have here at Bethany. Look for sign up tables for Ushers, Altar Guild, Communion Care and more. We will supply the hamburgers and hot dogs and eating utensils. Bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share.

## Singing to Shut-Ins Choir

We would like to start a singing to Shut-ins choir that would sing once per month to those in the congregation who are not able to regularly fellowship with us. This would be a very informal thing, perhaps singing some simple hymns *a cappella* and rehearsing for a bit before going out to sing. If you're interested in singing in this choir, please contact Cantor Giuliani at [mgiuliani@bethanylcs.org](mailto:mgiuliani@bethanylcs.org).

## Visits Appreciated by Homebound

Please contact Pastor Schumacher if you are interested in dropping in on our homebound members from time to time. Although our Pastors regularly visit and offer the Lord's Supper to these members, they very much appreciate friendly visits from fellow members. Pastor Schumacher's email address is ([sschumacher@bethanylcs.org](mailto:sschumacher@bethanylcs.org)).

## Pastor Schumacher:

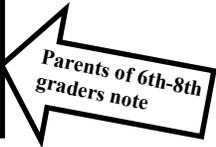
### “We Need Sunday School Teachers!”

Sunday School Registration will be held on August 19 and the new year of Sunday School begins on August 26. Before then, we will gather names of those willing to teach, aide and sub in the upcoming year. Bringing Jesus to our children is a high priority for us. Please consider becoming involved and contact Pastor Schumacher with your area of interest.

**Youth**  
**Group Pool Party/Senior Send-Off**

**FOR ALL SR. HIGH YOUTH**  
Join us as we send off our seniors:  
**When:** This Sunday, July 29—2 to 5 p.m.  
**Where:** Holtan Backyard, 1278 Dunbarton Dr. Aurora 60502  
**Land Lovers:** Plenty for you to do as well.....Bags, Can Jam, Bacci Ball and more! Please text or email Michelle Holtan (contact info below) if you plan to attend and how many in your party! Parents are welcome!  
([mmholtan@me.com](mailto:mmholtan@me.com) or 630-788-9193).

**Looking Ahead**  
August 12 - Higher Things presentation during Bible Study hour  
August 26 - Confirmation Kick Off Luncheon (All 6th-8th Graders and parents); 12:30-2:00 PM (more info to follow)  
August 26- Sr. High Kick Off (mid-afternoon, details TBA)



## Oktoberfest 2018 is September 22 from noon to 10 p.m.

**Thinking of Sponsoring???**—Three more days (until July 31) to get a free ad in the program at the \$250 level and an extra VIP ticket at the \$500 level. Sponsorship forms are on the Welcome Center or email Linda Fox ([lfox@bethanylcs.org](mailto:lfox@bethanylcs.org)) that you want to get in on the July special.

- Our headlining band is the Brass Buckle Band, who recently performed at Romeofest!
- All profits this year will directly benefit our amazing School and will help to keep the expenses in our General Fund lower.
- At this point, we are looking for volunteers to fill our roster! Please check your calendars to see if you can help out with set up, shifts, and/or clean up.

## 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/Fifth Grade Teacher  
 Donna Linnemeyer.....Program Administrator

### Faculty

Debby Buckman.....Preschool Teacher  
 Angela Hess.....Preschool Teacher  
 Jamie Rogoz.....Preschool Teacher  
 Diana Guebert.....Preschool Teacher  
 Beth Schultz.....Preschool Teacher  
 Ashley Zorena.....Preschool Teacher  
 Kim Rodriguez, Traci Downs.....Instructional Aides  
 Heather Lee, Cindy Hoekema.....Instructional Aides  
 Kristin Gemkow.....Kindergarten  
 Cyndi Niccolai.....First Grade  
 Kari Janetzke.....Second Grade  
 Carole Staunch.....Art/First Grade Aide  
 Chad Baganz.....Third Grade  
 Michelle Stehle.....Fourth Grade  
 Nancy Yendrejczyk.....Library  
 Grant Baganz.....K-5th Phys. Ed.  
 Josh Schultz.....Sixth Grade  
 Rob Johnson.....Seventh Grade  
 David Bremer.....Eighth Grade  
 Vacant.....Eighth Grade English/Sixth Grade Math  
 Jill Diriltlen.....Teacher/Speech  
 Holly Fletcher.....Special Education  
 Kevin Zorena.....Assistant Cantor  
 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  
 Vacant.....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

## Day School Policy Board

Grant Baganz      David Brouch      Scott Collins  
 Molly D'Amico      Sully Diriltlen      Harold Downs  
 Beth Hahn      Sue Jablonsky      Joyce Lohrentz

**Pick Up an ABC  
 Devotional in the  
 Tract Carousel Next to the  
 Welcome Center.**

## Bible Studies at Bethany

### Our Feature Bible Study in the MPR

Our feature Bible Class, titled "Summer Scripture Shape Up" continues this Sunday. We will do an overview of a section of Scripture each week and lead a study of one chapter of particular importance. This class meets in the MPR 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. **Summer Sunday School continues this Sunday. There is no Sunday School next Sunday, August 5.**

### Adult Instruction Class

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.

### Women's Summer LifeLight

The Women's Wednesday Morning LifeLight Bible Study Group is taking a summer break from in-depth study (and homework). **Please join us on Wednesdays from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.** We will be reading leisurely through the Minor Prophets for the remainder of the summer session. Simply bring your Bible. The Ladies Lifelight Fall session will begin September 12. Please contact Sheri Walsh with questions at [ssmdw@wideopenwest.com](mailto:ssmdw@wideopenwest.com) or call or text 630-816-4647.

### 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 August 5 Herald  
 is Tuesday, July 31.**