



No Saturday Service Next
Saturday, September 23!

HERALD

September 17, 2017
Fifteenth 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.

Built on the Rock—the Church and You By Pastor Clemmer

Built on the Rock the Church shall stand,
Even when steeples are falling.
Crumbled have spires in every land;
Bells still are chiming and calling,
Calling the young and old to rest,
But above all the souls distressed,
Longing for rest everlasting.
(*Built on the Rock, LSB 645, stz. 1*)

This classic hymn of the Lord's Church gives us comfort that the Lord will preserve His Church against the gates of hell and the attacks of the world. Even when church buildings are destroyed, the Church (wherever the Word is rightly preached and the Sacraments are administered according to Christ's institution) will thrive—granting peace to young and old throughout the world. All of this is certain because the Church is built, not with mortar and bricks, and not upon men, but on the Rock that is Jesus—and He will stand firm though the earth gives way.

At a time when the world is openly hostile toward the Lord's Church, this is great comfort for the Church. But the comfort isn't only for the Church corporately, but also for you and me individually. The Church isn't the *only* thing built on the firm foundation of Christ. **Your faith is, as well.**

Psalms 46 puts it like this: **"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.... 'Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!' [says the Lord] The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress"** (*Ps. 46:1-3, 10-11*)

We know the reality of turmoil, suffering, and chaos in this fallen world. The Devil attacks us with temptations, the world lures us away from God, and even our own sinful nature would rather indulge in selfish pleasures than serve God and neighbor. Creation itself groans (*Rom. 8:19-22*), as we know of devastating hurricanes, fires, and other disasters. Sickness and death will most surely come to us and our families. And, as we know too well, all these things often seem to come upon us *at once!* Just when you think you're at your breaking point, another burden is placed on your back!

These things are sure to come upon us. The Psalmist doesn't say that the earth "might" give way. Rather, he assures us that *it will happen*. Suffering, trial, and disaster will come. Will the storms of this life destroy your faith? Will you be torn from God by the strong winds of tragedy?

NO! When it *does* happen, you stand firm—you stand still and unshaken—not because you are so great, but because of Him upon whom you stand. When the sun of suffering comes to scorch us, He has grown our roots deep in Him, so we will not dry out (*Matt. 13:6, 21*).

Suffering and tragedy are sure to come—and many around us are shaken. We see the devastation done. Some lose faith because they wrongly believed in a god that wouldn't allow such suffering, or they believed in a god that owed them only blessings—so they fall away. Others scramble around for firm ground as the earth disintegrates beneath them, while still others reach up for assistance from ropes that, in the end, can't support them—the ropes of fix-all-medication, Oprah-esq-pop-psychology, or do-it-yourself, fix-your-life, self-help books. None of these ropes are finally able to rescue them, and their feet sink deeper into despair. Or, they try to convince themselves that it's not so bad—that drowning is what life is all about—so just embrace it.

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This Week's Calendar

Sunday, September 17

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

8:30 am—Worship w/communion
 10:00 am—Bible Class/Sunday School
 11:00 am—Worship w/communion
 3:00 pm—Days for Girls Sewing Lessons
 5:00 pm—Days for Girls Sewing Workshop
 6:00 pm—Confirmation Mentor Night

Monday, September 18

9:30 am—LWML
 7:15 pm—Men's Basketball

Tuesday, September 19

6:30 pm—Theology on Tap
 7:00 pm—Board of Finance

Wednesday, September 20

9:00 am—Woman's LifeLight
 8:50 am—BLS Chapel
 3:30 pm—Schola Cantorum
 5:30 pm—Praises Ring
 6:30 pm—Non-Day School Confirmation
 7:00 pm—Proclaim

Thursday, September 21

7:00 pm—College Parent Care Group

Friday, September 22

No School—Oktoberfest Set-Up
 6:00 pm—TriviaFest Under Tents

Saturday, September 23

7:30 am—Saturday AM Men's Basketball
 1:00 pm—Oktoberfest
 No Worship

Sunday, September 24

St. Michael and All Angels

8:30 am—Worship w/communion
 10:00 am— Bible Class/Sunday School Classes
 11:00 am—Worship w/communion
 12:00 pm—Oktoberfest Clean Up

Prayers

In Our Prayers.....

All of Our Members, especially: **Claudia Scarpine**, chemo treatments; **Nancy Skibinski**, rehab. *(please renew after four weeks)*.

All of our Family Members & Friends, especially:

Ben Blanchard, (uncle of Beth Hahn) cancer; **Gina**, (friend of Jackie Tyndall) health issues; **Valerie Kincaid**, (friend of Sally Wilson) continued improvement/stability after bone marrow transplant; **Jim McKnight**, (friend of Sally Wilson) radiation treatments; **Marianna Saucedo**, (former student of Shelly Quinn) continued stability following treatment for brain tumor; **Mike Stache**, (former BLC member) cancer; **Merle Steva**, (brother of Denise Bruno) health issues. **Luke Swanson**, (nephew of Pastor Schumacher) recovery from surgery. *(please renew after two weeks)*.

Prayers that the Lord be with **Peter Johnson** as he continues to serve in the Air Force and with **Shalyn Martinek** as she begins her service in the USMC.

For all those affected by Hurricane Harvey/Irma and the wildfires in the northwest.

Chancel Flowers

Chancel flowers for this weekend were placed by **Cheryl Groth and Family** in memory of Dwight Groth on his birthday.

Baptism

Harrison Allen Linnemeyer, son of Jonathan and Courtney (Barclay) Linnemeyer will be baptized at the 11 a.m. service this weekend. Harrison's godparents are Krista Jamrose and Bradley Linnemeyer.

Stewardship

Weekly Contributions - Week of 9/10/17

Actual	Budget	Surplus/Deficit
\$16,327	\$18,750	(\$2,423)

Year to Date Contributions 07/1/17 - 9/13/2017

Actual	Budget	Surplus/Deficit
\$203,800	\$193,000	\$10,800

Attendance

	Sep 2017	Sep 2016
Avg Weekly Attendance - Sep	412	404
YTD Attendance July - Sep	4,042	4,212

Bethany Member Named Officer of the Year

Bethany member Martin Franken was named Naperville Police Officer of the Year by the Exchange Club of Naperville this past June. Officer Franken was nominated by his supervisors for his outstanding efforts as a patrol officer in addition to his exemplary work as a permanent beat officer, a Field Training Officer and a volunteer leader for the Naperville Police Explorers. Congratulations and great job Marty!

News

New Bulletin Format

As we indicated last weekend, we are trying out a new bulletin format on the weekends of September 10 and 17. A survey is included in the bulletin so that you may provide feedback. The bulletin format is the same this weekend as last weekend but we are using different paper. If you would like to give input again, or for the first time, please leave your completed surveys at the back of church or in the tray on the welcome center.

Come Meet Fellow Parents of College Students!

The College Parent Group is a fellowship group for parents of college students that focuses on staying connected with our college age youth. Three times each year, we send packages to our college students, whether at home or away. If you are a parent of a college student, we invite you to join us to learn about our group and to sign up your student to receive packages this year. We will be meeting in the conference room at Bethany on Thursday, September 21 at 7 p.m. We hope to see you then, or registration forms are available in the narthex. Please contact Michelle Grimes with any questions at micgrimes@aol.com or 630 983-7822.

Theology on Tap Scheduled for September 19

Theology on Tap will meet on Tuesday, September 19 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Hopvine Brewing Co. We'll be covering pages 21 to 44 of the Large Catechism. See Bethany's website for information and the readings.

It's Time for a New Pictorial Directory!

Bethany Lutheran Church & School will be updating our Member Pictorial Directory and we're currently scheduling appointments for the portrait sittings. Photographers will be at Bethany on Wednesday, October 4th through Saturday, October 7th and again on Wednesday, October 18th, Thursday, October 19th, and Saturday, October 21st. Weekday times are 2:00 – 9:00 pm and Saturday times are 10 am to 4 pm. An on-line scheduling site has been created for appointments, so please check the Bethany website to connect to the link. Sign-up tables, with volunteers, will be in the Narthex before and after church services this weekend if you need assistance. Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to receive a free 8 x 10 portrait when you have your photo taken. We can't wait to see your smiling faces in the Directory!

Crafters Paradise - November 11!

The Bethany Ladies Guild is busy getting ready for Crafters Paradise on Saturday, November 11, 2017 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Do you make handcrafted items and are you looking for a place to show and sell them? Contact: cparadiseblg@gmail.com or call 630-961-0628 and leave a message if you have questions. Thank you.

Oktoberfest Next Weekend!

This is the last weekend before Oktoberfest! Be sure to tell all your friends to come to this great event from 1 to 10 p.m. on Saturday and also to the Triviafest on Friday from 6 to 9 p.m. Don't have a team? We'll find you one! Here are things we still need: cases of Coke, Diet Coke, Root Beer and Sprite (a neighbor donated all the water), pumpkins to spruce up the décor, a few more volunteers for set up on Friday, for the evening shift on Saturday and for clean up on Sunday. Sign up at <http://signupschedule.com/bethanyptf>. Thanks to all who have signed up to help! Also, please remember to bring your chairs and German hats!

Sewing Lesson 101 for Days for Girls

Who? Girls who want to work a sewing machine

When? 3:00-4:30 on 9/17

Where? 7th Grade Classroom

With? Kate Millar, sewing instructor

Why? To learn the basics of running a sewing machine confidently and do your own troubleshooting, so more girls can help make quality hygiene kits efficiently for Days for Girls.

Cost? Free--Kate Millar is donating her time at Bethany, but is going to offer more sewing classes at her shop. Visit classicsewing.com for more information

Bring? Your own sewing machine if possible (there will be extras)

RSVP: to Gretchen Brouch by 9/13

@ 630-520-1691 or gbrouch@sbcglobal.net

Days for Girls Sewing Workshop

A reminder that the Days for Girls Sewing Workshop is this Sunday, September 17 from 5 to 7 p.m. in the multi-purpose room. If you have them, please bring your sewing machines, scissors, cutting boards, rulers, and wheels, iron and ironing boards, or just yourself to see how you can help!

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. We no longer record communion attendance.

Youth News

September 23—Sr. High Youth Oktoberfest Clean-up and late-night game night 10 p.m. to midnight

October 1—Sr. High Youth from 5 to 6 p.m. in the youth room.

October 15—Jr. High Youth Mentor Night.

Built on the Rock—the Church and You (continued)

But not you. The Lord has built you upon Jesus—the firm foundation. God is your strength who will not yield, though the earth shatters. He is your fortress that will withstand the assaults of the devil and the world. Your Jesus has been growing your roots deeper and deeper into Him—the true source of Life. He has planted you firmly upon Him, and the River of Life is your endless source of nourishment—*especially when* the sun of suffering and tribulation come.

Good roots—the kinds that are not scorched by the sun—grow slowly. And Jesus has been slowly but surely growing your roots of faith in Him. Week by week, day by day, you have heard the Lord's Word preached and been fed His true Body and Blood. He has put His Name upon you in Holy Baptism and daily grows you as that new tree of faith. The Devil wants you to flee from the Source of Life; he wants you to remove yourself from the Word and Sacraments; he wants you to cut yourself off from the fortress of Christ's Church. The Devil and the world know that when you cut yourself off from the forgiveness of sins and the Lord's Means of Grace, your roots will shrivel and your foundation will wither away.

Therefore, as the Psalmist describes, we stand "still" (Ps. 46:10) and firm on the solid foundation of Christ, who gives us peace in the midst of chaos. Our roots are nourished with life, forgiveness, and peace—even and especially when the sun of suffering comes to scorch us. You need not fear death nor be tormented by your sins—Jesus has forgiven your sin and destroyed death itself for you on the cross. And just as importantly: **The Lord is with you** (Ps. 46:11). Tragedy will come, and the Devil will do his best to tear you from the Lord, but you need not fear. **Your Lord is with you. Your foundation is solid and unwavering. Your roots are deep.** You are still, you have rest, and you have peace—for your Jesus is with you, and nothing in this world can shake Him.

Board of Trustees

Dave Groth	Dave Humphrey	Joshua Janetzke
Steve Lindenmeyer	Jon Roberts	Mike Teske
Mike Walsh, Chair		Jeffery Williams

Readings for September 24

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 55:6-9, Psalm 27:1-9, Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30, Matthew 20:1-16

Bible Studies at Bethany

Our Feature Bible Study in the Gym

Our feature Bible Class for fall is called "*Luther's Essentials...Insights into the Christian Faith* by Dr. Martin Luther" and meets on Sundays at 10 a.m. in the gym. This Bible study is taught by Pastor Schumacher.

Adult Instruction Class

If you're interested in joining Bethany or learning more about the Lutheran faith contact Pastor Schumacher at sschumacher@bethanylcs.org or Pastor Clemmer at sclemmer@bethanylcs.org or call 630-355-2198. New Member Classes are taught in conjunction with the *Luther's Essentials class in the gym*.

Sunday School

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

Ladies Wednesday Morning LifeLight

The Ladies LifeLight Bible Study began the LifeLight Foundations study of Prophecy last Wednesday. Prophecy examines Old Testament promises and the fulfillment of those promises in the new Testament, the School of Prophets, the end of the world, and much more. All women are welcome to join us for this in-depth Bible study on Wednesday mornings, 9 to 11 in the boardroom. New Lifelight books are available in the church office. Contact Karen Perry (630-904-1043 or ksperry62@gmail.com) with any questions.

Evening Lifelight

The Thursday Evening Lifelight Bible Study meets with Pastor one week and in a home the next. We will begin studying the book of Genesis in September. The date to be announced. 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. Our theme continues with 1 Corinthians.

Bethany Lutheran Church & School

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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 staffed during worship and Bible Study hour on Sundays. You are welcome to use it as a cry room at the 5 p.m. service.

The deadline for the September 24 Herald is Tuesday, September 19.