



HERALD

January 21, 2018
The Transfiguration of Our Lord

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.

Looking Outside Ourselves by Pastor Clemmer

Do you ever have doubts about God? Doubts about your faith? Doubts about His promises? Do you ever look at the events happening in your life and think, “How could God let this happen? Does He not care?” Do you ever consider your sin and shame and wonder, “How can a Christian do something like that?”

When looking for certainty about God and His love for us or for certainty about our faith, we tend to look to the wrong things. If our certainty of salvation was hinged on our doubtlessness about God or perfection in life, then who could ever be sure? If the evidence for God’s love for us was seen in the events of our day-to-day lives, then many days would leave us wondering if God cared at all. If confidence of being saved was found in our good fruits and love toward our neighbors, what confidence would we have? It’s easy for us to look in all the wrong places for certain salvation, confident faith, and a loving God—leaving us to doubt Him and his promises.

But our Lord doesn’t want us doubting—He wants us sure. So He points us to something outside of ourselves for certainty. Nothing in us can save us, so why look there? As Jesus teaches us in Matthew 15:19-20, “Out of the heart comes [all sorts of evil] and this defiles a person.” No certainty can be found where the Lord hasn’t given it—so he gives us something firm we can grasp *outside of ourselves*.

“Baptism now saves you” (1 Peter 3:21); **“Take drink, this is my blood of the covenant, shed for the forgiveness of sins”** (Matthew 26:27-28); **“Faith comes by hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ”** (Romans 10:17).

For our certainty of salvation and confidence of His love toward us, our Lord Jesus points us away from our feelings, actions, and thoughts—and to His physical gifts. Jesus has baptized you into His death and resurrection and promised to be more faithful than our fickle feelings—so as sure as the water is wet, you are in Him. He gives you His Body and Blood, delivering to you the peace won on the cross—so as sure as the bread crunches, He has promised to make you holy. Just as sure as sound vibrates your eardrums, the Lord has promised to send His Holy Spirit through His Word to you and your children.

Jesus doesn’t want us doubting or despairing—he didn’t bother dying so you would be consumed by doubt today. Don’t look to yourself—not even to your own faith—for certainty. Jesus points us outside ourselves to His external promises of Word and Sacraments. Our faith clings to those promises. This is why our worship is centered on our receiving these gifts. Even if you don’t “feel” like you “got anything out of church”—thanks be to God that He gives His forgiveness, peace, and life eternal *regardless of our feelings*.

This Week's Calendar

Sunday, January 21

The Transfiguration of Our Lord
Lutheran Schools' Week

8:30 am—Worship w/communion
10:00 am—Bible Class/Sunday School
11:00 am—Worship w/communion
3:15 pm—BLS Women's Volleyball—offsite
4:30 pm—Confirmation Mentor Night

Monday, January 22

4:00 pm—BLS Culvers Fundraiser—offsite

Tuesday, January 23

Wednesday, January 24

8:50 am—BLS Chapel
9:00 am—Woman's LifeLight
9:30 am—BLS Spelling Bee
3:30 pm—Schola Cantorum
5:30 pm—Praises Ring
7:00 pm—Proclaim

Thursday, January 25

Friday, January 26

Saturday, January 27

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

Sunday, January 28

Septuagesima (Pre-Lent)

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

Prayers

In Our Prayers.....

All of Our Members, especially: **Dave Dumford**, rehab from stroke. *(please renew after four weeks).*

All of our Family Members & Friends, especially:
Ailani Banuelos (and parents), pediatric cancer patient facing her third relapse/for strength and faith; **Sara Dumford**, (daughter of Dave/Sue Dumford) ill health; **Valerie Kincaid**, (friend of Sally Wilson) continued improvement after stem cell transplant; **Dana Stasiak**, (cousin of the Gutzwiller family) colon cancer/surgery/treatments; **Merle Steva**, (brother of Denise Bruno) upcoming heart surgery. *(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 the **family of Melodie Havlick** at the death of Melodie's father.

Chancel Flowers

Chancel flowers were placed this weekend by the **Barnickel family** for Blake's 14th birthday.

CareNet Baby Bottles Available

We ask that you take a baby bottle from the pack 'n play as we celebrate life and support CareNet, an agency that helps mothers with unplanned pregnancies. Please take a bottle and fill it over the next several weeks with coins, bills or checks and return it to the pack 'n play in the narthex by February 11. CareNet and the mothers and babies thank you.

Stewardship

Weekly Contributions - Week of 1/14/2018

Actual	Budget	Surplus/Deficit
\$15,613	\$22,625	(\$7,012)

Year to Date Contributions 07/1/17 - 1/17/2018

Actual	Budget	Surplus/Deficit
\$580,433	\$581,650	(\$1,217)

Attendance

	Jan 18	Jan 17
Avg Weekly Attendance - Jan	405	358
YTD Attendance July - Jan	12,141	12,257

First Steps in Music Begins this Week!

First Steps in Music at the Bach Academy is for children birth-4 years of age and begins on Tuesday, January 23. Classes for children birth-35 months is 9-9:45 a.m. For 3 and 4 year olds 9:45 to 10:30 a.m. Cost is \$10/class. Register at www.TheBachAcademy.org to reserve your spot.

Have You Ever Wondered About the Baptismal Banners?

Baptismal banners are a mission project of the Bethany Ladies Guild. In 2003 Bethany member Beth Hahn and a team took over this project. In that year there were 55 baptismal banners made. Between 2007-2017, 201 banners were made. Presently, Beth continues to create these beautiful banners and puts a label on the back stating this is a donation from Bethany's Guild. Next time you see a Baptismal Banner hanging in church, you will know who to thank! Thank you Beth from Bethany Ladies Guild!

News

Amore's Italian Dinner

Saturday, February 10

\$25.00 per person

Bethany's Youth invite you to enjoy a night out and a delicious Italian meal in the gym.

Dinner includes:

Salad and Bread, choice of entrée, dessert, water or soda, red or white wine.

Serving times are 4:30-6 p.m., 6:30-8 p.m. or 8:30-10 p.m.

Entertainment provided by Naperville Youth Symphony Orchestra

Register online at www/Bethanylcs.org/amores or see the display in the narthex.

Free babysitting is available!

Lutheran Schools' Week

January 21-27 is Lutheran Schools' Week, and Bethany will be celebrating in grand fashion! We have planned many fun things for the week including Western Day, Hat Day, Pajama Day with a pancake breakfast, and Super Hero Day to name a few. Tuesday we will host a Laura Ingalls Wilder Assembly, and Wednesday the teachers will be treated to a luncheon. All of Bethany is invited to join us at Culvers' Night on Monday from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Rt. 59 and 75th St. location. Teachers will serve the meals and lots of Bethany fellowship will be happening!

We're Having A Sweetheart Dance!

Bethany's congregation is invited to our Sweetheart Dance on February 9 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the gym. Dads, daughters, moms, sons, grandparents, aunt, uncles and special friends are all invited to this special evening. The cost is \$15 per family with music by DJ Buena Beats and light refreshments. It's a tropical theme, but come fancy or casual. Grab your special someone and join us on Friday, February 9!

We're Going to be in the Parade!

Save the date for Saturday, March 10!

Picture this—The Naperville St. Patrick's Day Parade, 2018: The sound of the Bethany band playing a spirited song from atop a flatbed truck that is totally decked out in full décor, surrounded by Bethany students and church members marching alongside, wearing matching green Bethany tee-shirts and handing out Bethany Lutheran Church and School pencils to all the parade-goers. What a great way to get out into the community! If you would like to partner with us in this event, call or email Linda Fox (630-355-6607 or lfox@bethanylcs.org) if you can sponsor the tee shirts or find us a flatbed truck. Plan on walking with us!

Cheer's Group

You want to be where everyone knows your name!!

AT HAMILTON

The Cheers group at Bethany Lutheran Church is trying to create opportunities for adults (over 21) of church and school to socialize and get to know each other. We have secured 45 tickets to Hamilton on Friday, **June 1, 2018 (7:30 p.m.) at the CIBC Theater**. Signing up for tickets is on a first come first serve basis. You are not signed up until your money is turned into Donna Linne-meyer by or before January 23. Tickets are \$87 a person. Don't give up your shot at seeing Hamilton on the last day of School!

College Parent Care Group/Military Care Group

All college parents are invited to join us for our packing party on February 1 (new date) at 7:30 p.m. in the board room at Bethany. We will also be packing boxes for Bethany members serving in the military. If you have someone serving in the military and would like them to receive a box, please contact Denise Collins at sctackleberry@aol.com or call her at 815-254-6929. 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 January 28.

Bethany Youth

January 21—Jr. High Mentor Night (Sr. High invited to be mentors) 4:30 p.m.

January 28—Sr. High Youth 5 to 6 p.m.

February 4—No Youth (Super Bowl Sunday)

February 10—Amoré Youth Fundraiser

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

Board Members

Program Staff

Vacant.....Pastor (Team Leader, Administration)
 Rev. Stephen Schumacher.....Pastor (Mercy)
 Rev. Seth ClemmerPastor (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

Jennifer Gutzwiller.....Preschool Teacher
 Angela Hess.....Preschool Teacher
 Jamie Rogoz.....Preschool Teacher
 Diana Guebert.....Preschool Teacher
 Beth Schultz.....Preschool Teacher
 Nadine Parmenter.....Preschool Teacher
 Justine Kaczmarek, Heather Schmidt.....Instructional Aides
 Kristin Gemkow.....Kindergarten
 Cyndi Niccolai.....First Grade
 Kari Janetzke.....Second Grade
 Carole Stauch.....Art/Kindergarten Aide
 Chad Baganz.....Third Grade
 Michelle Stehle.....Fourth Grade
 Nancy Yendrejczyk.....Library
 Debby Buckman.....K-5th Phys. Ed.
 Josh Schultz.....Sixth Grade
 Rob Johnson.....Seventh Grade
 David Bremer.....Eighth Grade
 Glenn Sonlitzer.....Eighth Grade English/Sixth Grade Math
 Jill Diriltzen.....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
 @bethanylcs.org (ex. sschumacher@bethanylcs.org)

Board of Trustees

Dave Groth	Tom Hart	Josh Janetzke
Steve Lindenmeyer	Jon Roberts	Mike Teske
Mike Walsh		Jeff Williams

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 is the Study of Psalms. 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 or Pastor Clemmer at sclemmer@bethanylcs.org or call 630-355-2198.

Ladies Wednesday Morning LifeLight

The Ladies LifeLight Bible Study is studying Ezra and Nehemiah. Join us to see how God brought His people Israel back from exile in Babylon and renewed His covenant with them. All women are welcome to join us for this in-depth Bible study on Wednesday mornings, 9 to 11 a.m. in the boardroom. 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 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

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 January 28 Herald is Tuesday, January 23.