



*Be Sure to Sign Up for Easter
Flowers in the Narthex Today!*

HERALD

**February 18, 2018
First Sunday in Lent**

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 to Give Up for Lent?

By: Rev. David H Petersen, pastor to Redeemer Lutheran Church, Ft. Wayne, In. (This article was featured in the February Lutheran Witness online edition. For more free online articles like this, visit: blogs.lcms.org).

Giving up some small pleasure for Lent, like chocolate or coffee, can be a nice way to remind ourselves throughout Lent that it is Lent. When we reach out for those things we remember that we are denying ourselves in commemoration of Our Lord's suffering. This isn't meant to please God or gain His favor. Nor can such a small denial make Lent more meaningful or increase faith. It is simply an attempt to keep ourselves mindful throughout the day that it is Lent. That is a valid Christian desire and discipline. Curbing the flesh is always good. Cutting calories is probably appropriate for almost everyone reading this, and (though I hate to admit it) cutting caffeine would probably hurt few of us either.

But Lent isn't ultimately about giving things up. Its purpose is not self-improvement in the conventional sense. Instead Lent is a season of preparation. We are preparing to celebrate Easter and the Church is always prepared in the same way: by repentance. True repentance is not simply feeling sorry, and it certainly isn't an emotional frenzy of despair. Nor is it merely an outward discipline for the world to see. True repentance means turning away from sin in sorrow and also turning toward God in joy. That is to say, that true repentance is *faith*. It expects forgiveness. It trusts in Christ to give

it. Judas was not truly repentant (*Matthew 27:3-5*). He was only remorseful. He did not think he could be forgiven. He did not trust Jesus to love him. In contrast, St. Peter was repentant (*Mark 14:66-72*). He was more than remorseful. He was sorry for his sins and ashamed of what he had done, but even more than this, he trusted in Christ to be merciful.

Lent is therefore not so much a time of "giving things up" as it is a time for adding things that increase our awareness of God's mercy in Christ Jesus. When Lent leads us to repentance, it isn't to make us sad or to somehow get God's attention. It is to strengthen our faith. Part of that strengthening includes an increased awareness of our great need — and yes, that often means a stern preaching of the Law. But that is not the real mark or purpose of Lent. For Lent also includes, and is mostly focused on, the solution to that need: the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for our redemption. Nearly all of our churches will add midweek services during Lent and also Holy Week services, not for the primary purpose of preaching the Law but rather that we might have more opportunities to receive God's forgiveness, hear His Word and receive His Sacrament.

So if you're looking for something to give up this Lent, I suggest you give up a few hours each Wednesday evening and go to Church. Don't do it to make yourself sad. Do it for the joy of hearing God's Word and receiving His gifts. There, by the means of Grace, repentance is educated and edified and faith is fed. That is what Lent is meant for.

Lenten Worship Schedule 2018
Wednesday, February 21, 28, March 7, 14, 21
9 a.m. *Lenten Service of Prayer and Preaching*
7:15 p.m. *Evening Prayer*

**Lenten Soup Suppers
Begin at 6:15 p.m.**

This Week's Calendar

Sunday, February 18

First Sunday in Lent

8:30 am—Worship w/communion
 10:00 am—Bible Class/Sunday School
 11:00 am—Worship w/communion
 5:00 pm—Dignity for Girls
 No Youth

Monday, February 19

President Day—No School—School/Church Offices Closed

9:00 am—Dignity for Girls

Tuesday, February 20

6:30 pm—Theology on Tap

Wednesday, February 21

9:00 am—Lenten Prayer & Preaching/Chapel
 9:00 am—Women's LifeLight
 3:30 pm—Schola Cantorum
 5:30 pm—Praises Ring
 6:15 pm—Lenten Soup Supper
 7:15 pm—Lenten Evening Prayer
 8:00 pm—Proclaim

Thursday, February 22

7:00 pm—Evening Lighthouse—offsite

Friday, February 23

8:00 am—BLS Dad's and Donuts
 4:00 pm—BLS Bowling

Saturday, February 24

7:30 am—Saturday AM Men's Basketball
 5:00 pm—Worship w/communion
 6:00 pm—Sweetheart Dance

Sunday, February 25

8:30 am—Worship w/communion
 10:00 am—Bible Class/Sunday School
 11:00 am—Worship w/communion
 3:15 pm—Women's Volleyball—offsite
 5:00 pm—Dignity for Girls
 5:00 pm—Sr. High Youth

Prayers

In Our Prayers.....

All of Our Members, especially: **Bob Airhart**, heart testing; **Cheryl Airhart**, recovery at home from broken hip; **Jennifer Barnickel**, recovery from surgery; **Fred Glatzhofer**, hospitalized. *(please renew after four weeks).*

All of our Family Members & Friends, especially:

Cindy, (friend of Maria Simpson) ill health; **Debbie**, (friend of Maria Simpson) ill health; **Valerie Kincaid**, (friend of Sally Wilson) continued strength; **Steve Mazzarella**, (friend/neighbor of Wayne/Iris Fischer and NNHS teacher) inoperable malignant brain tumor; **Tom Rodgers**, (father of Cyndi Niccolai) diagnosed with ALS; **Dana Stasiak**, (cousin of the Gutzwiller family) cancer treatments; **Merle Steva**, (brother of Denise Bruno) recovery from heart surgery/rehab. *(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 **Beth Hahn and family** at the death of her uncle, Harry Krueger this past week.

Prayer of thanksgiving for **Jessica Albach's** good test results.

Direct Thrivent Choice Dollars by March 29

Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have available Choice Dollars have until March 29, 2018, to direct them. Don't miss this opportunity to recommend that Thrivent Financial provide outreach funding to Bethany Lutheran Church and School. Two easy options for directing Choice Dollars are:

- Online at www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice.
- Phone 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" at the prompt. The member Connection Center is open until 6 p.m. Central time, Monday -Friday.

Stewardship

Weekly Contributions - Week of 2/11/2018

Actual	Budget	Surplus/Deficit
\$7,188	\$20,375	(\$13,187)

Year to Date Contributions 07/1/17 - 2/14/18

Actual	Budget	Surplus/Deficit
\$647,955	\$667,650	(\$19,696)

Attendance

Feb 2018 Feb 2017

	Feb 2018	Feb 2017
Avg Weekly Attendance - Feb	352	431
YTD Attendance July - Feb	13,727	13,814

Ladies LifeLight to Begin New Bible Study

A new Ladies Wednesday LifeLight Bible Study will begin on February 28, studying the Wilderness Wanderings of the Israelites from 9 to 11 a.m. See page 4 for more details.

Lifetouch Photo's Available

If you had your photo taken for the directory back in November/December, your free 8 X 10 is now available in the church office.

News

Bethany Member Chosen for Honor Flight!

Bethany member Larry Balcer has been chosen for the Land of Lincoln Honor Flight on April 3. Larry is 87 and a Korean Era Veteran who served in the US Navy from November 8, 1948-October 28, 1952. Larry will fly from Springfield, IL to Washington DC along with 77 other Veterans and 78 Guardians to visit the WWII, Korean, Vietnam Memorials and Arlington National Cemetery. Bethany member, BLS dad and son-in-law, Aaron Clasen will accompany Larry as Guardian on this honor flight.

Amore Thank You

Bethany Senior High Youth want to thank the congregation for their support of the Amore's Italian Dinner Fundraiser! We had a fun time with each other and the rest of the congregation. Thanks to all the wonderful parent and congregational volunteers who gave their time to help plan and run the evening, and thanks to all the card table donors! We also want to thank Vesuvio Bakery and Deli (No. Riverside, IL) for providing the delicious cannoli we enjoyed for dessert. We raised \$3500 with this event, and all of that money will go to this year's trip to Higher Things in Carbondale, IL.

Sweetheart Dance Rescheduled

We have rescheduled our Sweetheart Dance for **February 24 from 6 to 8 p.m.** Dads, daughters, moms, sons, grandparents, aunts, uncles and special friends are all invited to this special evening. The cost is \$15 per family. It's a tropical theme, so come fancy or casual!

Thanks to All!

Thanks to everyone who made it to Chipotle on Rt. 59 on Monday, February 12. Chipotle donated 50% of the profits through the Dining for Dollars fundraiser. Our school earned \$685.10. Thanks for supporting BLS!

Thanks also to all who took and returned a filled baby bottle for CareNet. Watch the Herald for the total dollar amount collected. If you still have a baby bottle to drop off, please bring it to the church office.

Come to Naperville's St. Paddy's Day Parade!

Come march with us! Yes, that right! Bethany Lutheran School will have a float in this year's parade and would like you to walk the parade with us. Please call or email Linda Fox on how you can help build the float and to register to walk (630-355-6607 or lfox@bethanylcs.org). Come and help us represent Bethany!

We Need A Volunteer!

The church office is looking for a volunteer to enter the weekend worship attendance into the computer. This task usually takes less than an hour each week. Please contact Jean Martinek in the church office if you are interested (630-355-2198).

"Dignity for Girls" to Meet February 18/19

We love because He first loved us 1 John 4:19. This February plan to share His Love with girls in Kenya. We have two dates scheduled this month, Sunday, February 18 (5-7 p.m.) and Monday, February 19 (9 a.m.-noon). Side by side girls and ladies share the love of Jesus as we sew, iron, and pray together. Please bring an ironing board or sewing machine if you have one. We will be working on drawstring bags. Learn more about the mission at www.dignityforgirls.org.

Wine Pairs Nicely With Good Friends!

Save the date for Saturday, April 7. Our next Cheers event is an evening of wine tasting at the home of Elaine and Tom Gavin. We will likely fill all forty slots for this adult fellowship event so get your payment in to secure your spot. Sign up by turning in \$10 per person to Donna Linnemeyer in the church office. Watch for more details. Hope you can make it!

College Care Group Parents:

We will have our February social at Galena Wine Cellars on Sunday, February 25 at 2:30 p.m. Galena Wine Cellars is located at 477 South 3rd St. in Geneva. We will have a wine tasting and hors d'oeuvres. Come sporting your child's college wear and enjoy some fantastic wine! Please RSVP by February 20 to Ruth Roberts at 630-373-6736 or r2kumba@gmail.com.

Attention Flute Players!

Flute players high school age and up are invited to join the Bethany Flute Choir directed by Cindy Fiene-Curfs. They will be playing next at the 11 a.m. service on March 11 and March 25. Please contact Cindy directly at 630-901-9491 with your interest and questions.

Theology on Tap

Theology on Tap will meet on **Tuesday, February 20, 6:30-8 p.m.** at Hopvine Brewing Co, (4030 Fox Valley Center Dr.). We are studying Luther's Large Catechism. Please see Bethany's website for the reading assignment and to register. We hope you will join us.

BLS 8th Grade Fundraiser

To help us reach our fundraising goal, we invite you to purchase Butter Braids or cookie dough. Each comes in several flavors. Pick up an order form outside the school office and make sure it's returned by March 5. Pick up is March 12. All profits will go toward our 8th grade class trip. Thank you!

Youth News

February 18—No Youth

February 25—Sr High Youth (5 to 6 p.m.)

March 4—Sr. High Youth (5 to 6 p.m.)

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 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

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)

Officers

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

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

Ladies LifeLight Bible Study will begin a new study on February 28, studying the Wilderness Wanderings of the Israelites after God brought them out of slavery in Egypt and before entering the Promised Land as recorded in Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. All women are invited to join this in-depth Bible study, meeting Wednesday mornings from 9 to 11 a.m. in the Harris wing conference room. 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 available as a cry room during worship services.

**The deadline for the February 25 Herald
 is Tuesday, February 20.**