

THE FOLLOWER

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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A MESSAGE WITHOUT WORDS

BY PASTOR PAUL

We live in a world today, which tries to say too much with too little. Consequently, few listen. Sometimes the best conversations are the ones left unspoken.

A member of a certain church, who previously had been attending services regularly, suddenly stopped coming to church. After a few weeks, the pastor decided to visit. The pastor found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fireplace. Guessing the reason for his pastor's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace and waited.

The pastor made himself at home but said nothing. In the awkward silence, he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs. After some minutes, the pastor took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the fireplace all alone. Then he sat back in his chair..... still silent. The host watched all this in quiet contemplation. As the one lone embers' flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and lifeless.

The pastor glanced at his watch and realized it was time to leave. He slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire!

Immediately it began to glow, once more with the light and the warmth of the burning coals around it. As the pastor reached the door to leave, his host said with a lump in his throat, "Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery message. I will be back with the family this Sunday."

Jesus once said, "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven." *Matt. 5:16* Working together we can be that light to our darkened world. This upcoming month we will have the opportunity to re-commit ourselves to be people who are following Jesus together. As always, our motivation for giving back to God results from His giving to us. He has given EVERYTHING to us and most importantly, new life in Jesus Christ. We are now blessed with the opportunity to respond to His love. And as we do, working together, we will be the ones who will be blessed as we put Jesus in the center of our lives, our church, and our relationships. Living the life that keeps Jesus in the center of everything. A life of passion for people. A life that is on fire for the Gospel. A life that reveals our great love for each other. Because, the truth of the matter is that we need each other to keep the flame burning.

BETHEL'S ANNUAL ALL CHURCH MEETING

Please plan to come to Bethel's All Church Meeting, which will be held on **Sun, Nov 24** from 9:30-10:45am in Bethel's Sanctuary. As the family of God here at Bethel, you are all invited to participate in this time where together we will ...

- ▶ Celebrate the wonderful things God has done in our midst over this last year
- ▶ Seek the Holy Spirit's leading for our next steps so that our neighbors and the next generation experience the life-changing love of Jesus
- ▶ Make decisions about Bethel's leadership team, the M+M Council, which provides direction for BELC and Bethel
- ▶ Pass a budget - so that we, as the body of Christ at Bethel, can be good stewards of our resources as we follow Jesus together in this place

You are very important to the body of Christ here at Bethel! You matter at Bethel and are warmly invited to be a part of this meeting - to know what is happening and be part of the direction that we are going in together. The more aligned we are as a family at Bethel on what God is calling us to in our context, the more we can be about following Jesus together!

The mission opportunity is not measured by the numbers needing to be reached. The mission opportunity going forward is measured by the number of baptized people of God disciplined and trained to lead into the mission.

Jock Ficken



HELP WANTED FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL TEAM

Bethel family, our Sunday School team needs two more people so that we can help all the children experience the life-changing love of Jesus!

Would you prayerfully consider being on the team? Here's some things to keep in mind...

- ▶ You'd receive guidance and shadow someone first
- ▶ You'd work with a small group of children every other Sunday morning
- ▶ Your prep for Sunday morning would be about an hour or less
- ▶ All materials are provided for you
- ▶ You may be surprised that you actually learn a lot for yourself about the life-changing love of Jesus!
- ▶ Your commitment would be for this 2019-2020 school year

Please talk to Ms. Jo if you have any questions at all or would be interested in being on the team.

BETHEL CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT NEWS

Our Sunday School children will have the special opportunity to lead family and friends in honoring the birth of Jesus the Messiah at the Children's Christmas Pageant on **Sat, Dec 14** at 5:00pm.

All children, preschool through 8th grade, enjoy a part in the pageant ~ from angels and shepherds to magi and narrators to Mary and Joseph! Family and friends will experience awe and blessing as the children lead us in worshipping Jesus.

A Google commitment form was emailed to all Bethel Sunday School families. Kindly respond by Sun, Nov 3 so we can plan well, assign parts and begin to prepare costumes. If you have any questions, please talk to Ms. Jo.

Key dates for your calendar:

- ★ Sun, Nov 3 ~ Deadline to sign up for Pageant
- ★ Sun, Nov 17 ~ Distribution of Pageant parts during Sunday School
- ★ Sun, Dec 1 ~ 9:30-10:45 am Pageant Rehearsal during Sunday School
- ★ Sat, Dec 7 ~ 9:00-10:45 am Pageant Rehearsal
- ★ Sun, Dec 8 ~ 9:30-10:45 am Pageant Rehearsal during Sunday School
- ★ Sat, Dec 14 ~ 9:00-11:00 am Pageant Rehearsal
- ★ Sat, Dec 14 ~ 4:15 pm Call Time for Pageant

**CHRISTMAS
PAGEANT
SAT, DEC 14 @
5 P.M.**

SUNDAY SCHOOL KIDS COLLECT TOOTHBRUSHES

During November, Bethel's Sunday School kids will collect toothbrushes for the PADS hygiene kits they assemble in the spring. Our aim is to gather 50 toothbrushes for the hygiene kits for people at PADS.

PADS FIELD TRIP FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL KIDS

Parents and children are warmly invited to serve together at PADS alongside the Bethel team from 5-6pm on Mon, Nov 18 and Mon, Nov 25 at the First Congregational Church at 1047 Curtis Street in Downers Grove.

Come either Monday... or both Mondays... and help set up bedding (pads, sheets, pillows and blankets) and make lunches for the people at PADS who are dealing with homelessness. PADS adult guests do not arrive until after 6pm. Sunday School families, look for an email with information and an opportunity to RSVP.

Family Advent Night

Everyone is cordially invited to join Early Learning Center families on Fri, Dec 6 at 5:30pm in the West Basement for our Family Advent Night. Families and friends gather to make crafts, sing songs, share a delicious meal and join in a family devotion in the sanctuary. The evening delightfully concludes with a visit from a "jolly old elf." This evening of fellowship provides a wonderful opportunity to build relationships with our BELC families!

The BELC team would be blessed with your help serving at this event with crafts, kitchen, clean up and welcoming our preschool families. Please look for a sign-up sheet in the coming weeks.

PRESCHOOL OCTOBER WRAP UP

Autumn has arrived as the weather is crisp and the leaves are turning their lovely shades of red, gold, purple, and brown. The preschool children are becoming more comfortable with the daily classroom routines. Our unit on God's Creatures was a remarkable success as the children enjoyed learning about farm animals, jungle animals, pets and forest friends. We were lucky enough to have hands-on experience with Miss Karen of Karen's Nature Tales, Inc. who taught us about animal coverings and animal tongues! The children have begun to enjoy more self-expression through art, using new materials purchased with our fundraising monies. The October festivities culminated with our annual Pumpkin Patch Party, filled with fun costumes, treats, art activities, pumpkin-themed games and a visit to our pumpkin patch. During Jesus' Time, the children discovered how God used creatures to help Him in the Bible. Jonah and the Whale, Daniel in the lion's den and Noah's Ark provided our backdrop for learning.

Christmas Wish List

Throughout the year, Early Learning Center teachers make a special wish list of books, art materials or toys to have in their classrooms. Beginning Sun, Dec 1, wished-for items will be posted on the bulletin board in the West basement. If you would like to include a special and much appreciated gift to the preschool in your gift giving this year, please take "an ornament" from the tree, purchase the item and return it to Bethel Early Learning Center. Most of the items can be ordered online from Amazon Smile or purchased from local businesses. Thank you Bethel Family for your continued generous giving to our preschool. Thank you! Psalm 9:1 "I will give thanks to you, LORD, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds."

MYSTERY READER PROGRAM SUCCESS!!!

Miss Alyssa implemented the new Mystery Reader program in the PreK 2 classroom this past month and we have had an overwhelmingly positive response from parents and the congregation members alike! Sign up to come read a story to a preschool class! No experience necessary! We will have a story for you and we've got lots of props if you want them – and enthusiastic preschoolers that love to hear a good book! Please see Alyssa to schedule a spot as a guest Mystery Reader – space is filling up fast!



Mystery Reader Elise Fox with her son Jack and the Pre K 2 class on 10/11/19

PRESCHOOL NOVEMBER THEMES

November is a rich time of learning about God's Garden at Harvest Time. We devote most of our curriculum time to reveal the gifts of autumn, Thanksgiving and sharing with others. We also focus on cultural diversity among people. All children will study apples and pumpkins, collect autumn leaves and hear stories about early Native Americans, the people who gave us the gift of corn, and the first Thanksgiving. They will also learn about nutrition, dental care and healthy eating habits. Children in the 3's class will study the classic book, The "Little Red Hen" illustrated by Lucinda McQueen. The Enrichment Class will dive into cooking and explore math concepts with measuring and following recipes. PreK 2 students will have a special opportunity to live like pilgrims throughout November in a dramatic Thanksgiving Social Studies unit.

CHRISTMAS CARD FUNDRAISER WITH EMERY ANN DESIGNS

Christmas Card Fundraiser with Emery Ann Designs
Please consider ordering your family photo Christmas Cards this year through Emery Ann Designs! Our BELC Mom Nicole Nechvatal owns an invitation and card design studio and generously offers to donate 100% of her profits from our Christmas Card orders again this year! We will offer over 10 different designs on quality card stock with matching envelopes for a great price.

TO PLACE YOUR ORDER

All Christmas Card Design Options include the following for \$1.50 each, 5 x 7 Flat Card Digitally Printed on 120# Eggshell Ultra White Card Stock. Your Choice of Red, Green, Bright White, Warm White, Ivory, or Metallic Pearl Envelope.

How to order at <https://emeryanndesign.com/bethel/>

1. Choose the card design, number of cards (min. of 10 and quantities of 5), envelope color and personalize card with photo and names.

2. If you would like your order shipped directly to you, please check the box in the shipping section.
3. Add your Contact Information and submit order form.
4. Pay Invoice on next page.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

All orders submitted by Mon, Nov 11 will receive your first proof by Fri, Nov 15 and delivered to Bethel the first week of December. Orders that choose to be shipped directly to them will receive their first proof by Fri, Nov 15 and will have their orders sent to production right after print approval. These orders will be delivered within 8 business days. Orders placed between Tue, Nov 12 and Tue, Dec 3 will be designed within 4 business days of ordering and will have the direct to you shipping method selected. Bethel will still receive all profits with this option.

HOLIDAY FUNDRAISING FOR THE BELC

With the holidays rapidly approaching, the Early Learning Center would like you to know that we are only able to provide amazing programming and materials because of your generous support. Here are several ways you can help BELC just by Shopping Online or Dining Out!

I-Give: This is just a reminder to all who shop online.

Please visit www.igive.com to learn how easy it is for you can donate a portion of your purchases to the ELC.

1. Register at www.igive.com
2. Select "Bethel Early Learning Center of Westmont, IL" as your "cause"
3. Check the list of merchants, and shop! You continue to shop as you always do, except that you begin at the igive.com site.

Look for additional incentives such as free shipping or double percentage donations.

AmazonSmile: You may also shop online through Amazon and BELC will receive a portion of your sales.

1. Go to smile.amazon.com
2. Select to support "Bethel Lutheran Church & Early Learning Center"
3. Shop!

Mabel's Labels: Need to put labels in or on something? Mabel has the solution! You can help BELC by shopping online for all manner of labels and a portion of the proceeds goes to BELC. Here's how:

1. Go to: campaigns.mabelslabels.com
2. Scroll down to Bethel Early Learning Center (Westmont) Buy labels!

November Dine Out and Donate-Dinner Event: Dine Out and a portion of the sales will be donated back to BELC! Go eat and enjoy food and fellowship with friends, neighbors and family and support your favorite preschool! City Barbeque— **Wed, Nov 13** All Day Dining 1034 W. Ogden Avenue Downers Grove, IL 60515 We receive 20% from all BELC sales!

And Please remember our...**Marge Gross Scholarship Fund:** Keep supporting our scholarship program for families in need at our Preschool. Consider making a monthly or yearly donation to bless a child with early Christian education at Bethel Early Learning Center. Please speak to Lisa Graziano (630-968-3232 ext.105) to learn more. Thankyou!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Shoe boxes are available! Be a part of this simple, but powerful way to share good news of Jesus with a child. Please talk to Lu Sworst for more details. Here's what to do...

- 1 Pick one or more shoe boxes up from the back of church –
- 2 Fill with gifts for boy or girl
- 3 PRAY for that child
- 4 Provide \$9 per shoe box for shipping payable to Samaritan's Purse or give online and follow your shoe box
- 5 Boxes due back to Bethel by **Sun, Nov 17**.

BETHEL FESTIVAL CHOIR & CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

This month, Bethel's Festival Choir will begin rehearsals for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship. Whether you are an experienced or brand new singer, we'd love to have you join us for choir!

Here are a few key dates for you to put on your calendar. Our first choir practice will be Wed, Nov 20 at 7:30pm.

Then, we also will rehearse on the three Wednesday's in December on the 4, 11, and 18 at 7:30pm.

Festival Choir and Chamber Orchestra will rehearse together on Sun, Dec. 22 at 11:30am.

Chamber Orchestra will have an additional Saturday rehearsal, but the date is still in the works.

Please try to make every rehearsal if you can. Christian and Janet would love to see you! What a joy to work together to make beautiful music to worship God on the occasion of Jesus' birth!

BETHEL TEAMS WORK IN SHIFTS TO HOST PADS EVENTS IN NOVEMBER

Bethel hosts PADS three times a year and we have two hosting opportunities next month - Mon, Nov 18 from 5pm to Tues, Nov 19 at 6am and Mon, Nov 25 from 5pm to Tues, Nov 26 at 6am. People of all ages from Bethel work in shifts to serve our neighbors who deal with homelessness. There are jobs for everyone... some set-up bedding, others prep lunch, dinner and/or breakfast! Some serve food and clean-up, and the brave ones even stay for part of the overnight shift! No one works the entire shift, but together we cover all the needs. PADS is located at the First Congregational Church ~ 1047 Curtiss Street in Downers Grove. Talk to Sandy Smith to be a part of the team. Shift sign-ups are at the back of the sanctuary!

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

On Fri, Nov 8 from 6-7:30pm, a packing team from Bethel will head out to Feed My Starving Children (affectionately known as FMSC)! For years, Bethel teams have packed food to serve our neighbors around the world who deal with hunger on a daily basis.

It's a great opportunity for families to work together! It's a fun event to invite a friend to - especially someone who may be curious about God and being a part of something bigger!

Sign up for a packing spot at the back of the sanctuary or call Bethel's office at 630-968-3232. FMSC is located at 555 Exchange Ct in Aurora. After packing, gather with other packers from Bethel for dinner and time to hang out at a nearby Portillo's - 1992 W. Jefferson on Route 59 in Naperville.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 1 Rachel Oldham
- 2 Jonathan Gorecki
- 2 Zachary Michalak
- 5 Kate Maassen
- 7 Cheryl Burrows
- 7 James Oldham
- 9 Bob Wootton
- 10 Frederick Johnson
- 11 Lauren Soltwisch
- 13 Leslie Johnson
- 17 Sharon Schwieger
- 18 Rylee Sharkey
- 20 Cami Ward
- 21 Joseph Zahalka
- 24 Rylan Dreyer
- 27 Mike Cucchi
- 28 Judy Reedy

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 10 Michael & Julianne Confalonieri
- 13 Robert & Victoria Gorecki
- 26 Carolyn West & John Benitez

KEY EVENTS FOR NOVEMBER

- 8 Feed My Starving Children
- 18-19 PADS
- 24 Bethel All Church Meeting
- 25-26 PADS
- 27 Thanksgiving Worship

Don't forget to set your clocks back 1 hour on Sunday November 3

NOVEMBER

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
					01	02
03	04	05	06	07	08	09
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



Tailgate Party!
 A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED WITH THE TAILGATE PARTY!!
 SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!!!
 THE FOOD WAS DELICIOUS, THE FELLOWSHIP WAS FUN!!!

CAFÉ HELP NEEDED

Hi! We're looking for a few more people to make coffee for the new Bethel Café. When? Sunday mornings, between services. Super Easy Peasy! Talk to Lisa Bosma if you'd be willing to help out. Thank you!

NURSERY HELP NEEDED

Let's work together to provide nursery care during Sunday School time for infants and toddlers so their parents can be part of Bible Study. We'd like to build a team of 4 to each cover one Sunday a month. Please talk to Sue Sarkauskas if you'd be interested. Contact her at 630-204-9386 or ssarkauskas@dailyherald.com.

Memorials

A gift was given to the Marge Gross Scholarship Fund by Vivian Sheriff in memory of Bruce Sheriff

**BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
BETHEL EARLY LEARNING CENTER**

36 NORTH GRANT STREET
WESTMONT, IL. 60559

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Time Sensitive Materials

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
DOWNERS GROVE, IL
PERMIT NO. 316

Worship Schedule

Traditional Services
Saturday, 5:00pm
Sunday, 8:15am
Family Joy Service
Sunday, 11:00am

Summer Worship Schedule

Thursday, 7:00pm
Sunday, 9:30am

Communion Celebrated

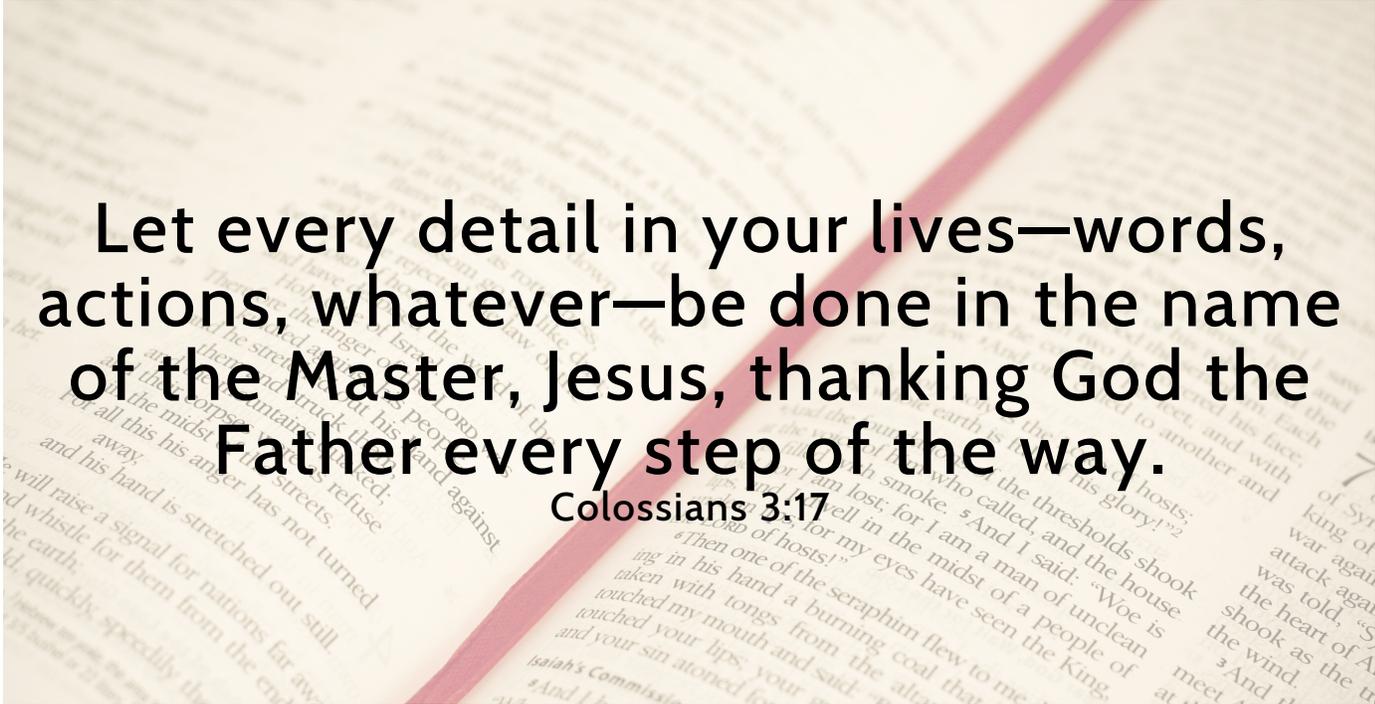
1st, 3rd & 5th Saturdays and Sundays
of Every Month

Sunday School and Adult Bible Class

Sundays, 9:45-10:45am
Rev. Paul J. Pfothenauer
Office (630) 968-3232
Fax (630) 968-2030

Bethel Early Learning Center

betheearlylearningcenter@yahoo.com
Like Us on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/BethelELC



Let every detail in your lives—words,
actions, whatever—be done in the name
of the Master, Jesus, thanking God the
Father every step of the way.

Colossians 3:17