

# THE FOLLOWER

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## In This Issue

LENT DINNER &  
WORSHIP

PADS

VBS 2020



## FULL TIME DISCIPLESHIP

**BY PASTOR PAUL**

Several years ago my family and I were sitting around the kitchen table discussing our roles in life. It was fun to see our kids discover that in life they will have many roles..... My children expressed how they are at the same time brothers and sisters, sons and daughters, cousins, students, friends, Americans and Christians. And isn't that true for all of us? We are so many different things all at the same time. Just think about it. We are parents, children, siblings, workers, citizens, neighbors, friends and list could go on and on, but as followers of Christ, we are also disciples. But, I often wonder, is being a disciples of Jesus just a part of who we are or is it who we are? Well, Jesus we know has His opinion when it comes to this question and it is this: Christ calls us to be His disciples every hour of every day. To some people, that sounds fanatical - as if we can never live a moment without thinking of Jesus. Let's get real about this. There are moments in your life, and mine, too, when we have thoughts, necessary thoughts, other than Jesus Christ. And that's okay. I love my family, but there are times when my family is not on my mind. Do I still love them? Of course. Do I still want to please them? Of course. Loving and serving Jesus Christ are like that. Discipleship is a relationship so strong and deep that even when I'm not thinking about Jesus, He's impacting my decisions and my behavior. Being a Christian is not so much a matter of walking around with an open Bible

and asking every 30 seconds, "What would Jesus do?"

More often it's living in the freedom and joy of a relationship with Christ so deep and so real that it impacts your life, even when you're not aware of it. Prayer becomes a natural part of your day as you talk with your Father, asking for help, guidance, and strength. You show kindness at work because loving kindness is a natural response to having the Holy Spirit in your life, even when you're not thinking kindness. You forgive at home because forgiveness is at the core of who you are – a forgiven sinner. Oh, we all struggle along the way with prayer, kindness, and forgiveness, but the more time we spend as disciples the more they just become a part of who we are. Another way to look at this is to recognize that the Spirit is at work in you even when you're not aware of it, even when you're not thinking about it. "The wind blows wherever it pleases," Jesus told Nicodemus, "You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So, it is with everyone born of the Spirit." (John 3:8).

That's called grace. It says that being a disciple of Jesus Christ is not some great assignment or achievement or objective for the season. It's more about being who you are and opening yourself to the grace of God. Grace isn't just how we are saved. It's how we live. God makes disciples. God made you. And it is in this season of Lent that we see again the price our God was willing to pay to make you His very own. For we are not just part time disciples, but rather people living life to the full for our God, full time.

## JOIN US ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS DURING LENT

By Jesus' wounds we are healed! During Lent, we'll reflect on how the wounds of our sin affect our relationship with God and with others and how, through graceful healing, our relationship with God and others is restored once more.

### March 4

The Wounds of Violating the Sabbath  
Luke 6:6-11

### March 11

The Wounds of Dishonoring Authority  
John 19:12-16

### March 18

The Wounds of Murder  
John 11:47-53

### March 25

The Wounds of Adultery  
Mark 2:13-17

### April 1

The Wounds of Stealing  
Luke 23:1-5

## GOSPEL FOUNDATIONS A WONDERING PEOPLE

**Sunday mornings 9:45am-10:45am**

Join us for A Wandering People, which continues the story of God's plan of redemption in Exodus to the book of Judges. We'll fast forward hundreds of years from when Joseph brought his family to Egypt. Once free and prosperous, the Israelites are now a people in bondage, calling out for rescue. God was at work to deliver the children of Israel from slavery and return them to the land promised to Abraham and Sarah. In this series, we will explore how God rescues and redeems... and how it all points to Jesus and connects to our lives today! Whether you're a beginner with God's story or are fairly familiar with the bible, we think you'll be engaged in God's love story and the Holy Spirit will teach you some new things... Come on Sunday mornings to the sanctuary. Books are available for \$10.

## LENTEN SUPPER SERVING SCHEDULE

You are warmly invited to join us as we gather for a meal together on Wednesdays during Lent at 6pm in the West Basement. Each Bethel family group, is led by an elder (please see below). Each group serves the meal for one Wednesday in Lent.

The elder for your group will be responsible for the main entree (with help from key people) and will ask others in the group to help provide the side dishes for the meal (salads, chips, dessert, etc.). If you have questions, you are welcome to call your elder.

This is a great time for fellowship and we look forward to seeing you.

### March 4

Clark Neuharth's (708-275-5687) group  
Soltwisch to Zobjeck, Benitez Family

### March 11

Bob Bosma's (630-247-9970) group  
Cucchi to Hinz

### March 18

Gary Soltwisch's (630-441-0381) group  
Albrecht to Dooley, Sanberg Family

### March 25

Tom Harrington's (630-336-2410) group  
Jagger to Moorhouse, Pfotenhauer Family

### April 1

Don Schwieger's (630-464-5922) group  
Reedy to Smith

*Create in me a clean heart, O God and put a new and right spirit within me*

## **PADS MISSION OPPORTUNITY ALERT**

Serve people who live in homelessness As a church, we have the opportunity to provide care for people living in homelessness right in our neighborhood through PADS at First Congregational Church in Downers Grove on **Mon, April 20** at 5pm through **Tues, Apr 21** at 7am and **Mon, April 27** at 5pm through **Tues, April 28** at 7am.

Sandy Smith will again lead Bethel's PADS team and we will cover the entire night in shifts ranging from 1-4 hours. The shifts will include: bed set-up, bringing food, dinner prep and serving, lunch-making, and clean-up, overnight watch, breakfast prep, serving and clean-up. Please mark your calendar now and look for more information to sign-up for different shifts for Bethel's PADS Team at the back of the sanctuary. When we all work together for these PADS events we can fill the complete needs of a hosting night.

For questions and to help out, please talk to Sandy Smith or email her at sandylms01@yahoo.com.

**If anyone is interested in leading out the dinner planning and shopping please let Sandy know. There is a selection of meals already planned and includes shopping lists to make it easier.**

*"Then the righteous will answer him, Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?*

*When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?*

*When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?*

*The King will reply, Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."*

*Matthew 25:37-40*

## **HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

### **Palm Sunday**

Sat, April 4 - 5pm

Sun, April 5- 8:15 & 11am

### **Maundy Thursday**

Thurs, April 9 - 7pm

Holy Communion

Prayer Vigil - 8:30pm - 12 Midnight

### **Good Friday**

Fri, April 10 - Prayer Vigil

6am- 12Noon

Tenebrae Service - 7pm

**NO Saturday Worship**

### **Easter Sunday Worship Service**

Sun, April 12- 8:15 & 11am

Holy Communion

9:30am - 10:30am

Community Easter Breakfast

**"Let's stretch  
out to mend  
the part of the  
world that  
is within  
our reach."**



## **BETHEL'S 2020 VBS RAINFOREST EXPLORERS - JESUS LEADS THE WAY**

Coming this June 22-26, we'll be heading to the rainforest for an epic faith adventure!

It sure is easy to get lost, in the rainforest AND in life! People in Noah's time were sure adrift, and the Israelites were straying when God gave the Ten Commandments. Jesus called his disciples when they were wandering, "Come, follow Me." Jesus healed ten forgotten lepers and restored his aimless disciples after his resurrection! God's people throughout time have known what it means to be lost!

The good, good news for us is that, in the rainforest AND in life, Jesus is our ultimate guide and leads the way to the riches and treasures of GOD – beyond what we could ask or imagine.

### **VBS TEAM**

Bethel's VBS Team is officially coming together again this year so that the next generation experience the riches of the life-changing love of Jesus at Rainforest Explorers!

Join the team now – whether you're involved with work night help or games...bringing in supplies or singing. From worship and decorating to registration and games. From snacks and School Supplies to crafts and bible teaching. From being with kids and Twin Lakes to taking pictures and clean-up. From one day during the week of VBS to all five, come be part of something bigger than yourself and join a team of people who long for the children in our lives, who sometimes feel lost, to experience the life-changing love of Jesus!

Sign-up now on Bethel's new website or talk to Raechel. Be courageous and try something you've never done before – you just may be surprised at what God might work in you through trying something different.

Young people (who are going into 8th grade or older) and young-at-heart people make up Bethel's vibrant VBS Team!



## **VBS REGISTRATION NEW FOR 2020**

We're sprucing up the registration process for VBS this year to make things smoother and better serve families! Here's a snapshot of what you can expect:

**Early online registration for Bethel and BELC families opens on March 1.**

**You should have received a link for early registration. If you did not, please email [bethelwestmontvbs@gmail.com](mailto:bethelwestmontvbs@gmail.com) or call the church office at 630-968-3232.**

**Regular online registration opens on April 1.**

**No paper registration forms this year. Registration is online only.**

**200 Kids max – so please make sure and register your kiddos early.**

**"Skip the lines" early name tag pick-up the week before VBS and head right into the rainforest on the Monday of VBS!**



## FEBRUARY PRESCHOOL WRAP-UP

In February we enjoyed a special visit from Laura Richardson and the K-9 unit of the Sherriff's department. We also learned about dental health with visitors from Grove Dental. Using the themes of transportation, construction and hometown heroes (especially firefighters and police officers), various safety concepts were reinforced in our classes in February. We discussed road safety signs, crossing streets safely, riding in car seats with seat belts, working safely with tools and fire safety. We also learned about safe and dangerous situations such as running in the classroom, standing on chairs and tables, playing ball near a street and wearing bike helmets. The three-year-old class enjoyed riding on a train while hearing the classic story, "The Little Engine That Could" as they learned that perseverance pays off and helps to build self-esteem. The Enrichment Class had fun focusing on fine motor skills such as lacing, stacking, cutting and weaving.

## GOD TEACHES US

Our curriculum theme for March is "God Teaches Us" and we will explore children's literature using fairy tales, Mother Goose nursery rhymes, and special stories set to music that inspire reading and storytelling. Narrative is a literary gift that we all share and strengthening knowledge of storytelling helps children become better and more natural communicators. Who doesn't love a great story? This month we will continue to build natural bridges between singing, rhyming, reading and movement.



## BELC CELEBRATES LITERACY

March is "National Reading Month" and Bethel ELC plans to celebrate literacy in a big way! First, we will celebrate "Read Across America Day" which coincides with Dr. Seuss's Birthday celebration on March 2. On **Mon, March 2**, the children will hear a beloved Dr. Seuss story and participate in rhyming activities and make connections between literacy and creative expression at the art table. We have also kicked off our school wide Kane County Cougars Reading Program which rewards the children for their daily reading at home and culminates in a special BELC Game Day at the Kane County Cougars. Check out our Cat in the Hat reading logs in the preschool hallway to see the progress the kids are making in their reading challenge! Stay tuned for more information as tickets will be available for our congregation to join the BELC families at this fun baseball outing on in May!

## NEW LUNCH VENDOR FOR BELC AFTERCARE

We are happy to announce that our new alliance with Brown's Chicken on Ogden has been a wonderful transition for the children and staff. We are enjoying a handful of new items and more selection for our Aftercare lunches without a huge increase in the costs! Thank you everyone who supported us with Boston Market gift cards and coupons over the years. We are happy to say that Brown's Chicken menu works well for us and we encourage you to patronize them and try their delicious fare!

## BUTTERBRAIDS COMING SOON!

Butterbraids will be available for sale just in time for Easter celebrations! Taste a sample at any of the Lenten Suppers on Wednesdays in March and April. We will post information in the next Follower newsletter and in the church bulletins so you can order your favorite butterbraids in April.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

1 Charles Henry  
 1 Lisa Koffinke  
 2 Patricia Bednar  
 3 David Carlson  
 4 Paul Pfothenhauer  
 5 Kelsey Stallter  
 7 Lauren Eboli  
 9 Julie Albrecht  
 9 Caron Niewold  
 10 Russ Englebrechtsen  
 10 Aaron Shirley  
 12 Jessica Henry  
 12 Susan Muckey  
 13 Freda Krueger  
 13 William Muckey  
 16 Sam Soltwisch  
 17 Elisabeth Conboy  
 18 Frank Trout, Jr.  
 22 Paul Batzkall  
 23 Evelyn Banie  
 24 Zachary Gorecki  
 25 Emily Mack  
 25 Ron Vegter  
 26 Sage Namaste-Rose  
 28 Bob Bosma  
 29 Grace Kochendorfer  
 29 Dawn LeGare  
 29 Rob Myers  
 29 Megan Sioson  
 30 Nathan Carlson  
 30 Hope Carlson

**JOIN BETHEL'S AV TEAM!**

Bethel's AV Team is in need of 1 or 2 more people to run slides during the 11am worship service. The team uses a rotation schedule, so each person runs slides about once a month. This is a great behind-the-scenes way to bless worship! You will receive all the training you need - no special skills needed, just a heart to serve during worship. If you have questions or are interested, please talk to Sue Richardson or Raechel Pfothenhauer.

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

3 William & Wendy Wilson  
 7 Edward & Patricia Bednar  
 20 James & Evelyn Banie  
 24 Paul & Dawn LeGare  
 24 Greg & Lauren Soltwisch  
 25 Joseph & Susan Zahalka

**KEY EVENTS FOR MARCH**

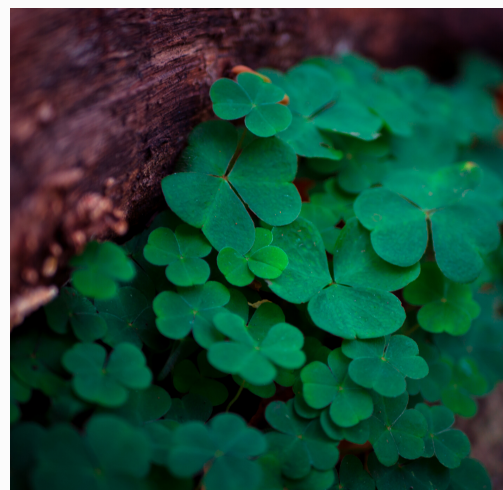
1 VBS Kick-Off Lunch  
 4 Lent Dinner and Worship  
 14 Confirmation Walcamp Retreat

**MARCH**

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	31				

**MEMORIALS**

A gift was given to the Preschool Fund by Sue Zahalka in honor of her sister, Lisa Bosma's birthday.

**HYGIENE KITS FOR PADS**

Bethel's Kingdom Quest kids will be putting together Hygiene Kits for PADS during Sunday School on **Sun, March 15** at 9:30am. You are welcome to join them in this way to serve God's people all around us.

A big thank you to Judie Kloha and Diane Soltwisch for painting and redoing the East Basement! If you have a chance go take a look at the rooms.



## ORCHESTRA AND FESTIVAL CHOIR REHEARSALS

Come join the Orchestra and Festival Choir for Easter Worship Band and Choir Members High School and Up are welcome to come and sing and play music with us. Our selections this year will be "Jerusalem Behold Your King", "All Because of the Wonderful Cross", and "Behold He Comes". Talk to Janet Perryman or call the church office if you would like to Give it a Go! Rehearsal Dates are as follows for Festival Choir and Orchestra:

### **Festival Choir Rehearsals:**

Wed, March 4, March 11,  
March 18 and March 25 at 7:45pm  
Wed, April 1 at 7:45pm  
Tue, April 7 at 7:30pm

### **Chamber Orchestra Rehearsals:**

Sat, March 21 at 10am  
Tue, April 7 at 7:30pm

## DAVE HERZOG'S MARRIONETTES- STARS ON STRINGS PERFORMANCE

Please invite your families and friends to join us for this special show on **Mon, March 23**. Master Puppeteer Dave Herzog will present an artistic performance for all ages featuring his handcrafted marionettes. The 45 minute performance will begin at 9:15am in the West basement. The show will be followed by an open house tour of the preschool for any families wishing to enroll in Bethel in the fall. Please join us! We'd love to see you there!

## DINE OUT AND DONATE RESTAURANT EVENTS

Thank you to all who have come out to eat at our Dine Out and Donate restaurant events! The committee has worked very hard this year to provide great options for families of all budgets to help support our BELC mission. Mark your calendars for Panda Express **Thurs, Mar 19** from 10:30am to 9:00pm at 1010 Ogden Avenue (630-963-8686) We will receive 20% of all sales when the BELC flyer is presented.

## BETHEL GARAGE SALE IS BACK FOR APRIL 2020 MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Spring is just around the corner and so is our Bethel Garage Sale on April 24 and 25, 2020 which falls on the week of 2020 Earth Day observation. This is a great opportunity to begin spring cleaning, donate your gently used home goods and clothes and help Bethel ELC at the same time! Please help us recycle, repair, reuse, and reduce the amount of valuable items in our landfills this year. Boxes for your donations will be located in the preschool hallway beginning March 1. Talk to Lisa at 630-968-3232 if you have questions. And please look for the sign-up sheet in the Narthex to volunteer to help work the sale – what a great way to support BELC and meet some current BELC families!

## BELC ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

Enrollment for the 2020-2021 classes is filling up. We currently have 43 children enrolled for next fall. Please let your friends and neighbors know about Bethel, "the best kept secret for great preschool in Westmont". Help us get the word out there so we continue to spread the love of Jesus to families with young children! We definitely want to continue to share the good news of Jesus and not keep that a secret! Thank you.

## DIRECT YOUR THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS TO BELC!

All 2019 Choice Dollars® have been made available for members to direct. Show your support for Christian Early Education at BELC by directing your choice dollars to the preschool this year. Go online to the Thrivent Choice section on Thrivent.com to easily direct your Thrivent Choice dollars and participate in the positive impact that can be made to the children and families as a result of your kindness. As a reminder, 2019 Choice Dollars expire on March 31, 2020.

**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**

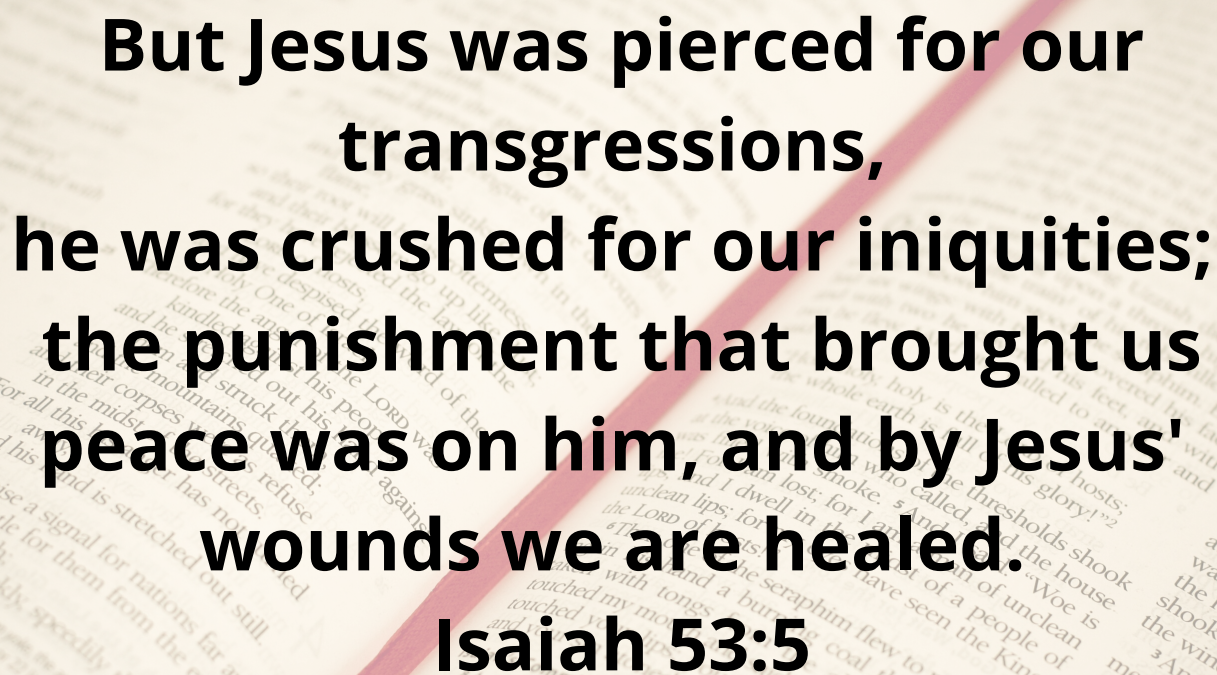
1st, 3rd & 5th Saturdays and Sundays  
of Every Month

**Sunday School and Adult Bible Class**

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

**Bethel Early Learning Center**

bethelearlylearningcenter@yahoo.com  
Like Us on Facebook!  
[www.facebook.com/BethelELC](http://www.facebook.com/BethelELC)



**But Jesus was pierced for our  
transgressions,  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
the punishment that brought us  
peace was on him, and by Jesus'  
wounds we are healed.  
Isaiah 53:5**