

LEMS Stewardship Ministry

Newsletter Article – February 2019

The season of Epiphany focuses on how God was made manifest in the flesh of Jesus. The church spends time hearing of the miracles, the signs and wonders, of Jesus in the world.

And this made plain to all that Jesus was who He said He was: He was the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, the only-begotten Son of the Father, in the flesh. For “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14).

It is revealed for all the world to see that Jesus is God in the flesh. It is made manifest by His words and His work, by what He said and by what He did. And these belong together, for “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.”

Jesus is the Word and will of God in the flesh, that is, He is the walking, talking, enactment of God’s Word.

It is no different for us. We are called not just to believe in God in hearts, but also to trust in God in word and deed.

As James wrote: “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves” (James 1:22), and again, “What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? ... So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ... Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ... For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead” (James 2:14, 17–18, 26).

Our faith is lived out in works for our neighbor. Our trust in the Word and will of God is lived out not in word only, but also in deed and in truth.

In other words, the Epiphany of the Lord creates in us an epiphany of our faith in our works of obedience to God who commanded them. By this, our faith is made manifest to the world. It is, as Luther wrote of faith:

“Faith is a divine work in us. It changes us and makes us to be born anew of God (John 1). It kills the old Adam and makes altogether different people, in heart and spirit and mind and powers, and it brings with it the Holy Spirit.

“Oh, it is a living, busy, active, mighty thing, this faith. And so it is impossible for it not to do good works incessantly. It does not ask whether there are good works to do, but before the question rises, it has already done them, and is always at the doing of them.

“He who does not these works is a faithless man. He gropes and looks about after faith and good works and knows neither what faith is nor what good works are, though he talks and talks, with many words about faith and good works.

“Faith is a living, daring confidence in God’s grace, so sure and certain that a man would stake his life on it a thousand times. This confidence in God’s grace and knowledge of it makes men glad and bold and happy in dealing with God and all His creatures.

“And this is the work of the Holy Spirit in faith. Hence a man is ready and glad, without compulsion, to do good to everyone, to serve everyone, to suffer everything, in love and praise to God, who has shown him this grace.

“And thus it is impossible to separate works from faith, quite as impossible as to separate burning and shining from fire. Beware, therefore, of your own false notions and of the idle talkers, who would be wise enough to make decisions about faith and good works, and yet are the greatest fools.” (*Preface to the Book of Romans*)

So, then, let our faith be active by God’s power in the Word through the Holy Spirit. And let then our faith be made manifest to the world by what this faith does: serving our neighbor — in church, in the family, and society — with the works of faith in time, talents, and treasures.

From the Board of Stewardship

Stewardship of Our Lives

Did You Know ...



also a sign-up sheet at the display table with many of the volunteer options listed. Please take a minute to stop by our table and check it out!

Our Preschool is being featured during the month of February as part of “Stewardship of Our Lives” here at Bethel. Our Preschool began in September, 2012, with three classes and 26 children. Today we are full with 70 children in our six classes. The Lord has greatly blessed us in the past years and we pray for His continued blessings on this ministry. The Early Childhood Education Board works with the Director in the day to day operations of the preschool and helps to promote our program among Bethel members. The church members have been wonderful about supporting the preschool ministry through their prayers, financial gifts, participation in fund raisers and volunteering. *We are very grateful for everyone’s faithful support!*

Look for the Preschool display in the narthex during the month of February. We invite you to stop by the table for more information and to see pictures of our little children at work and play. Lots of different information is available at the table. If you are interested in serving on the ECE Board or volunteering at the preschool, please talk to Debbie Sadler (979-485-9835, preschool office) or one of our Board members: Joyce Juntune (Chairperson), Joalla Shilling, David Fleeger, Joyce Jones, Jennifer Klose, Kristen Royder, Cheryl Wendler and Pat Wallace. *There is*

Time, Talent & Treasure Survey

Lenten season is quickly coming upon us. It is a time of preparation, penitence, and reflection on what it means to live as a child of God. Our congregation has an opportunity collectively and individually to prepare, be penitent, and reflect on how we may apply the Lenten principals to our giving – giving of Time, Talent, and Treasure.

You will receive your Time, Talent & Treasure surveys in the mail this week.

We ask that you please pray about it and take time to fill out your survey.

Choose both areas you have known talents you can share, as well as areas where you would enjoy trying something new. The surveys will be collected during our Saturday and Sunday worship services on the weekends of Feb. 16/17 and 23/24. The operation of Bethel Lutheran Church requires the whole congregation’s support. Especially your support.

Thank you on behalf of the Board of Stewardship for your commitment to your Lord and to Bethel Lutheran Church in sharing your Time, Talents, and Treasures.

Bethel Financial At-a-Glance - 2018 Year End

Income & Expense	Year to date (Dec 31, 2018)		
	2017 Actual	2018	
		Budget	Actual
Envelope/Plate Offering	\$ 845,003	\$ 924,572	\$ 874,268
Other Income	411,028	423,337	427,357
Expenses	(1,253,840)	(1,347,909)	(1,308,158)
Net Surplus (Shortage)	\$ 2,191	\$ (0)	\$ (6,533)

Loan Balance (3% interest) \$ 680,115



Bethel OWLS (Older, Wiser, Lutheran Souls)

February 21, 2019 at Noon in the Parish Hall

The New Year began with twenty OWLS present for our luncheon in the parish hall on Thursday, January 17. Larry Piper led the opening prayer of thanks.

After lunch, we played several rounds of BINGO, organized and led by Jim & Joan Wuthrich. Doug Symmank was a double prize winner. We will meet for our Potluck Luncheon on Feb. 21. Judy Bell, from Generations, will be our guest speaker. She will share some personal experiences and other professional information about Parkinson disease, caregiving and other health issues. Please join us and bring a dish to share.

From the Board of Community Service



The BRAZOS CHURCH PANTRY is a place where your neighbors who are in need can go when they need emergency food aid. The food comes from you - either by direct donation or your gift money. Our unpaid volunteers buy

food at wholesale prices so that your monetary gift has maximum value. Items to donate:

Tuna, tomato sauce, soup (kid friendly), peanut butter, canned fruit, canned vegetables, boxed cereal, macaroni and cheese, rice (small bag), dried beans, canned meats, small sugar or flour, Spaghetti noodles & meat sauce

Thank you from the Board of Community Services

What a Wonderful Valentine's Gift!



God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

ROMANS 5:8, NRSV

**We can demonstrate
Our love for God
by giving
Food for the February
Brazos Church Pantry
Food Drive
The Box is on the Donation Cart in
the Information Center**

From the Board of Witness/Outreach



Project Connect - New Booklets!

Bethel's Board of Witness and Outreach sponsors Project Connect, a print ministry of Lutheran Hour Ministries. The many single-subject booklets offer support and inspiration on a variety of Biblical questions and life issues. Just in time for Lent, we've added several new titles to the display, located at the main entrance near the visitor table.

The new titles include "Who is Jesus?", "What is Faith in Jesus?", "Why Did Jesus Die?", and, for children, "Do You Know Who Jesus Is?" These booklets are excellent aids for your own study and devotion time and as a way to initiate conversations with friends. Please feel free to browse the display and take any that you may find useful. There is no charge; newer topics are on the top level of the display.

Called. Equipped. Sent.

Lutheran Hour Ministries offers equipping resources to help you reach out with the love and Good News of Jesus Christ in your everyday lives.

These online courses and webinars will cover five faith-strengthening categories and use an array of multimedia elements to help you gain a hearing for the Gospel message.

Check out these courses and more in our Learning Library!

<http://www.lhm.org/learn>



GETTING STARTED



CHRISTIAN FOUNDATIONS



CULTURAL CONCEPTS



EVERYDAY INSIGHTS



OUTREACH ESSENTIALS



SPIRITUAL REFLECTIONS

From DCE Randy & Board of Parish Ed

LCMS NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING— We have been blessed with some generous special gifts from some of our members toward this event this summer. As we have some families with multiple children going, and also some single parents with a child attending we're going to need all the help we can get!. Again, thanks for your continued support.

YOUTH PECAN SALES – This is winding down, but we still have a few 1 lb packages of new crop, locally sourced pecans for sale. If you would still like some please see DCE Randy and he'll direct you to the parents who still have some to sell – now at lower prices!

NOTHING BUNDT CAKES For our next fundraiser we are taking orders for *Nothing Bundt Cakes*. We will be taking orders for the mini-bundt cakes at \$5 each – or cards for one that you can go and pick up. We will be taking orders during the month of February.

TAMALE FUNDRAISER FOR THE NATIONAL GATHERING - We do have a fundraiser in the works to sell tamales, taking orders March 3 through April 7, with delivery Easter Saturday. More details will be coming soon.

As always thank you for your support of our 26 youth heading to Minneapolis next summer.

BREAKFAST TACOS On Sunday February 10 our youth will once again be serving breakfast tacos between the early worship service and Sunday School. Your freewill donations for these are greatly appreciated – AND you get a tasty product!

DCE CALL PROCESS -The DCE Call Committee has been given 16 names by the District to add to the name suggested by a member of Bethel. While we've started on this process, Bethel also has to deal with the Senior Pastor and Associate Pastor Calls, so this will take some time. As always we solicit your prayers for guidance as we move forward.

2019 YOUTH QUAKE

WHEN AND WHERE: The 2019 Youth Quake is coming February 22-24, held this year

at the DoubleTree Airport Hotel in San Antonio. At this time we have 31 youth and adults signed up. We do have a *very limited* number of spots open – but you must get in touch with DCE Randy ASAP. This is open to 6th graders and up.



FUN FAMILY WEDNESDAY Fun Family Wednesday continues with our usual schedule. The MEAL will be served from 5:15 to 6:30 PM. The meal for February 13 is potato soup, warm sandwiches, spinach salad and dessert. The cost remains \$4/person with a max of \$12/family. KID'S BIBLE CLUB, JUNIOR CONFIRMATION, YOUTH NIGHT AND THE SMALL GROUP STUDY ON MARK all begin at 6:30 PM. You are also invited to join in for HANDBELL practice at 6 PM and the SANCTUARY CHOIR at 7.

Bethel's Preschool News

It is time to register for our Fall Preschool Program for the 2019-2020 School Year. We are offering the available spots to those currently in our program and to our church families and friends first. In March, we will open registration to the community. Our program offers several options for the days of the week and the times you may need. Preschool classes are from 8:30-12:00 noon. We have an "Early Bird" time from 7:15-8:30 and Extended Care pick up times of 1:00, 3:00 or 5:30 P.M. We follow the Bryan school calendar (so we are closed during the summer months). **IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN A POSSIBLE SPOT FOR YOUR CHILD FOR NEXT FALL, please email the preschool at pre-**

school@blcbcs.org or call Debbie Sadler (485-9835 or 446-1578). *We are receiving many calls for next fall already! We'd love to have you come tour the preschool and receive more information. We are always happy to answer any questions you may have!*



Women's Retreat

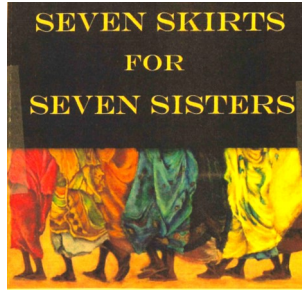
February 23, 2019

Bethel Lutheran Church
8:30-4:00

\$15.00 (includes lunch)

"If you want to pray, listen, and respond to God... Spend time in God's Word, even when it seems like you don't have the time."

Donna Coppersmith, *Seven Skirts for Seven Sisters*.



We invite all women (youth, young adults, young and seasoned) of Bethel and their friends to join us for our retreat on **February 23rd**, in Bethel's Parish Hall, beginning at 8:30 and lasting until 4:00. A light breakfast and a boxed lunch are included in the cost of \$15 as well as babysitting if needed.

Donna Coppersmith will be speaking at the retreat on **"Real-Life Lessons on Prayer and Listening to God."** She will talk about the part prayer played on her mission trip to Africa as well as the importance of prayer in our everyday life. She is a former teacher and looks forward to connecting with all ages and impressing upon us the power of prayer. Her book Seven Skirts for Seven Sisters will be available for purchase for \$13. Look for sign-up sheets in the Narthex soon.

Ladies Lunch Bunch - meets the 1st & 3rd **Wednesdays** of each month (**Feb. 6 & 20**) at Blue Baker on University Dr. at 11:30 or whenever you can get there. We'll gather for our devotion and have great conversation and food. We hope you can join us for a spiritual respite from your hectic day.

Ladies Tuesday Morning Bible Study meets 10:00-11:15AM in room 232, led by Pastor Bard. Child care is provided upon request only.

FIT FOR CHRIST — Hey Ladies! We still meet on **Tuesday and Thursday mornings (8:15)** upstairs in room 240. Our workout consists of a warm up routine of walking, and then toning exercises which focus on upper or lower body or sometimes Pilates. We wrap up the time together with a devotion. *Child Care available.*

LWML Helping Hands will meet **Monday, February 11 at 8:30am in the Parish Hall.** All are welcome to come anytime between 8:30am—2pm to help tie quilts. The quilts are shipped to Lutheran World Relief. <http://lwr.org>.

Join Bethel's Men in Bible Study and Fellowship

Men's Monday Evening Bible Study & Fellowship Group meets at **7:00 PM in Room 232.** They are studying LHM's Men's Network study titled: *Out of Nothing: The Word, Creation and Faith* by Rev. Steve Misch.

Friday Morning Men's Bible Study/Breakfast Group each Friday morning at 6:30 AM in the Parish Hall. The Journey from Unbelief to Faith. A DVD series with Rev. Dr. John Nunes. This Bible study conveys in frank language the lives of individuals who traveled from the outer edge of unbelief and apathy to the Christ-centered faith they now devotedly embrace.

MEN OF BETHEL

The third annual Men of Bethel Chili Cookoff took place at the home of Morris and Karen Guyton Saturday afternoon February 2nd. The participants enjoyed some great fellowship and even better chili. The esteemed trio of judges (Allen Hold, Jake Gaster and John O'Neill) did serious deliberation (and ingestion) of the chili with Matt Hannes being named the winner in a tight contest. At the event suggested were asked for future Men of Bethel events.





Become Part of Our Church Family

The Next Bethel's *"Life with God @ Bethel"* new member series will begin on February 17.

If you are interested in learning more about our congregation or if you are considering becoming a member, Pastor Bard leads us for 8 weeks immediately following the late service (12:30 pm in Room 232). We always finish by 1:30 pm and snacks are provided. If you are interested in membership, there is an attendance requirement which Pastor

will talk about at the first meeting. We would love to have you come and find out more about Bethel. If you or your family are planning on attending, please contact Treva Robertson at trobertson@gmail.com or 409-782-5693. Childcare is provided upon request.



Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

<http://www.lwr.org>

How Lutherans helped transform the business of palms.

In 2005, Lutheran congregations across the U.S. were the first to bring Eco-Palms to their Palm Sunday celebrations. Instead of buying palms from conventional sellers, who are rooted in a lengthy and wasteful business model that relies on middlemen and leaves growing communities with little profit — you saw a better option.

And the impact is clear.

Lutheran World Relief partners with the University of Minnesota Center for Integrated Natural Resources & Agricultural Management (CINRAM), the Rainforest Alliance and Continental Floral Greens — a wholesaler in San Antonio — to bring Eco-Palms to congregations across the U.S.

CINRAM Director Dean Current, says that traditionally, palms are gathered by local communities and sold to middlemen who sell to distributors, shutting the largely impoverished communities out of the ultimate proceeds of the palms. And middlemen are paid by volume, which results in 50 to 70 percent of the palms being discarded by retailers because they are of inferior quality.

"The communities weren't making any money and too many palms were being taken out of the forest," he says. With Eco-Palms, growing communities are involved in the entire value chain. They harvest, sort and package Eco-Palms and are paid fairly for their work.

Ana Centeno, an Eco-Palm harvester from Carmelita, Guatemala, says, "Before, all the sorting and packaging was done by middlemen. There was no benefit to the community. Now it's done by the community and it's providing jobs and income."

Eco-Palms communities also use harvesting methods that protect the land they so greatly depend on for their livelihood. When Eco-Palms started, experts from Continental Floral Greens traveled to the palm-growing communities and taught farmers and their families improved and sustainable practices for growing and harvesting the palms.

Since then, the quality of the palms has increased — only 10 percent of palms are discarded due to low quality — and therefore, Continental is willing to pay a higher price for the palms. That premium goes directly back to communities.

Ana says, in her community, the premium is devoted to providing scholarships for students, building and maintaining health clinics and purchasing anti-venom for the occasional poisonous snakebite received while gathering the palms.

Communities also make a substantial investment in forest fire protection. "We receive a lot of benefit from the forest, so it's important to protect it," Ana says. "When you buy Eco-Palms, you can be confident that this money is going to protect the forest and help the communities," Ana says.

Reyna Valenzuela said her community of Uuaxactun is grateful for all the support they have received: "You should be assured that the seed you are sowing is being planted in fertile soil and will flourish."



Happy Birthday!!

Our Bethel Family

February

Evan LoBello	1	George McIlhane	7	Samuel Moravec	12	Rachel Jungklaus	21
Greg Montgomery	1	David Bronstad	8	David Fleeger	13	Mitchell Dill	22
Heath Hausenfluck	2	Jim Holste	8	Susan Neitsch	14	Bobbie Denmark	23
Mike Lenz	2	Peggy Chase	9	Jonathan Bentley	15	Robert Pali	23
Nikki Smith	2	Dottie Garrison	10	Addison Markert	15	Ben Zucker	23
Cindy Kobernick	3	Lee Goehring	10	Debbie Sadler	15	Rosie Schoenfeld	24
Kathy Herwald	5	Annie Perez	10	Dustin Samford	15	Bill Benfer	25
Shianne Lenz	5	Angela Shockey	10	Art Kaspar	16	Jade Fajkus	25
Pierce Young	5	Jayce Wilder	10	Joalla Shilling	17	Velma Black	26
David Baumann	6	Spencer Wilder	10	Sarah Hildebrandt	17	Genevieve Birdwell	27
Margaret Johnson	6	Connie Bard	11	Gerry Hartmangruber	18	David Hildebrandt	27
Randy Moerbe	6	Kira Hoffzimmer	11	Bobby Lenz	19	Jessica Pfeffer	27
LeeAnn Pali	6	Erica Gusewelle	12	Anastasia Lewis	19	Lois Erickson	28
Gage Goodenow	7	Julie Kasner	12	Madison Thompson	20	Sally Kaminski	28
				Sharon Cowart	21	Christopher Byer	29
				Mike Deike	21	Justin Zaragoza	29

OH MY!! Bethel has blessed our socks off!!

We have never been gifted so much by one church! The Lord has been faithful to us on this ten year journey and He keeps us going through generous people like the folks at Bethel. What a privilege to serve such a King! We are humbled and deeply grateful.

Great Joy in Jesus, who provides.

Pastor Dave & Sabra Horn



To the Congregation of Bethel Lutheran Church,

I want to thank you for all your love and support and words of encouragement as I start my new life. I sincerely appreciate everything you have done for me. Your sister in Christ Jesus Always.

Love,

Nina Heinrich

Living with Grief - Learn how to cope with Grief Sundays, at 4PM in Room 240

Bethel is hosting a biblical study for those who have suffered the loss of a loved one, following a nationally recognized curriculum sponsored by GriefShare. This program is designed to encourage us to look at our loss and its impact on our lives from God's perspective. We will learn that grief is a natural response to the loss of a loved one and that there is relief, purpose, and joy in the future.

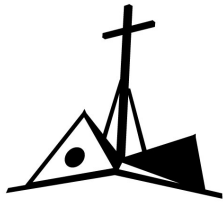
Please join us for an upbeat and refreshing understanding of what God has done for us and his plan for our lives.

THE LUTHERAN HOUR is on KAGC, 1510 AM on Sundays at 12:30 p.m. sponsored by Bethel. If you would like, you can sponsor a week's broadcast for \$25 or a month for \$100. Thank you to all who have given to this ministry.

The 2019 Sign Up Chart for The Lutheran Hour is in the Information Center by the elevator.

The 2019 Flower Chart for Altar flowers is in the Information Center by the elevator. The cost is \$30 per sponsorship and we will accept 3 sponsors each Sunday.

Coffee cans needed - If you have small coffee cans you can donate, please leave them in the church office. These will be used for flowers for our shut-ins.



Bethel Lutheran Church

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www.BLCbcs.org | office@BLCbcs.org
Preschool phone: 485-9835 or cell: 446-1578

Staff:

Rev. Randall Bard, Pastor, (979) 422-0046
Rev. Steve Wiechman, Care Ministry
Rev. K. Lynn Stroud, Pastor Emeritus
Mr. Randall Moerbe, Director of Christian Education
Mrs. Debbie Sadler, Dir., Bethel Lutheran Preschool
Mrs. Kathy Herwald, Director of Operations
Mrs. Ruthann Stroud, Church Secretary
Mrs. Connie Bard, Children's Ministry Coordinator
Mr. Nic Duncan, Facilities Manager
Mrs. Katie Bentley, Office Assistant
Mr. Jeremy Shilling, *His Praise* Band Leader

February 7—21, 2019



Join us for

Saturday Night

Worship at 5PM and Bible Class at 6PM

Sunday Mornings

8:30 AM Divine Service (Traditional)
9:30 AM Fellowship Time
10:00 AM Bible Class/SS
11:15 AM Divine Service (Contemporary)

Holy Communion is served on the 1st, 3rd, & 5th weekends of the month.

Church Office Hours

Mondays—Thursdays	9am - 5pm
Fridays	9am - 3pm