

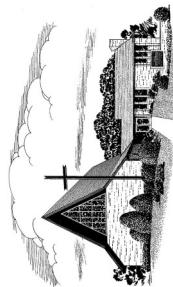
Bethesda Lutheran Church
301 West South Street
Morrison, IL 61270

**Return Service Requested*

Sunday Worship Service

⇧ In-person every Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

⇧ Sunday School 10:15 a.m. (starts Sept. 13)



Bethesda Bits

September 2026

301 W. South Street, Morrison, IL 61270

Office #: (815) 772-4896

Interim Pastor: Rev. Leo Patterson

Cell#: 815-677-1139

Email: llpatgrics.net

✉ E-mail: bethesdalc@frontiernet.net

★ Website: bethesdalutheranmorrison.org

★ Find us on Facebook: *Bethesda Lutheran Church, Morrison, IL*



Prayer of Remembrance for Patriots Day

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter through every storm, and our eternal home:

We come before You remembering the lives lost on September 11, 2001. Though many years have passed, the sorrow of that day still lingers in the hearts of families, friends and a grieving nation.

Lord, comfort those who continue to carry loss. Grant peace to the brokenhearted, strength to the weary and light to those walking through seasons of grief. Let Your presence bring hope where memories still ache.

Teach us to care for one another with compassion and courage. Help us to be a people who offer kindness to the hurting, encouragement to the discouraged and justice to those who suffer. Stir our hearts to live with mercy, humility and love for our neighbors.

Forgive us when our words are greater than our actions. May we strive each day to reflect the values of faith, unity and grace that honor You and strengthen our communities.

Thank You, Lord, for Your constant care and unfailing mercy. Even in tragedy, You remain our refuge and our hope.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



SPECIAL Mtg.
on 8/10/26
(focus on repairs)

Meeting called to order by president Eric Benson @ 6:07PM

Parking Lot Seal Coating

Confirmed we are moving forward with Dadson's quote \$1,270 for seal coat of parking lot – to be performed after the Whiteside County Fair, contingent upon required proof of insurance. (Previously voted on and approved meeting 7/13/26)

Water Mitigation

Gutters and drain inspected by Bi-State and found to be clear and working appropriately.

Congregation approved at special meeting on 7/26/26 - Angie to inform Mid-America Basement Systems of our intent to move forward with them for water in basement mitigation. Inquiring as to what is the next step and informing, we require proof of insurance.

Having addressed repair concerns moved forward with regular meeting agenda items.

Correspondence

- Letter from Synod they will be visiting our sister congregation in Tanzania and suggest we send a letter greeting them – Eric will request Pastor Leo to draft the letter and send.

Old Business –

- Constitution: Council in process of reviewing and updating
- Interim Pastor - Documents signed last month – agreed on \$35/hour (max 20 hours) / \$.77 per mile / \$200/worship or special service
- Call Process -committee working on MSP (Ministry Site Profile). Need help with letter of bound conscience. Tracy to reach out to Pastor Jana / Bishop Fidler for assistance as they were working on providing someone to lead educational congregation discussion.
- Pastor welcomed new members on Sunday, July 26 (Averie R., Costello's, Carl Francis, Cadie B., & Scott C.)

New Business

- Pastor's report – none
- Financial and Treasurer's reports reviewed and approved as presented.

Committee/Group Reports

- Property Committee: Roof – Eric has call into Morrison Roof – Tracy to get second bid from Boss Roofing; Leaks in closet upstairs by lift; Leaks around vent in men's bathroom; Parking lot – Dodson will do after Whiteside county Fair
- All other committee reports that were submitted, reviewed and accepted as presented.

Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Bethesda Council Members for Congregational

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|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ➤ President — Eric Benson | ➤ Financial Secretary — Al Janicek |
| ➤ Vice Pres. — Monica Anderson | ➤ Treasurer — Marcia Haag |
| ➤ Secretary — Tracy O'Shea | |



Have you had a change to your contact information in the past year? Please let us know! Help us to help YOU stay on top of what is coming up at Bethesda by whatever means works best for YOU!

Updates to our church directory, whether it be a new snail-mail address, phone #s (landline or cell!) or email addresses are welcome at any time throughout the year. We can also send a digital (email) copy of our monthly newsletters and take you off the “snail mail” list, which helps save us on postage and reduces paper usage. We also send out reminders about upcoming events & activities at Bethesda, and occasionally we send out prayer requests by email if there is an urgent need.

Take this as a reminder to update your contact info if you have been meaning to and just haven't gotten around to it yet. You can write it down and place a note in Deb's mailbox at the church, call the office # and leave a message or speak to Deb directly, or send an email to the address on the front of this newsletter. Pick what works best for you! *Thank you!*

When the road gets rough



It had been a long trip home, and the weary traveler still had miles to go. So when a sign appeared reading, “Rough Road Ahead — 4 miles,” he braced himself.

Rough was an understatement. The lanes narrowed, the shoulder disappeared, and traffic slowed to a crawl. Drivers carefully weaved around potholes and construction equipment, inching forward one stretch at a time. But just as the sign promised, after four difficult miles, the road opened up and smoothed out again.

Jesus offers a similar kind of clarity about life. In John 16:33 (NIV), He says, “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” Notice He doesn't say we might face trouble. It is part of the journey. There will be stretches that feel slow, uncertain and hard.

Notice that Jesus didn't say we “might” have trouble. Sooner or later, problems will come. The road will get rough. But Jesus has already defeated everything the world can throw our way. We just have to keep moving, fueled by hope.

The promise is just as certain as the warning sign. The rough road does not last forever, and it does not have the final say. Christ has already gone before us, and smoother ground is ahead.



We're excited to announce that the Resthave Home's annual **Community Family Fun Day** is

coming up on **Sunday, September 27th**, from **11:30 AM to 3:00 PM** — and we need your help to make it a success!

We're currently seeking volunteers to assist during the event. Shifts are available for the full duration (**11:00 AM to 3:00 PM**) or can be split into two shorter shifts:

- **11:00 AM – 1:00 PM**
- **1:00 PM – 3:00 PM**
- **Set-up from 7:30-9am**
- **Tear down 2:45pm until 4:15pm**

Last year, we were blessed with nearly 100 volunteers, and we truly couldn't host this wonderful event without the support of our amazing community. If you would consider spreading the word via bulletin, word of mouth etc., or if you're able to lend a hand, we'd be incredibly grateful! Contact our Resthave auxiliary board member, Marcia Haag, directly for more details or to volunteer to help at the event. They do take special requests for volunteers at this event; i.e. “would like to work the food line,” or “need a job sitting down,” etc. Thank you for your support!



On Sunday, August 9, 2026, we joyfully welcomed some new members at Bethesda:

- **Arcadia Birkli**
(via transfer of membership/ Affirmation of Faith)
- **Scott Cairns**
(via Affirmation of Faith)
- Terry & Sue Costello
(via transfer of membership/ Affirmation of Faith)
- **Carl Francis, Jr.**
(via Affirmation of Faith)
- **Averi Richmond**
(via Affirmation of Faith)

A reception was held in their honor during the fellowship hour following the worship service. We are blessed by their presence and participation as members here at Bethesda and look forward to many years of walking with them in ministry in this congregation, this community and in the world!





Friends/family members battling cancer:

- Kathy Nielsen
- Jennifer Bramm-Patten
- Kellie Kohl
- Ben Logan
- Arnie Schroeder
- Deb Szabo
- Catherine Phelps
- Vern Schroeder
- Karl Wolf
- Doug Adams

Prayers for support & healing:

- Alan Geerts
- Natalie Buck
- Jeg Weets
- Larry Geerts
- Janice Mussmann
- Sandy Crouse
- Jamie O'Shea
- Tonya Leatherman
- Alexandria Shields
- Jentry Smith
- Jim Anderson
- Staci Isley
- Sunny Porter
- Mark Schuler
- Pr. Janet Wold
- Carol Schroeder
- Doug Alacala
- Alan Wold
- Al Janicek
- Asher Burgess
- Suzanne Walaszek

Others:

- all military service members in the armed forces
- All who have started the new school year — teachers, students, building/grounds & tech support staff, transportation personnel

staff, administrators, as well as the parents/guardians of students

Our Sympathies to:

- Family and friends of *Ron Nye*
- *MaryEllen Breackemyer* and family upon the death of her niece, *Chris Crandall*

May they all find peace and comfort in the promise of eternal life through the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



Below is the info for our newest members to add to your church yearbooks:

Arcadia Birkli

18162 Malvern Rd.
Morrison, IL 61270
Cell# 360-389-0268
Email: cadidid1@hotmail.com

Carl Francis

409 Maple Ave.
Room #B109
Morrison, IL 61270

Averi Richmond

15879 Lyndon Rd.
Morrison, IL 61270
Cell# 815-994-8171
Email: richmondaveri5@gmail.com

Note: Scott Cairns info is not included above by request.

* *We always respect the right to privacy with personal contact information.)*



Meet & Eat

THURSDAY, Sept. 24, 2026

Bethesda members (of all ages) are invited to join together for a time of food & fellowship. The group will meet at “**Artisan Oven**” (3203 E. Lincolnway, Sterling, IL—formerly the JoAnn Fabrics building), on Thursday, September 24, at 6:00 PM. Those attending may order from the full menu with salads, sandwiches, “Chicken George” and their specialty pizza options.

To assist in planning, there will be a sign up sheet on the table in the Fellowship Room OR you may call Andrea at the number below. Please sign up no later than Sunday, September 20. Questions – contact Andrea Dalton 772-4929.



We value each and every one our church family members. So many talents are shared, sometimes without others knowing who did what, but we see you. We appreciate you. We value every gift you share. We wish to send special thanks to members who have gone above and beyond in caring for our church and grounds and serving our church family in a variety of capacities:

- ☺ Al Janicek (serving as worship assistant most every week, and also editing/preparing the video we send to those who watch the worship service at home)
- ☺ Eric Phend (subbing as worship assistant when called upon)
- ☺ Steve & Marsha Geerts (weeding, grounds work, trimming bushes, electrical work & roof maintenance)
- ☺ Marcia Haag (weeding/caring for potted plants by the doorways)
- ☺ Bob Stone (taking out trash every week, opening/locking building, running camera for worship services)
- ☺ Deb Stone (pushing buttons when Kathy Janicek is away, running sound on Sundays, updating seasonal decorations in the restrooms, trimming bushes)
- ☺ Jan Horberg (takes care of our friendship pads and communion records)
- ☺ and for ALL who have shared—their gift of music during our worship services, served as lectors and/or Communion assistants, Ushers, and volunteers that provide refreshments during our fellowship hour.

WE APPRECIATE EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU



Birthdays

- 2 Nancy Usterbowski
Cessellie Peterson-Pannier
- 6 Jenny Chambers
Brianne Hamstra
- 8 Jay Green
Michelle Zuidema
- 11 Nels Carlson
- 14 Allyson Hartmann
Lauren Pannier
- 15 Caroline Tautkus
- 16 Gail Young
- 18 Brandon Adams
Rebecca Moore
Ellen Smith
- 19 Dale Wiersema
- 20 Cody Smith
Marv Geerts (101)
- 21 Doug Belha
- 25 Keith Pannier
- 26 Jerry Carlson
Marsha Geerts
- 27 Jeff Hanson
Brad Nye
Samantha Schmitt

Anniversaries

- 6 Matt & LuEllen Lee
- 7 Art & Suzanne Walaszek
- 9 Noah & Jenny Chambers
- 15 Mark & Jill Bamm
- 22 Steve & Marsha Geerts
- 24 Matt & Allyson Hartman
- 26 Tim & Vicki Hood



The Worship & Music Committee secures pastors to fill pulpit supply through the month on the days when our interim, Pastor Leo will not be here. The schedule for the next couple months is as follows:

Sept. 6: Pr. Quentin Fleming

Sept. 13: Pr. Jana Howson

Sept. 20: Pr. Leo Patterson

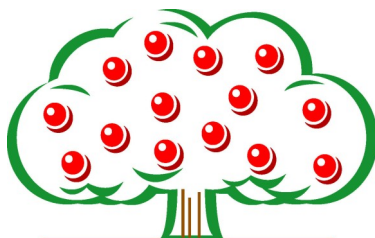
Sept. 27: Pr. Leo Patterson

Oct. 4: Pr. Paul Holmer

Oct. 11: Pr. Leo Patterson

Oct. 18: Pr. Kathy Burkheimer

Oct. 25: Pr. Leo Patterson



And may the Lord
make you increase
and abound in love
for one another
and for all ...

1 Thessalonians 3:12

Ushers & Greeters

Steve & Dee Janssen

Lector

- 6 Cadi Birkliid
- 13 Kate Rambo
- 20 ~Volunteer Needed~
- 27 Marsha Geerts

Refreshments

- 6 ~Volunteer Needed~
- 13 Andrea Dalton
- 20 ~Volunteer Needed~
- 27 ~Volunteer Needed~

Offering Counters

Al Janicek & Deb Stone have assumed these duties. Offerings can be mailed to or dropped off at the church at any time.

Altar Flowers

- 6 Marcia Haag
- 13 *Open*
- 20 Geerts/Milder
- 28 *Open*

Altar Guild

Monica Anderson, Mona Milder

Sr. Choir Resumes September 9, 7:00 p.m. New members welcome!

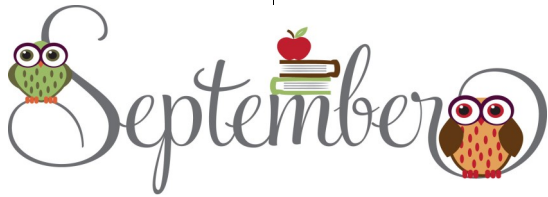
Need another reason to join the choir? Consider this: Neuroscientists in Sweden discovered that singers' heartbeats tend to synchronize, which leads to a sense of emotional calm and bonding.

"Joint action leads to joint perspectives," write the researchers. "In other words, singers may change their egocentric perspective of the world to a 'we-perspective,' which causes them to perceive the world from the same point of view."

So start singing — and enjoy the many benefits and blessings of being part of a choir!



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH WELCOMES ALL
AND JOYFULLY SHARES GOD'S LOVE

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 8AM - Noon Quilters 9AM - Noon Pr. Leo in Office	3	4	5
6 9:00AM Worship <i>*Guest: Pastor Q. Fleming</i> 10:00AM Fellowship	7  <i>*Office Closed*</i>	8 3:00PM WaTanYe	9 8AM - Noon Quilters 9AM - Noon Pr. Leo in Office 7:00PM Sr. Choir Rehearsal	10 1:00PM WELCA Bus. Mtg. & Bible Study (in Chapel)	11	12
13 9:00AM Worship <i>*Guest: Pr. Jana Howson</i> 10:00AM Fellowship 10:15am Sunday School	14 6:00PM Church Council	15	16 8AM - Noon Quilters 9AM - Noon Pr. Leo in Office 7:00PM Sr. Choir Rehearsal	17	18 ⇒ NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	19 <i>WELCA 2026 Annual Convention (in Bolingbrook, Il)</i>
20 9:00AM Worship <i>*Interim Pr. Leo Patterson</i> 10:00AM Fellowship 10:15am Sunday School	21 9:00AM Diet Club	22	23 8AM - Noon Quilters 9AM - Noon Pr. Leo in Office 7:00PM Sr. Choir Rehearsal	24	25 ⇒ NEWSLETTER ASSEMBLY/ MAILING DAY	26
27 9:00AM Worship <i>*Interim Pr. Leo Patterson</i> 10:00AM Fellowship 10:15am Sunday School 11:30AM—3PM Resthave Community Family Fun Day	28	29	30 8AM - Noon Quilters 9AM - Noon Pr. Leo in Office 7:00PM Sr. Choir Rehearsal			