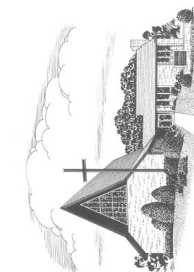


Bethesda Lutheran Church
301 West South Street
Morrison, IL 61270

***Return Service Requested**

Sunday Worship Service -
9:00AM Holy Communion celebrated weekly
Fellowship Hour immediately following the
worship service

Sunday School
10:15AM (in lower level)



Bethesda Bits

Bethesda Lutheran Church

October 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*



AutumnFest at LOMC

SATURDAY, Oct. 10, 2026

from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

When you arrive...

Parking will be available in and around the Admin Building parking lot, with clear markers. The Tent and Trailer Pavilion will serve as the main location for Autumn Fest this year, with activities additionally at the Program Center, Archery, the Swanson Prairie, and elsewhere. There will be many events taking place throughout the day. Activities include:

- Pumpkin Carving, Cider Pressing, Crafts, Wagon Rides, Hikes, Campfire S'mores, and a "Taste of Camp"
- Lunch is available for purchase (\$10). You may also bring a picnic lunch and eat anywhere outside, or go to any of the restaurants in Oregon. Can purchase ahead on the website, or pay at the door.
- Closing worship will take place at 3:00 p.m.

For additional information and details, you can view the full schedule on their website at www.lomc.org/autumn-fest. You may also contact LOMC directly at (815) 732-2220.

⇒ ***Free-will offerings or donations also accepted and appreciated!***



Sunday, September 13, 2026

Meeting called to order by President Eric B. Devotions led by Monica A.

Visitors:

Kathy Janicek – received an email from the Methodist Church and they would like to do a combined Thanksgiving Eve service – it is Bethesda's turn to host – their pastor will preach. Kathy will take charge in getting this going.

Pastor Jana Howson (Assistant to the Bishop) – Anyone with any questions or concerns that we are currently having was encouraged to ask. She was very informative and so willing to help us. She was so thankful that we asked her to visit our council meeting. She was very helpful with some of the questions asked of her and we helped her see some of what kind of a congregation we are as well.

Agenda and previous meeting minutes accepted as presented.

Correspondence:

- Email from NI Synod (Giving Statement)
- Email from NIS Re: Portico/ Webinar
- Email from Mike Selburg Re: MMC meetings/church involvement

- Thank you note received from Mid-America Basement Systems

New Business

- Pastor's monthly report
- Financial Secretary – a partial CD withdrawal to be done to cover the upcoming building projects. The CD's are due to renew in October so wanted to do so no penalty would incur. Eric will take care of this and also get the renewal interest rates.
- Treasurer's Report
- Reports reviewed and approved as presented (MC)

Committees:

- Property Committee
- Roof Leak – Waiting on Boss Roofing for an official estimate for replacement price for the flat roof sections only – the other roofing has been inspected and is in good order.
- Trees/sidewalk – Deb has contacted the city to see what needs to be done to fix the issues of the sidewalk sections that are broken up due to tree roots.
- Parking lot sealing – Dadson's been contacted to do at any time now.
- The water issue in the basement has been scheduled for November 9th and 10th. Mid-America Basement is in direct contact with Rock River Electric for the required electrical work for the sump.

(Continued on page 3)

**Bethesda Council Members for Congregational
Names & Contact Information**

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OFFICERS

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

Luther and the Bible

Reformation Day is celebrated by many Protestant churches on October 31. It commemorates the Reformation and honors leaders such as Martin Luther, whose courage and conviction helped shape church history.



Luther's life was threatened because he spoke out against practices he believed did not reflect the true mission of the Church. Forced into hiding, he found refuge at Wartburg Castle as the guest of the ruler of Saxony.

While there, Luther took on an enormous task: translating the Bible from the original languages into German. This was no simple project. At the time, Germany was made up of many regional dialects, making communication difficult from one area to another.

Luther wanted ordinary people to clearly understand God's Word. To make sure his translation used everyday language, he is said to have listened carefully to common speech, even consulting the castle's butcher for familiar expressions and wording.

Luther's translation became a tremendous gift to the German people. Not only did it place Scripture into the hands of everyday readers, but the language he used also helped unify the many German dialects. In that sense, Martin Luther is often considered one of the fathers of the modern German language.



In-Kind
Donation



Below is a list of the items currently in need. Items can be placed in the big basket by the front door. Don't forget to turn in your receipts with an "in-kind" form!

Current needs

- Toilet bowl cleaner (like Lysol or Clorox gel/cling)
- Individual sugar packets (not sweetener)
- Window cleaner
- Hand soap

(Continued from page 2)

- Upstairs men's restroom water issue – still trying to figure out the problem – It is not the roof.
- All committee reports submitted were reviewed and accepted as presented. (MC)

Announcements –

- Next meeting Monday, October 12 – Devotions Tracy

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by,
Angie Hanson, Secretary Pro-tem

A Harvest of Gratitude

The colors and beauty of autumn remind us that every season carries evidence of God's goodness. As we enjoy cooler days and changing leaves, may we pause to give thanks for His provision and share our blessings with those around us.



"THE CHOSEN"

is a Christian religious-historical drama television

series that premiered in 2019. It is the first multi-season series about the life and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth, primarily set in Judaea and Galilee in the first century. The series depicts Jesus's life through the eyes of the people who interacted with him, including the apostles and disciples of Jesus, Jewish religious leaders, Roman government and military officials, and ordinary people.

If you haven't already watched the series yourself (*at home*), or would like to watch it again with your church family, we will be hosting a viewing party for members/friends in the lower level lounge (*aka the nursery*) on Sundays, beginning **October 11**, and will start at **2:00 p.m.** Dress comfortably and feel free to bring your favorite snack or beverage.

Should there be enough interest with more space needed for those who wish to join in on watching this series, another viewing location in the church could potentially be arranged if there is need to do so.

* If you have any questions, you can reach out to Tracy O'Shea, or contact the church office.



For those battling cancer:

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

For healing and support:

- Alan Geerts
- Natalie Buck
- Jeg Weets
- Larry Geerts
- Janice Mussmann
- Sandy Crouse
- Jamie O'Shea
- Tonya Leatherman
- Alexandria Shields
- Jentry Smith
- Jim Anderson
- Sunny Porter
- Mark Schuler
- Pr. Janet Wold
- Carol Schroeder
- Alan Wold
- Al Janicek
- Asher Burgess
- Suzanne Walaszek
- Anne Frame
- Everett Pannier
- Aiden Patterson
- Eric Phend
- all members of the armed forces serving stateside or abroad, and their families



EVERY SHEEP COUNTS! *IS YOUR INFO UP TO DATE?*



We do not add anyone to our prayers list unless requested by the individual or a member of the church on their behalf. If you have you asked us to include someone, and especially if you have an update, or if a name should be removed, please let us know so we can update our list.
Thank you!

*No fact of history
is more amazing
than the spread of
the influence of
Jesus.*

—Kenneth Scott Latourette



BETHESDA "MEET & EAT" - THURSDAY, October 22nd 6:00 PM

Bethesda members (all ages) are invited to join together for a time of food & fellowship at our monthly "Meet & Eat". We will be dining at the Pizza Ranch in Sterling at **6:00 PM**.

To assist in planning, there is a sign up sheet on the table in the Fellowship Room. **Please sign up by Sunday, Oct. 18th**. Those needing a ride or having questions should contact Andrea Dalton 772-4929.



Sunday, Oct. 18 2:00 p.m.

All are encouraged to attend a "Sing-A-Long" at the LaBella Nursing Home (*formerly Pleasantview*) in Morrison. Come & join us for an hour of music & smiles followed by light refreshments. All are welcome!

Donations of cookies are appreciated – just bring them along when you come to sing!



Candy Donations Requested

Bethesda will take part during the "TRICK OR TREAT" hours in Morrison Saturday, Oct. 31, 4:00 to 7:00 PM in the lower level at Bethesda.

Children and their families will be able to enter from the South St. entrance (by the church office), through the hallway. Tables/stations will be set up in the multi-purpose room for members to use. Members are encouraged to participate and may also come in costume (if they wish) to pass out treats. We expect to have a LOT of children (based on past experience)!

During the month of October, the Hospitality Committee is collecting donations of candy, crackers, etc. (sorry, no home-made food items) as well as non-edible items (pencils, plastic spider rings, etc.) to pass out to the "Trick or Treaters."

There will be a container in the Fellowship Room for the donations. We usually have a lot of kids, so your donations are greatly appreciated!





Birthdays

3 Stephanie Stichter
Anne Burkholder
5 John Adams
9 Terry Costello
10 Mona Milder
Alan Geerts
12 Kate Rambo
Mekie Green
Andi Janssen
13 Jason Zaagman
17 Jim Haas
19 Allison Van Der Leest
Owen Schmitt
23 Susannah Nye Patten
24 Lori Bush
25 Pr. Leo Patterson
26 Sue Larson
Jeff Dalton
Collin Wiersema
29 Ashley Benson

Anniversaries

10 Jeff & Nichole Segneri
19 David & Rebecca Moore
21 Len & Sandra Hannabarger
Rick & Tracy O'Shea

A Letter from Christ

Paul the Apostle gave a beautiful compliment to the believers in Corinth. He wrote:

"And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts" (2 Corinthians 3:3, *ESV*).

What a meaningful picture. A letter carries a message, and Paul reminded the church that their lives were sharing the message of Christ with others.

The same is true for us today. Through our words, actions and faith, people can see evidence of God at work in our hearts. None of us is perfect, but living faithfully can point others toward Him.

What a wonderful goal for every Christian: to be known as "a letter from Christ."



Ushers & Greeters

MaryEllen B. & Marcia Haag

Lector/Communion Asst.

4 *Volunteer needed*
11 Kate Rambo
18 *Volunteer needed*
25 Jan Horberg (Carol Onken)

Refreshments

4 ~Open~
11 ~Open~
18 ~Open~
25 ~Open~

Counters

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

Altar Flowers

4 ~Open~
11 ~Open~
18 ~Open~
25 ~Open~

Altar Guild

Carol Onken, Diane Engelkins

october



Be a good steward

Various committees in churches all over the world are writing the church budget for the coming year. They're placing their trust in God and believing in their members and friends to support the church's ministry.

Let us all show our faithfulness with good stewardship through our time, talents and treasures.

*Stewardship is not just raising funds;
It's raising Christians.
Stewardship is not a matter of budgets;
It's a matter of faith.*



God is faithful in every season.

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 9:00AM Worship <i>Guest: Rev. Paul Holmer</i> 10:00AM Fellowship 10:15AM Sunday School	5 9AM Diet Club	6 3:00PM WaTanYe	7 9 AM - Noon Quilters 9:00AM—Noon Pastor Leo in Office 7:00PM Sr. Choir Rehearsal	8 1:00PM WELCA Bus. Mtg. & Bible Study (in Chapel)	9	10  @ LOMC <i>See front page!</i>
11 9:00AM Worship <i>Rev. Leo Patterson (Interim)</i> 10:00AM Fellowship 10:15AM Sunday School 2:00PM *EVENT (see pg. 3) “THE CHOSEN”	12 6:00PM Church Council	13	14 9 AM - Noon Quilters 9:00AM—Noon Pastor Leo in Office 7:00PM Sr. Choir Rehearsal	15	16	17
18 9:00AM Worship <i>Guest: Rev. Kathy Burkheimer</i> 10:00AM Fellowship 10:15AM Sunday School 2:00PM *EVENT (see pg. 3) “THE CHOSEN” 2:00PM “Sing-a-Long” @ Labella Nursing Home (see pg. 9)	19 9AM Diet Club	20 ⇒ NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	21 9 AM - Noon Quilters 9:00AM—Noon Pastor Leo in Office 7:00PM Sr. Choir Rehearsal	22 6:00PM “Meet & Eat” <i>(see pg. 9)</i>	23	24
25  9:00AM Worship <i>Rev. Leo Patterson (Interim)</i> 10:00AM Fellowship 10:15AM Sunday School 2:00PM *EVENT (see pg. 3) “THE CHOSEN”	26	27 ⇒ NEWSLETTER ASSEMBLY/ MAILING DAY	28 9 AM - Noon Quilters 9:00AM—Noon Pastor Leo in Office 7:00PM Sr. Choir Rehearsal	29 6:00PM Hospitality Comm. <i>(*Set up & decorate for “Trick or Treat”)</i>	30	31  4:00PM—7:00PM @ Bethesda <i>(see pg. 9)</i>