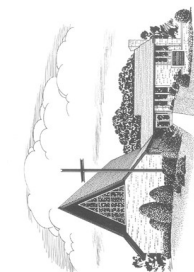


Bethesda Lutheran Church
301 West South Street
Morrison, IL 61270

***Return Service Requested**

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

Sunday School
Youth: 10:15AM



Bethesda Bits

Bethesda Lutheran Church

October 2025

301 W. South Street, Morrison, IL 61270
Office #(815) 772-4896

✉ E-mail: bethesdalc@frontiernet.net

★ Website: bethesdalutheranmorrison.org

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



AutumnFest at LOMC
50TH YEAR CELEBRATION!
SATURDAY, Oct. 11, 2025
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"
- Luncheon 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.
- Closing worship will take place at 3:00 p.m.

For any additional information and details about the event, 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!***



Meeting called to order by President Eric Benson. Devotions by Nancy Woehl. Agenda & minutes from previous meeting accepted as presented.

Correspondence

- Thank You note from Taylor Swanstrom and Owen Mussmann (Scholarships) –
- Thank You from April House (July donations collected) –
- SBM email re: church office copier – current contract ends in October. Received quote from SBM sales rep. See below Action Item.
- Thank you from Synod regarding mission support giving/statement – Info from NI Synod office regarding conference membership realignment.

Old Business

- No update on constitution – vacuum cleaner – still waiting for financing.

New Business

- Deb called NuTrend, Re: the elevator.
- Monica reported that monthly Communion to shut-ins and nursing home is being taken care of by selected church members.
- Financial Secretary's report accepted as presented.

Committee/Group reports

- Hospitality – verbal report – printed report sent after meeting
- Property Committee – awaiting bid for 2 door repairs, for both North and South side at front of sanctuary.
- Worship/Music – reviewed
**Reports accepted as presented.*

Council Action Items

- Elevator – Council approved to have a tech come and make sure everything is running properly. Deb will call to set it up.
- Council approved to have Deb contact the SBM rep to confirm the specs for the new copier proposal and then move forward with obtaining the contracts to receive a new copier before our current contract expires in October.

Announcements

- Devotions next month - Diane
- Adjourned with Lord's Prayer.



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 | |



Holy Interruptions

Most of us are pretty good at planning—schedules, to-do lists, calendars filled to the brim. But what happens when God steps in with an unexpected detour?

Throughout Scripture, God often moved in the interruptions. Moses was tending sheep when he saw a burning bush. Mary was simply living her life when an angel appeared. Even Jesus was frequently “interrupted” by people seeking healing or hope—and He never turned them away.

“Interruptible faith” is a posture of openness. It’s saying, “Lord, here’s my plan—but I trust Yours more.” It means slowing down, paying attention, and being willing to let God rearrange our day for His greater purpose.

Proverbs 16:9 (NIV) reminds us, *“In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps.”* May we have the courage to let Him.

“Help me today, Father, to submit my agenda to your perfect planning.”

—John Sherrill

(Continued from page 3)

eat, or smell. Yet we did the work, with God’s help, to make it a reality. Like Adam we tilled it and kept it. But God gave the increase. God’s provisions and our labor brought the garden to its fulfillment.

- ☺ Good stewardship enables us to do something positive and wonderful with the money God has allowed us to have. What feels better than knowing one has managed money well? Our bank account, our checkbook and our portfolio tell the story. When money is handled well, we have enough for ourselves and are still able to give to God’s work.

That is the beauty of stewardship.



The Beauty of Stewardship

Stewardship has to do with how we manage our time, talent, resources — basically our entire lives. It’s a beautiful concept when properly understood. Here are the basics of good stewardship:

- ☺ God is the source of all creation, including our lives. God is the primary owner of all that exists.
- ☺ We are blessed by being given the task of managing well all that we have influence over: our lives, our abilities, our minds and bodies, our time, our part of the earth, our finances, our children, our church buildings, our automobiles, etc.
- ☺ Although we can make decisions regarding each of the above, ultimately we are responsible to God. Sooner or later, we must give an account of our management of God’s creation and of God’s gifts.
- ☺ When we properly use the talents, resources and property that God allows us to manage, we find great joy. Think of planting a garden which soon overflows with colorful flowers, wonderful vegetables and flavorful herbs, etc. God gave us the plot of ground, God gave us the seed, God gave us the wisdom and strength to bring forth such beauty, such good things to see or

(Continued on page 10)



Dear Bethesda,

Thank you so much for the scholarship and your continued support for my education. I greatly appreciate your generosity and the faith that you have in me.

Much love, Taylor

Dear Bethesda Scholarship Committee,

Thank you for the scholarship. It will help me with my college expenses.

—Owen Mussmann



For those battling cancer:

- Kathy Nielsen
- Jake Nienhouse
- Jennifer Bramm-Patten
- Kellie Kohl
- Ben Logan
- Arnie Schroeder
- Deb Szabo
- TJ Hood

For healing and support:

- Alan Geerts
- Natalie Buck
- Jeg Weets
- Larry Geerts
- Ellie Nienhouse
- Mark Schuler
- Janice Mussmann
- Sandy Crouse
- Ron Wiersema
- Jamie O'Shea
- Tonya Leatherman
- Dulce Eastlick
- Gavin Green
- Alexandria Shields
- Dylan Wescott
- Chatree Almasy
- Jentry Smith
- Jim Anderson
- Judy Werner
- Kevin Davenport
- Tom Schroeder
- Lynn Dykstra
- Diane Engelkins
- RaeAnne Springman
- Hope MacLellan
- all members of the armed forces serving stateside or abroad, and their families



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!



VERBUM DOMINI MANET IN AETERNUM

Latin for "The Word of the Lord Endures Forever," this motto of the Lutheran branch of the Protestant Reformation comes from 1 Peter 1:25. Frederick the Wise, ruler of Saxony and one of Martin Luther's earliest and most influential supporters, had the VDMA symbol sewn into the right sleeve of the official garments worn at his court. The symbol also appeared on banners, flags, swords, and uniforms, representing the unity of the Lutheran laity in standing firm in their faith.



**New Number?
New Address?
New Haircut?
Let Us Know!**



BETHESDA "MEET & EAT" - THURSDAY, October 16th 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 "Primo's Bar & Grill" (formerly the "Wagon Wheel"), at **6:00 PM**.

This is a week earlier than we usually meet so please mark your calendars. Those attending may order from the full menu with salads, specialty sandwiches, burgers, meatloaf, chicken strips & more available. Lots of good comments about Primo's!

To assist in planning, there is a sign up sheet on the table in the Fellowship Room. **Please sign up by Sunday, Oct. 12th.** Those needing a ride or having questions should contact Andrea Dalton 772-4929.



Bethesda will take part during the "TRICK OR TREAT" hours in Morrison on Friday, 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)! Donations of individually wrapped treats may be purchased and left in a treat box located in the Fellowship Room during October.

◆ **PLEASE — NO HOMEMADE FOOD ITEMS!** Non-edible treats are also welcome (pencils, stickers, etc.) Your donations are greatly appreciated!!

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

- Cases of bottled purified drinking water
- Coffee (Regular)
- Creamers (non-refrigerated kind are best for storing)



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
 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

Just show up!

In *A Million Little Ways* (Revell), Emily Freeman says in order for Christians to “show up as you are with what you’ve been given,” we must confront these statements:

- I’m not cut out for this.
- Someone else can do it better.
- People might not like it.
- I have nothing to offer.
- I hate my calling.
- It’s a waste of time.
- It’s too much work.
- Who do you think you are?

“A million loud voices ... keep us from the million little ways [Jesus] wants to show up through us to the world,” Freeman writes.



OCTOBER

Ushers & Greeters

TBA

Lector

5 Marcia Haag
 12 *Volunteer needed*
 19 *Volunteer needed*
 26 *Volunteer needed*

Refreshments

5 ~Open~
 12 ~Open~
 19 ~Open~
 26 ~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

5 ~Open~
 12 ~Open~
 19 ~Open~
 26 ~Open~

Altar Guild

Monica Anderson,
 Dee Janssen

The mess of mercy

The reformer Martin Luther once dreamed that he saw Jesus approaching his door. Luther panicked, seeing that his home was an absolute disaster inside. “How am I going to let the Lord of Life, Jesus Christ, come into a mess like this?” he wondered.

Luther raced to clean up, but the mess only increased. As Jesus knocked, Luther was resigned. “Come on in, if you think you can come into a place like this,” he told Jesus ... only to turn around and see that everything was now in order. All Luther had to do was let Jesus enter.

“Mercy is always a messy business,” writes pastor Daniel Emery Price at 1517.org. That’s true of the Reformation, just as it was when Jesus cleared moneychangers out of the temple. “There will always be those who condemn the mercy because of the mess,” notes Price. “Reformation is always about clearing the path to God’s radical grace.”

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9 AM - Noon Quilters 6:00PM Hosp. Comm. (in Chapel) 7:00PM Sr. Choir Rehearsal	2	3	4
5 9:00AM Worship <i>Guest: Rev. Leo Patterson</i> 10:00AM Fellowship 10:15AM Sunday School	6 9:00AM Diet Club	7	8 9 AM - Noon Quilters 7:00PM Sr. Choir Rehearsal	9 10AM - WELCA Bus. Mtg. & Bible Study (in Chapel)	10	11  @ LOMC! <i>See front page!</i>
12 9:00AM Worship <i>Guest: Rev. Quentin Fleming</i> 10:00AM Fellowship 10:15AM Sunday School	13 6:00PM Church Council	14 3:00PM WaTanYe	15 9 AM - Noon Quilters 7:00PM Sr. Choir Rehearsal	16	17 ⇒ NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	18
19 9:00AM Worship <i>Guest: Rev. Kathy Burkheimer</i> 10:00AM Fellowship 10:15AM Sunday School	20 9:00AM Diet Club	21	22 9 AM - Noon Quilters 7:00PM Sr. Choir Rehearsal	23 10AM - W & M Comm.	24 ⇒ NEWSLETTER ASSEMBLY/MAILING DAY	25
26  9:00AM Worship <i>Guest: Rev. John Cunningham</i> 10:00AM Fellowship 10:15AM Sunday School	27	28	29 9 AM - Noon Quilters 7:00PM Sr. Choir Rehearsal	30	31	