

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

Adult Bible Study

8:30AM (in Fellowship Room)
Weekly on Thursdays

Sunday School — 10:15AM

***NO SUNDAY SCHOOL ON
OCTOBER 16**

Celebrating 125 Years



Bethesda Bits

October 2022

Bethesda Lutheran Church
301 W. South Street, Morrison, IL 61270
Office #(815) 772-4896
Pastor Tammy Anderson
Cell #: (815) 414-1758 Home#: 815-400-9250
Pastor's email: pastortsa@gmail.com

✉ E-mail: bethesdalc@frontiernet.net

★ Website: bethesdalutheranmorrison.org

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



Celebrating 125 Years



BETHESDA LUTHERAN'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Bethesda Lutheran Church, Morrison, began in 1897 as a small Swedish Lutheran congregation. On Sunday, October 16 we will be holding a day-long celebration to commemorate our 125th anniversary as a congregation and church family. First will be a special worship service at 9:00 a.m., with our special guest, Bishop Stacie Fidler, who will provide the message of the day. We expect many guests and visitors for this service, so we anticipate a very full sanctuary that morning! There then will be a catered meal at 11:30 a.m. in the lower level for members and guests (reservations were required.) Then at 2:00 p.m. that same afternoon, there will be a very special anniversary program of music, remembrances, and lots of thanksgiving. Musical selections will include anthems by a "Reunion Choir" comprised of current and past Sr. Choir singers and solo performances, and joining together to sing a few hymns. There will also be times of remembrance and reflection presented by former pastors. The program will be held in the Bethesda sanctuary. We hope that many of you can join us on this special day!



Dear Disciples of Jesus of Bethesda Lutheran,

"For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And who are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ." Romans 10:13-14, 17

When I think of the month of October, a number of things come to mind. First is the cool crispness of fall replacing the hot and humid days of summer. God colors the leaves with brilliant yellows, reds and oranges, I think, "Wow! God is amazing! He sure knows how to create beautiful landscapes." October is also time of the harvest. All the hard work of preparing the ground for the seed, the planting, the spraying for weeds, the prayers for sun and rain have come to fruition. We all hope it is at least a good to bumper harvest, but we don't know until the combines are in the field.

Reformation Sunday also comes to my mind. It is the Sunday we celebrate our Lutheran Heritage. It was on October 31st that Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses on the Castle Church door of Wittenberg. Someone translated these 95 statements for discussion into German and used the new invention of the printing press to spread them throughout Germany and the Reformation was set in motion.

At the time, the whole culture was concerned about their relationship with God. Prominent was the image of Jesus in the book of Revelation, coming as judge with a two-edged sword spewing from his mouth. The two-edged sword was a symbol of the truth Jesus would know right down to the bone of our beings. The Church taught that the people needed to have enough good works to overcome sins. They could go on pilgrimages to Rome and have many sins forgiven. They could buy an Indulgence, a paper with the Pope's seal, guaranteeing forgiveness of sin and freeing loved ones from Purgatory.

Luther struggled with his own sinful nature. Martin Luther was assigned to be a professor at the new Wittenberg University. As Luther prepared lessons in the Psalms, he discovered a gentler God, God who is a shepherd, who watched over us. When Luther studied Romans, the Holy Spirit gave Luther an "aha" moment. Luther read Paul's

("Ponderings" continued on page 4)

**Bethesda Council Members for Congregational
Names & Contact Information
Pastor—Rev. Tammy Anderson; Cell# 815-414-1758**

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OFFICERS

- President — Lisa Rogers
- Vice Pres. — Everett Pannier
- Secretary — Andrea Dalton
- Financial Secretary — Al Janicek
- Treasurer — Marcia Haag



**AutumnFest at LOMC on
SATURDAY, Oct. 8, 2022
from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

There will be many "ongoing" events taking place throughout the day:

- ✓ 5K DONUT Fun-Run/Walk—10:00 a.m. (*start time*)
- ✓ Bake Sale (*in the Moline Dining Hall & LOMC office*)
- ✓ Wagon Rides (10 a.m.—Noon and 2—3 p.m.)
- ✓ Crafts for Kids (*1:30-3:00 p.m. Norm Nelson Program Ctr.*)
- ✓ FALL ACTIVITIES (*pumpkin carving, apple press, hiking, bags/cornhole games, & fishing at Paul's Pond*)
- ✓ Archery(*2:00-2:30pm and 2:30-3:00pm, Tim Geissler Memorial Archery Range*)

There will be a hot dog or chili lunch available from 11:00 a.m.— 1:00 p.m. for \$6 (tickets can be purchased in the Moline Dining Hall; 4 & under-Free), bring a picnic lunch and eat anywhere outside, or go to any of the restaurants in Oregon if you prefer. For additional information and details you can view the full schedule of events on their website at www.lomc.org/autumn-fest, or feel free to contact LOMC at (815) 732-2220.

⇒ Free-will offerings or donations accepted and 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.

Current needs

- Cans of regular coffee
- Toilet Paper
- Boxes of Kleenex
- Windex (window cleaner)
- Snacks for children's time



HIGHLIGHTS
Sept. 12, 2022
CHURCH COUNCIL

President Lisa Bramm-Rogers called the meeting to order. Jan provided the devotions. Steve will be in charge of devotions at the October meeting. Agenda was adopted and minutes from July meeting accepted as presented.

Correspondence:

- Letter from the synod regarding the installation of the new Bishop which will be held on Sunday, October 9th. Synod staffing was also addressed.
- Thank You from the synod for Bethesda's support to the benevolence fund.
- Letter from the Whiteside County Sheriff's Department requesting financial support (donations are requested by 10/14/22) for a new program "Children Living Safely". (Tabled for future discussion.)

Old Business:

- Pastor's Evaluation – Lisa noted that 8 of the 12 forms were returned and the results compiled. In June, the Council President & Council Secretary met privately with Pastor and shared the results. President Lisa will see that each council member receives a copy of the

summary that was shared with Pastor.

New Business:

- Pastor's Monthly Report included time for text study, worship services, meetings, office time, hospital & home visits, many phone calls & emails, continuing education, counseling, 1 funeral, vacation, etc. Pastor recently received an email from an intern (studying to become a Deacon). She was interested in possibly doing some preaching at Bethesda soon to complete this required part of her studies. The council discussed the request but felt the timing would not work well for us at this time.'
- Financial Secretary & the Treasurer's July & August reports were reviewed & discussed. Snow plowing for this winter was mentioned and there was some discussion. Both reports were accepted as presented.

Church Committees / Groups -

- there were no reports from the following committees: Christian Education, Finance, Property, Stewardship, Memorial & Scholarship
- There was no official report from Chris. Ed., however, Lisa noted that the Committee was meeting

(Continued on page 5)

("Ponderings" - Continued from pg. 2)

letter to the Romans,

"For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law."

With this "aha" moment, Luther rediscovered the good news of God's love, the gift of God's grace justifying, making us new, by Jesus' death and resurrection. This good news set Martin Luther on fire. He shared this good news with fellow Professors, his Prince, and the world through his writings. There was a renewal of faith as the Protestant Reformation and later the Roman Catholic response of the Counter Reformation movement swept through Europe. God and how we were in relationship with God was part of the community conversations as well as private conversations around the dinner table.

I thought about the religious culture Martin Luther was a part of in contrast to where we find ourselves today. Yesterday, I saw the same story twice online, which stated that by the year, 2050 Christianity will be a

minority religion in the United States. The article said that in 1990, 90 percent of the people in the U.S. Identified as Christians. Now they said, there is a movement to identifying as "None", that is they don't identify with any religion and this movement is growing. The study said the membership in Christian congregations is on a steady decline and it doesn't look as if anything is going to stop this decline in Christianity, and the growth of the "Nones".

I was saddened by this story. I know that we have experienced the decline in attendance of our worship services and even in some service events of our life together as brothers and sisters in Christ. COVID had us worshipping at home because we could not gather. Some are still gathering with us online. Yet, there is still a general decline. As I thought about this story, I thought there is one force the writers of this story did not think about in this fight against decline and the growth of "nones" and that is the power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit creates faith as the word is proclaimed and heard. The Holy Spirit will work through the Word of Christ, the revelation of God being holy and just and graceful and merciful. Jesus reveals the love of God, that is boundless for

("Ponderings" continued on page 5)

Just be — and be still

Various versions of the following sentiment are posted online: "I am a human being, not a human doing. It's okay to just *be* sometimes." Many of us get anxious if we think we're not *doing* enough, but peace activist Thich Nhat Hanh insists it's not a waste of time to just be: "To be alive, to be peaceful, to be joyful, to be loving ... is what the world needs most."

During the pandemic, when people were urged to stay home to slow the virus' spread, we had to think hard about how to continue being the church while limited in what we could go out and "do." Yet church leaders reminded us that we were actually loving our neighbors by staying home — by being less active.

It's sometimes okay — ideal, even — to just **be**. In quieting our bodies, minds and hearts, we may find ourselves more often in prayer, more aware of God's presence and more nourished for when the time is right to again take up more active forms of ministry, peacemaking and love. "In quietness and trust is your strength" (Isaiah 30:15, NIV).

—Heidi Mann

Be-attitudes

- Be understanding of your enemies.
- Be loyal to your friends.
- Be strong enough to face the world each day.
- Be weak enough to know you cannot do everything alone.
- Be generous to those who need your help.
- Be frugal with what you need for yourself.
- Be wise enough to know that you do not know everything.
- Be open enough to believe in miracles.
- Be willing to share your joys.
- Be eager to share the sorrows of others.
- Be a leader when you see a path others have missed.
- Be a follower when you are shrouded by uncertainty.
- Be the first to congratulate an opponent who succeeds.
- Be the last to criticize a colleague who fails.
- Be loving to those who love you.
- Be loving to those who don't love you; they may change.
- Be yourself, above all.

**BE LOVED.
BE KIND.
Be You**

(“Highlights” continued from page 5)

Celebrations are being planned for Sunday, October 16th for a formal worship service with the new Bishop present, followed by a catered meal @ approximately 11:00 AM. Approximately 100 reservations were received. A anniversary program will be held on the afternoon of Sun. Oct. 16th at 2:00 PM in the sanctuary. Another church celebration is planned for Sun. Dec. 11th (closest to our actual anniversary of Dec. 13th, 1897 – Bethesda’s first service). A special service will be held with a potluck lunch to follow. Kathy J. is arranging publicity for all events. “God’s Grace: Then, Now & Forever” is the theme. The next meeting will be Sept. 28th at 6 p.m. Mementos to commemorate the 125th Anniversary include Trivets – available for purchase @ \$10./ea., Cookbooks – available for \$15/ea., will be sold following the worship service each week beginning on Sept. 4th. T-shirts & sweatshirts have been ordered and received. Painted communion cups & anniversary booklets will be given to those attending the day of the celebration.

• **All reports were accepted as presented.**

Announcements:

- Sunday worship in-person & via Facebook live continues to be held at 9 AM weekly.
- Newsletter deadline is Fri. 09/23. Assembly will be Fri. 09/30.
- The next regular council meeting is Mon. Oct. 10th, 2022 @ 6:00 PM.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:10 PM with all praying the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea G. Dalton, Secretary




Because of all the extra time involved with the planning and preparing for our big 125th Anniversary Worship service, dinner, and afternoon program that is set to take place on October 16, this year’s Stewardship campaign has delayed in getting started.

We will be starting up with this year’s campaign on Sunday, October 23. Be on the look-out for information in the weekly bulletin announcements or emails about what the schedule will be as far as pledging for the coming year, time & talent forms, and so on!

you and me that Jesus was willing to become a human being, suffer, die, and be raised from the dead to justify us, to make us right in our relationship with God. Jesus reveals the depth of God’s love for you and me. When this word is proclaimed, the Holy Spirit creates faith giving gifts of peace, love, and joy. Paul asked the right question, “How can they believe in one whom they have never heard? And how can they believe with no one to proclaim him?” Let us proclaim to our family, friends and neighbors about God’s love. Let us tell them about a God, who meets us in our brokenness and loves us so much as to pick us up from our sin, forgive and reconcile with us, making us his beloved redeemed children. The Holy Spirit will create faith. The Holy Spirit will use your words and actions to create faith. The Holy Spirit will turn this tide from “nones” to confessing Jesus as Lord. Let us claim our heritage and share the good news.

Shalom,
Pastor Tammy



Just a Reminder
October is Pastor Appreciation Month

(“Highlights” continued from page 3)

soon to plan for the Sunday School year.

- Hospitality Committee met Aug. 29th to make plans for the coming months. “Rally Day” breakfast & worship was held at the church on Sun. 09/11 rather than at the park due to bad weather. “Meet & Eat” suppers continue to be held on the 4th Thursday night of the month unless otherwise noted. Upcoming events include: “TRUNK OR TREAT”, “Giving Thanks” Potluck Dinner (?), Morrison Christmas Walk/Parade (more to follow), and the final 125th Anniversary Celebration including Congregational Potluck Dinner
- Worship & Music met on Aug. 4th and selected hymns and planned services through Oct. 23rd. Reformation is Oct. 30th however, Confirmation Sunday will be held Nov. 6th due to a schedule conflict for one of the families. The 125th Anniversary Worship, catered dinner & afternoon program will be held on Sun. Oct. 16th. The next Worship & Music Committee meeting will be held Oct. 20th
- The 125th Anniversary Planning Committee met on Sept. 7th.

(“Highlights” continued on page 12)



For those battling cancer:

- Glen Peterson
- Kathy Nielsen
- Sandy Moore
- Catherine Phelps
- Jake Nienhouse
- Hope MacLennan
- Tonia Ernst
- Kathy Anderson
- Marna Schroeder

For healing and support:

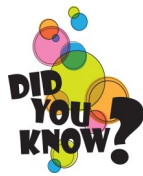
- Walter Schmitt
- Alan Geerts
- James Floyd Nye
- Dorothy Boles
- Natalie Buck
- Jeg Weets
- Larry Geerts
- Ellie Nienhouse
- Damion Ullrich
- Everette Baker
- Troy Bousman
- Mekie Green
- Everett Pannier
- Caryn Nehrkorn
- Donna Geerts
- Daryl Fischer
- Lewis Weaver
- Mary Weaver
- Jay Nye
- Mark Schuler

- all members of the armed forces serving stateside or abroad, and their families



- Our sympathies to the family and friends of *Olive Nielsen*
- Our sympathies *Nancy Usterbowski* and family upon the loss of her husband, *Dale Usterbowski*

We pray that they will sense God's presence in this time of sorrow, and find comfort and peace in the promise of eternal life through the death and resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ.



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!



Bethesda members (all ages) are invited to join together for a time of food & fellowship. We will be dining at A's Kitchen (2004 1st Ave., Rock Falls, IL—just north of the Candlelight Inn on IL Rte. 40) on **Thursday, October 27th, 2022** at 6:00 PM. Those attending may order from the full menu which includes a variety of sandwiches, salads, pasta dishes, and more. To assist in planning, there will be a sign up sheet on the table in the Fellowship Room. **Please sign up no later than Sunday, October 23rd.** Questions – contact Carol Stichter 772-3033 or Andrea Dalton 772-4929.

We welcome suggestions for new places to visit, so please let Andrea or Ellen know if you have an idea for any future monthly dinner nights.

⇒ *Please note that there will be NO "Meet & Eat" in November or December due to the holidays. We will resume our dinners in January 2023. See you then!*



Bethesda will be participating in "TRUNK OR TREAT" on Monday, Oct. 31st from 4:00 to 7:00 PM in the Christian Reformed Church parking lot across from Bethesda.

Children will visit each vehicle and volunteers will place items in their goody bags. Volunteers will be needed and are asked to come in costume to pass out treats from their decorated vehicles.

We expect 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!!



A "Celebration of Life" luncheon will be held for Dale Usterbowski on Sunday, October 23, 2022 from 1 p.m. — 4 p.m. at the Morrison American Legion Post 328, 306 E. Main St., Morrison, IL.



Birthdays

- 3 Stephanie Stichter
Anne Burkholder
- 5 John Adams
- 10 Mona Milder
Alan Geerts
- 12 Adeline Gool
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 Matlack
- 26 Sue Larson
Jeff Dalton
Collin Wiersema
- 29 Ashley Benson

Anniversaries

- 10 Jeff & Nichole Segneri
- 21 Len & Sandra Hannabarger
Rick & Tracy O'Shea

Grace—What a Gift!

Grace strikes us when we are in great pain and restlessness. It strikes us when we walk through the dark valley of a meaningless and empty life. It strikes us when our disgust for our own being, our indifference, our weakness, our hostility, and our lack of direction and composure have become intolerable to us. It strikes us when, year after year, the longed-for perfection of life does not appear, when the old compulsions reign within us as they have for decades, when despair destroys all joy and courage.

Sometimes at that moment a wave of light breaks into our darkness, and it is as though a voice were saying: "You are accepted."

—Paul Tillich



OCTOBER

Ushers & Greeters

- Lisa Bramm-Rogers,
MaryEllen Brackemyer

Lector

- 2 Dee Janssen
- 9 MaryEllen Brackemyer
- 16 125th Anniv. Worship
None Needed
- 23 Connie Swanson-DeSpain
- 30 **Volunteer needed**

Refreshments

- 2 ~Open~
- 9 Andrea Dalton
- 16 125th Anniv. Worship
None Needed
- 23 ~Open~
- 30 ~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.

Acolytes

- 2 Aubrey Smith
- 9 Cameron Adams
- 16 Caeleb Bramm
- 23 Leslie Chambers
- 30 **Reformation Sunday**

Altar Flowers




- 2 ~Open~
- 9 ~Open~
- 16 Blue Violet (*LuEllen Lee*)
- 23 ~Open~
- 30 ~Open~

Altar Guild

- Carol Onken,
Nancy Usterbowski



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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
2 9:00AM Worship <i>In-person & Facebook "Live"</i> 10:00AM Fellowship 10:15AM Sunday School & Confirmation Class	3 9AM - 12PM Pastor in Office 9:00AM Diet Club 6:00PM Hosp. Comm.	4 9:00AM - 12PM Pastor@ Text Study	5 9:00AM - 10:15AM Pastor in Office 10:30AM - NOON Pastor @ MMC 9 AM - 2 PM Quilters 7:00pm Sr. Choir Reh.	6 8:30AM Bible Study 9:30AM-12PM Pastor in Office	7 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	8  @ LOMC! <i>See pg. 15</i> 11:00AM Installation of Bishop Stacie Fidler (in Rockford)
9 9:00AM Worship <i>In-person & Facebook "Live"</i> 10:00AM Fellowship 10:15AM Sunday School & Confirmation Class	10 9AM - 12PM Pastor in Office 9:00AM Diet Club 6:00PM Church Council	11 9:00AM - 12PM Pastor@ Text Study	12 9:00AM - 12PM Pastor @ NI Synod Central. Conf. Mtg. 9 AM - 2 PM Quilters 7:00pm Sr. Choir Reh.	13 8:30AM Bible Study 9:30AM-12PM Pastor in Office 7-9pm MMTA Auditions	14 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	15
16 9:00AM 125TH ANNIV. Worship w/guest NISynod Bishop Stacie Fidler <i>In-person & Facebook "Live"</i> <i>NO Sunday Sch. or Conf. Class</i> 11:30AM Anniv. Dinner (lower level) 2:00PM 125th Anniversary Program (in Sanctuary)	17 *Pastor @ Continuing Ed. (in Joliet, IL) 9:00AM Diet Club	18 9:00AM - 12PM Pastor@ Text Study	19 9:00AM - 12PM Pastor in Office 9 AM - 2 PM Quilters 7:00pm Sr. Choir Reh.	20 8:30AM Bible Study 9:30AM-12PM Pastor in Office 10:00AM W & M Committee Mtg.	21 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	22
23 9:00AM Worship <i>In-person & Facebook "Live"</i> 10:00AM Fellowship 10:15AM Sunday School & Confirmation Class	24 9AM - 12PM Pastor in Office 9:00AM Diet Club	25 9:00AM - 2PM Pastor@ NI Synod Candidacy Comm. Mtg. (Rockford)	26 9:00AM - 12PM Pastor in Office 9 AM - 2 PM Quilters 7:00pm Sr. Choir Reh.	27 8:30AM Bible Study 9:30AM-12PM Pastor in Office	28 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	29 9:00AM - NOON Pastor @ Synod Global Mission Committee Mtg.
30  9:00AM Worship <i>In-person & Facebook "Live"</i> 10:00AM Fellowship 10:15AM Sunday School	31 9AM - 12PM Pastor in Office 9:00AM Diet Club 4:00PM - 7PM "Trunk or Treat" (see pg. 11)					