

Bethesda Lutheran Church
301 West South Street
Morrison, IL 61270

**Return Service Requested*

Sunday Worship Service

- ◆ Sundays at 9:00 a.m.
(*in-person and also Facebook "live"*)
- ◆ Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.—10:45 a.m.

Holy-Week Worship

- ◆ Maundy Thursday & Good Friday at 7:00 p.m.
(**in-person and Facebook "live"*)

Adult Bible Study

- ◆ 8:30AM Weekly on Thursdays



Bethesda Bits

April 2024

Bethesda Lutheran Church
301 W. South Street, Morrison, IL 61270
(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*



Dear Disciples of Jesus of Bethesda Lutheran,

April is here. Easter has just begun, and the season continues throughout April. I love Easter. It ushers in spring and renews the hope and joy that the winter season seems to steal from so many. However, it especially is a celebratory time as we remember that Jesus is alive.

Most of you have probably heard the saying, “an optimist sees the glass as half full, and a pessimist sees the glass as half empty.” At Easter, I’m an optimist that sees emptiness as a wonderful thing.

Those who came to the tomb on that first Easter morning, were expecting to find Jesus’ body. Instead, they found an empty tomb, according to John, the Gospel writer. Well, not exactly empty the cloths that had been wrapped around Jesus’ body and head remained there.

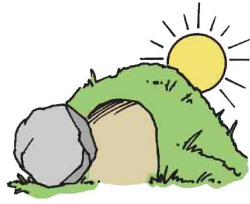
Emptiness on that first Easter was a wonderful thing! Emptiness can still be a wonderful thing! Perhaps it can be a beautiful empty as it was on that first Easter.

If someone comes to me and tells me that they feel empty, of course I am concerned for them. Yet, it may just be a starting point for God to be able to fill them. God can fill us with amazing gifts; Hope,

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Peace, Joy, Love, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Patience, and Self-control; all of which are fruits of the Spirit.



I believe that God wants to take away our emptiness, our brokenness and fill it with all that is beautiful. The Easter Season is for such a time of Hope. We all have moments of emptiness. May those times be ones of reflection, times of remembering all that God has done for us, times of remembering the empty tomb, and times to seek all of God's promises and let them fill us up.

Come worship with us during the Easter Season and celebrate the empty tomb. If you or someone you know is going through a time of emptiness, bring them with you. May God fill your beautiful empty!

Shalom & Happy Easter!

Pastor Tammy

A foretaste of the feast

While teaching a group of First Communion students about the Lord's Supper, a pastor gave each child one M&M's candy at the beginning of class. "Eat it!" he invited, before proceeding to teach.

Near the end of the session, the pastor asked the students what they'd thought of the earlier treat. "Good!" said one. "I wanted more!" another admitted. "I wanted a whole bag!" chimed in a third.

"Now you understand another thing about Holy Communion," the pastor said. He drew out of his supplies a full bag of M&M's for each student. "Sometimes we call Communion 'a foretaste of the feast to come.'" Indeed, he explained, God promises that one day we'll feast together with Jesus in heaven, but until then, Communion is that delicious little taste of what the feast will be like. We're left wanting more because we have "[tasted] and [seen] that the LORD is good" (Psalm 34:8).



Bethesda Council Members for Congregational

Names & Contact Information

Pastor—Rev. Tammy Anderson; Cell# 815-414-1758

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Superimposed love

Maybe you've heard how salvation is like a total solar eclipse: God doesn't see our sins because Jesus' holiness covers them completely. Or maybe you've heard how trials can cause an "eclipse of faith."

At WorldChallenge.org, Pastor Gary Wilkerson explains that in Greek, *eclipse* means "I am absent" or "I cease to exist," because people once thought the gods temporarily extinguished the sun. "For Christians, a 'spiritual eclipse' is a dark hour when God seems to be absent from our lives," Wilkerson writes.

Wilkerson points to Peter being sifted like wheat, Elijah and Jeremiah facing extreme discouragement, and David collapsing morally. Amid Satan's attacks, "God seems completely absent," writes the pastor. "In that dark moment of eclipse, the devil has created such chaos we can't possibly see a way out." During times of testing, Christians must cry out to God and trust his faithfulness.

Completing the eclipse analogy, Wilkerson shares Titus 3:4, the "love of God our Savior appeared" (NIV). The Greek meaning of *appeared* here is *superimposed*, he writes. God looks on our fraught-filled times of eclipse and "superimposes his divine love over us."

When the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us.

Titus 3:4-5, NIV

Dear Bethesda,

Thank you so much for thinking of me while I'm away at college. I love Starbucks, so I really enjoy this gift!

Thanks a bunch,
Taylor Swanstrom



Council Highlights

March 11, 2024

Meeting was called to order by Council Pres., Eric Benson.

Pastor Tammy led devotions.

Agenda and minutes from February meeting were reviewed and accepted as presented.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Thank you card from Resthave

NEW BUSINESS:

- Pastor did not have a report due to her computer being down.
- Financial Secretary and Treasurer's reports were reviewed, discussed and accepted as presented.

OLDBUSINESS/ COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Chris Ed**—no report. VBS will be June 24-28 at Emmanuel Ref. church from 6-8 p.m. (note change of venue)
- **Property Committee**—received email from Nu-Trend re the elevator/lift. The main controller needs to be replaced. Was decided to present both options to the congregation for input. Bids being received for cement work on Winfield St. as part of completing the landscaping project started last year.
- **Memorials Comm.**—no report, almost finished with the updates to the downstairs kitchen.

- **Scholarship Comm.**—have had some applications sent in.
- **Morrison Minister's Council**—pastor updated on Lent lunch attendance, shared information about the new "God's Will Store" on Main St., and announced that there will be a Crosswalk beginning at 12:15.

Meeting adjourned with all praying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Phend, Secretary

Trustworthy stewards

After making people in his own image, God entrusted them with the rest of his creation. He wants us to manage well our bodies, our minds and our earthly home. Consider these stewardship quotes from Christian thinkers:

"We ourselves are not masters of our own ability and knowledge. They, like our talents and health, are a loan presented for our use. We must live as people who know that such temporary possessions are not true belongings and that we must give account for our management of them."

—Albert Schweitzer

Please
Pray
for...



**Friends/loved ones
battling cancer:**

- Glen Peterson
- Kathy Nielsen
- Jake Nienhouse
- Jennifer Bramm-

Patten

- Don Warkins
- Sena Warkins
- Kellie Kohl
- Ben Logan
- Jonelle Hook

**Friends & loved ones needing
prayer for healing and support:**

- Alan Geerts
- James Floyd Nye
- Dorothy Boles
- Natalie Buck
- Jeg Weets
- Larry Geerts
- Ellie Nienhouse
- Everett Pannier
- Mark Schuler
- Janice Mussmann
- Kim Calhoun
- Donna Hobbs
- Vicki Hood
- Sandy Crouse
- Ron Wiersema
- Jamie O'Shea
- Hannah King Boyles
- David Stone
- Katherine Janssen
- Pr. Kathy B.
- Mark Manthey
- Tonya Leatherman
- Dulce Eastwick
- Michelle Jager
- Gavin Green
- members currently serving
in the armed forces either
stateside or abroad

A wakeup call

God — let me be aware.
 Let me not stumble blindly down
 the ways,
 Just getting somehow safely
 through the days,
 Not even groping for another
 hand,
 Not even wondering why it all
 was planned,
 Eyes to the ground unseeking for
 the light,
 Soul never aching for a wild-
 winged flight,
 Please, keep me eager just to do
 my share.
 God — let me be aware.

God — let me be aware.
 Stab my soul fiercely with others'
 pain,
 Let me walk seeing horror and
 stain.
 Let my hands, groping, find other
 hands.
 Give me the heart that divines,
 understands.
 Give me the courage, wounded,
 to fight.
 Flood me with knowledge,
 drench me in light.
 Please — keep me eager just to
 do my share.
 God — let me be aware.

Address Update

Lori Bush
 302 S. Jackson St.
 Morrison, IL 61270

SPRING FLOWERS GIVEN BY:



- ◆ *Brenda, Doug, Kameron & Brysen in Memory of loved ones*
- ◆ *Pastor Tammy in Memory of Gerald E. Anderson & Edgar J. Hobbs*
- ◆ *Eric & Mary Benson & family in Memory of loved ones*
- ◆ *MaryEllen Brackemyer in Memory of Jerry Brackemyer*
- ◆ *Dawn Bush in Memory of Bernita & Ruth Bush*
- ◆ *Dave & Carol Cook and family in Memory of Alvin & Ruth Popkin & Charles & Alyce Cook*
- ◆ *Terry & Sue Costello in Memory of family & loved ones who have passed*
- ◆ *Andrea Dalton & families in Memory of loved ones*
- ◆ *Diane Engelkins in Memory of Jerry & Chad Engelkins & Mom & Dad Bowman*
- ◆ *Marcia Haag & family in Memory of loved ones*
- ◆ *Jeff & Angie Hanson in Honor & Memory of family & loved ones*
- ◆ *Tim & Vicki Hood in Memory of Donna & Victor Nelson*
- ◆ *Janice Horberg in Memory of parents, Bob & Lois Horberg*
- ◆ *Alan & Kathy Janicek in Memory of John & Charles Anderson, Helen & Joe Janicek, & Richard Swanson*
- ◆ *LuEllen & Matt Lee & family in Memory of Janet Letcher & Frank & Barbara Lee*
- ◆ *Mona Milder & the Oates family in Memory of Tony Milder & Daughters Cindy & Mary Jane*
- ◆ *Carol Onken in Memory & Honor of loved ones*
- ◆ *Tracy & Rick O'Shea in Memory of loved ones lost*
- ◆ *Everett Pannier in Memory of Nancy*
- ◆ *Sherri, Doug & Keith Pannier in Memory of Nancy*
- ◆ *Sunny Porter in Honor & Memory of loved ones*
- ◆ *Deloris Smith in Memory of loved ones*
- ◆ *Bob & Deb Stone & family in Memory of Rev. Robert W. Stone, Jr. & Rev. Robert E. Burton*
- ◆ *Nancy Usterbowski in Memory of loved ones*
- ◆ *Woehl Family in Memory of Don Woehl*
- ◆ *Mary Wright in Memory of loved ones & in Honor of Vivi & Connor Segneri*



Birthdays

- 2 Mark Stichter
- 3 Deloris Smith
- 4 Andrew Vittitow
Maci Hanson
- 8 Kendra Vittitow
- 9 Steve Geerts
Lucas Hemminger
- 10 Al Janicek
Lisa Dalton
Evan Mussmann
- 11 Phillip O'Shea
- 12 Stacy Cook
Hillary Bousman
- 14 Steve Young
Jason Wright
Nichole Segneri
Eathan Long
- 16 Courtney Adams
Tim Hood, Jr.
- 18 Amanda Morine
- 20 Dale Belt
Kylee Green
- 21 Gracen Harmon
Anita Burton
- 24 Ann Bean
- 25 Maverick Hensel
- 28 Laura Bean Hemmingson
- 29 Mitchell Stichter
- 30 Gayla Cordes



Bethesda members (all ages) are invited to join together for a time of food & fellowship. We have rescheduled to meet at "Froggy's," located at 215 W. 2nd St., Rock Falls, on **Thursday, April 25, 2024** at 6:00 PM.

To assist in planning and confirming our reservation, there will be a sign up sheet on the table in the Fellowship Room. **Please sign up no later than Sunday, April 21.** Also be sure to indicate if you need a ride or wish to carpool. Questions – contact Andrea Dalton at 772-4929.



GLORY TO GOD!

April Volunteers

Ushers & Greeters

Steve & Marsha Geerts

Lector

- 7 ~VOLUNTEER NEEDED~
- 14 ~VOLUNTEER NEEDED~
- 21 ~VOLUNTEER NEEDED~
- 28 ~VOLUNTEER NEEDED~

Refreshments

- 7 ~Open~
- 14 Andrea Dalton
- 21 ~Open~
- 28 ~Open~

Offering Counters

Al Janicek & Deb Stone have assumed these duties and will continue to do so until a regular schedule with volunteers can be arranged. Offerings can be mailed to the church at any time. Thank you.

Altar Flowers

- 7 ~Open~
- 14 ~Open~
- 21 Nancy Usterbowski
- 28 ~Open~

Altar Guild

Carol Onken, Deloris Smith



I am the LORD
which exercise
loving
kindness,
judgment, and
RIGHTEOUSNESS
in the earth:
for in these
things I delight,
saith the **LORD**.

J e r e m i a h 9 : 2 4

Our Mission:

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>*Pastor Off*</i>	2 9:00AM - 1:00 PM Pastor@ Text Study	3 8:30AM - Noon Quilters 9:00AM—10:15AM Pastor in Office 10:30AM—NOON Pastor @MMC Mtg. 7:00PM Sr. Choir	4 8:30AM Bible Study 9:30AM-12PM Pastor in Office	5 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	6
7 9:00AM Worship 10:00AM Fellowship 10:15AM Sunday School & Adult Forum	8 9AM - 12PM Pastor in Office 9:00AM Diet Club 6:00PM Church Council	9 9:00AM - 1:00 PM Pastor@ Text Study	10 8:30AM - Noon Quilters 9:00AM—NOON Pastor @ NIS Central Conf. Pastor's Mtg. 7:00PM Sr. Choir	11 8:30AM Bible Study 9:30AM-12PM Pastor in Office 1:00PM WELCA Bible Study & Mtg. (in Chapel)	12 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	13
14 9:00AM Worship 10:00AM Fellowship 10:15AM Sunday School & Adult Forum	15 9AM - 12PM Pastor in Office	16 9:00AM - 1:00 PM Pastor@ Text Study	17 8:30AM - Noon Quilters 9:00AM—NOON Pastor in Office 7:00PM Sr. Choir	18 8:30AM Bible Study 9:30AM-12PM Pastor in Office	19 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	20
21 9:00AM Worship 10:00AM Fellowship 10:15AM Sunday School & Adult Forum 3:00PM Worship @ Resthave 4:00PM Worship @ Homestead	22 9AM - 12PM Pastor in Office 9:00AM Diet Club	23 9:00AM - 1:00 PM Pastor@ Text Study	24 8:30AM - Noon Quilters 9:00AM—NOON Pastor in Office 7:00PM Sr. Choir	25 8:30AM Bible Study 10:00AM Worship @ Pleasant View 6:00PM Meet & Eat (see pg. 10)	26 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	27
28 9:00AM Worship 10:00AM Fellowship 10:15AM Sunday School & Adult Forum	29 9AM - 12PM Pastor in Office	30 9:00AM - 1:00 PM Pastor@ Text Study		