

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

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

April 2023

- ✉ **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 almost here and Easter is on April 9, and the season continues through the rest of April. I love Easter. It ushers in spring and renews the hope and joy that the winter season seems to steal from so many of us.

It's important for all Christians to understand that Easter is not just a time for decorating eggs, Easter bunnies, and egg hunts, but it is most importantly a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Remember what the angel told the two women who appeared at Jesus' tomb on that first Easter morning: "Do not be afraid...He has risen from the dead." (Matthew 28:5-6)

The angel's command, "Do not be afraid," is directed to all of us, not just to the two women who approached the tomb. More than anything else the Easter season is a time when the finished work of Christ should be a source of comfort to us all. The truth is we no longer have to fear death and God. That truth was put in perspective for me several years ago.

Following surgery, Carl had been in the nursing home for several months until he could return home. Mildred, his wife, would go every day to visit him. The times that I visited Carl, Mildred was

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

also there, and the three of us would celebrate Holy Communion together, and have some remarkable conversations about faith in Christ. Both Carl and Mildred were deeply committed Christians, and neither were afraid to die. They knew that God's promise of resurrection to Eternal Life was true.

Every night before Carl would turn in, he would call Mildred, and the two of them would talk for a short time, and pray together. Whether they talked much or not, the one thing they always did, was pray the Lord's prayer together, on the phone.

Carl had been doing very well, and the Doctors assured him that he would be able to go home in about one week. Both he and Mildred were ecstatic about that. The following Saturday night when he called Mildred before going to bed, they only prayed the Lord's Prayer, then said good night.

The following morning, my phone rang at 5:05 AM, just after my alarm went off. Mildred called to tell me that Carl had died that morning around 4:30. Her voice sounded very strained and deeply sad. However, what was remarkable of our short conversation was Mildred's remark, "Isn't it wonderful? Carl died on Easter!"

Mildred was a Christian who allowed her faith to shine right through her grief of losing her husband of 62 years. Later that day, she stated, "I have a very strong faith and so did Carl. I'm not afraid to die, and neither was Carl."

That's what the Easter season is all about. We no longer have to be afraid. As one writer puts it, "The great Easter truth is...not so much that we are to live forever as that we are to live fully now because we are to live forever."

Mildred died two years later, and she faced her death with no fear. They both taught many of us that Easter is more than a season to proclaim that "He is risen." Easter is an opportunity to show others why Christians can cling to the promise that death doesn't have to be feared.

Come worship with us during the Easter Season. If you're like Carl and Mildred and you know where you're going, bring someone with you who has no idea. Remember, God's Word says, "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes." (Romans 1:16)

Shalom & Happy Easter,
Pastor Tammy



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

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OFFICERS

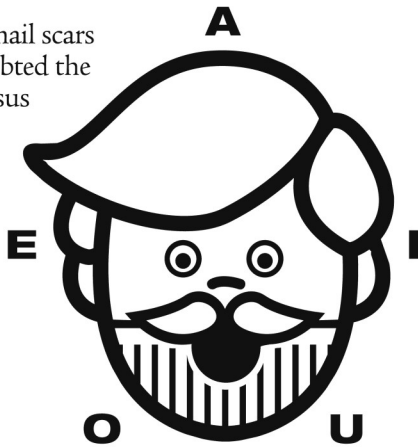
- President — Eric Benson
- Vice Pres. — Mark Mussmann
- Secretary — Sunny Porter
- Financial Secretary — Al Janicek
- Treasurer — Marcia Haag



SEEING AND BELIEVING

Until Thomas saw Jesus' nail scars with his own eyes, he doubted the resurrection. What did Jesus tell Thomas?

Directions:
Use the code to fill in the vowels and complete
John 20:29, NIV.



"B _ c _ _ s _ y _ _ h _ v _ s _ _ n m _ ,
 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00

y _ _ h _ v _ b _ l _ _ v _ d ;
 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00

bl _ ss _ d _ r _ th _ s _ wh _ h _ v _ n _ t
 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00

s _ _ n _ nd y _ t h _ v _ b _ l _ _ v _ d ."
 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00

JOHN 20:29, NIV

Council Highlights

March 13, 2023

Meeting was called to order by Eric Benson, President. Devotions by Andrea Dalton, the agenda adopted, and minutes were approved with corrections.

Old Business

There was discussion with regard to sending an evaluation to the church members.

New Business

- Pastor's monthly report: Pastor was unavailable at the meeting (*illness*)
- Financial Secretary and Treasurer's reports for February was reviewed, discussed and accepted as presented.

Church Committees and Groups

- There were no reports from the following committees and groups: Christian Education, Property, Stewardship, Worship and Music, Memorial, Scholarship, and Morrison Minister's Council.
- Finance Committee: Eric suggested that we get bids for mowing and snow plowing.
- Hospitality Committee: Andrea gave a verbal report of the upcoming events including: Family Movie and Hot Dog Supper; Community Lenten Luncheon hosted by our church on Wednesday,

March 22; Meet and Eat @ Harvest Bakery in Erie on Thursday, March 23; and the Palm Sunday Brunch on April 2 following Church

- Congregational Strategic Planning—we reviewed the information presented at the February Council meeting for Mark and asked him to also think of suggestions as to goal for moving our church forward. These will be discussed at the April Council meeting when Pastor will be in attendance.

Announcements

- Sunday morning worship continues both in-person and on Facebook.
- Community Lenten Luncheon each Wednesday in March at noon. The next on March 22 will be hosted by Bethesda
- Meet & Eat on Thursday, March 23 at 6PM at Harvest Bakery in Erie. Sign up sheet on table in Fellowship room.
- Palm Sunday Brunch, April 2, following church. Sign up sheet on table in fellowship room.

Meeting adjourned with the praying of The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Sunny Porter, Council Secretary

Answer: "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." John 20:29, NIV

Please
Pray
for...



**Friends/loved ones
battling cancer:**

- Glen Peterson
- Kathy Nielsen
- Sandy Moore
- Catherine Phelps
- Jake Nienhouse
- Hope MacLennan
- Marna Schroeder
- Mary Jo Gooley
- Jennifer Bramm-Patten
- Don Warkins
- Sena Warkins
- Tommy Phelps
- Stephanie Heflin
- Jerry Johansen

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

- Walter Schmitt
- Alan Geerts
- James Floyd Nye
- Dorothy Boles
- Natalie Buck
- Jeg Weets
- Larry Geerts
- Ellie Nienhouse
- Everette Baker
- Everett Pannier
- Caryn Nehr Korn
- Daryl Fischer
- Mark Schuler
- Hudson Hartman
- Michael Hansen
- Claudia Garcia
- Diane Engelkins
- McKenna Garcia
- Mike Mussmann
- members currently serving in the armed forces either stateside or abroad
- Prayer concerns are not listed unless requested. Please call the church office if you wish to have someone added to our prayer list.

**Not resuscitation —
resurrection!**

In the early years of the U.S. space program, a small but powerful rocket was supported by a metal framework. This “escape tower” was bolted to the capsule in which astronauts awaited takeoff. If disaster occurred, the escape tower was to carry the capsule up and away from the main rocket. A parachute would then float the astronauts safely to earth.



Jesus’ resurrection is more than a great escape. If he had merely eluded death, that would be akin to resuscitation. By God’s power, Jesus didn’t merely survive death but conquered it, once and for all. On Easter, Jesus returns to life not for his own sake but for the sake of all humanity. He reassures the disciples — and us — “Peace be with you.”

—adapted from *Homiletics*



In-Kind Donation “Offering In Kind” is suggested for members who wish to contribute items for use in the church.

Items needed are:

- Box kleenex
- Toilet paper
- Window cleaner



**“YOU GOTTA HAVE FRIENDS”
GIRLFRIENDS THAT IS!**

**BETHESDA LADIES & GUESTS
YOU’RE INVITED to the**

**WHITE PINES DINNER THEATER
Thursday, Sept. 6th, 2023**

- ⇒ 11:20 AM Seating
- ⇒ 12:00 PM Buffet
- ⇒ 1:00 PM Show
- ⇒ 3:00 PM End

The “Women of Bethesda” (**WELCA**) group would like to invite all Bethesda women and their guests to join them for a fun trip to White Pines Dinner Theater (Oregon, IL) to see **“YOU GOTTA HAVE FRIENDS – GIRLFRIENDS THAT IS”** (music & comedy). A gifted and varied group of women bring the humor, music, caring and special connections of girlfriends to life. This play will feature loads of singing, skits, audience participation, fun and nostalgia.

WELCA has secured **20** tickets for the performance @ **\$53.00** per person (includes buffet & dessert during the afternoon intermission) show, tax & gratuity. Reservations and payment (**payable to WELCA**) are due to Andrea Dalton by **Sun. July 30th**.) A sign-up sheet is posted in the Fellowship Room.

(We can carpool from the church parking lot if there is enough interest.)

***Contact Andrea @ 772-4929 for more information.**



WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP?

What is the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the word “stewardship”? Budgets and spreadsheets? Money? Pledge cards? A grateful response to God? What about love?

For many congregations of the ELCA, stewardship means “the church asking for money” or it means nothing at all. If it draws to mind anything, it is the three-week annual financial response that happens every fall to ensure there is enough money to fund the budget for the next year. While the annual financial response may be wrapped up in religious language, at the end of the day it is about the need of the congregation to receive rather than the need of the giver to give.

Stewardship encompasses so much more than money. It is a way of life. It calls for integration between our faith and the way that we live our lives — we are a church that is energized by lively engagement in our faith and life. Stewardship is a mindset, a culture and a discipline that can never be contained in an annual three-week financial response. According to Clarence Stoughton, former president of Wittenberg University, stewardship is everything we do after we say “I believe.” It is the way in which we use all of the resources that God has entrusted to our care so that we can love God and our neighbor. **Stewardship is about love.**

“Stewardship is a matter of the heart. My stewardship practices are a response to the boundless love God first showed me. It means that I am grateful for all that God has generously entrusted to me. As a faithful steward and child of God, I understand that (the) decisions I make, in all aspects of my life, reveal my priorities. It is a privilege to share time, talents and finances, to care for God’s earth and to serve my neighbors. Being a good steward has brought me great joy and has helped me grow spiritually. I am blessed to be a blessing.”

—KATHY FISCUS Faith and Finances Ministry Team Chair,
Central Lutheran Church, Minneapolis



April Volunteers

Ushers & Greeters

MaryEllen Brackemyer,
Lisa Bramm-Rogers

Lector

2 Eric Phend
9 [Easter] VOLUNTEER NEEDED
16 Connie Swanson-DeSpain
23 ~VOLUNTEER NEEDED~
30 ~VOLUNTEER NEEDED~

Refreshments

2 [Palm Sunday Breakfast]
9 [Easter] ~Open~
16 ~Open~
23 ~Open~
30 ~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

2 ~None—Lent~
9 [Easter/Spring flowers]
16 ~Open~
23 ~Open~
30 ~Open~

Altar Guild

Carol Onken & Deloris Smith



Our Mission:

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



2023 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly - Bethesda is in need of one more volunteer, preferably male, (*we have a female volunteer*) to be a voting member to represent us at the Synod Assembly in June. For your consideration of being our representative this year, this is the schedule for the 2 days of this year's assembly:

Friday - June 16

- 8:00 a.m. Registration
- 10:00 a.m. Plenary I
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch
- 1:30 p.m. Breakout Sessions
- 4:00 p.m. Worship
- 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Dinner and Ministry Fair on Campus

Saturday, June 17

8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. Plenary II
**Please note that no lunch will be provided on Saturday.*

Please contact Pr. Tammy or the church office if you wish to volunteer.



Bethesda members (all ages) are invited to join together for a time of food & fellowship.

Due to a scheduling issue last month, we have rescheduled to meet at the Harvest Bakery & More in Erie, IL, on **Thursday, April 27th, 2023** at 6:00 PM. Harvest Bakery offers a delicious variety of sandwiches, salads, and more!

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 23rd.** Also be sure to indicate if you need a ride or wish to carpool. Questions – contact Andrea Dalton at 772-4929.



The Bethesda women (WELCA) would like to thank everyone that contributed to the special “*Noisy Offering*” for our Child Fund that was received in January & February 2023. The total collected was **\$321.76** and will be used to help pay the monthly support (\$42.00) for our 19 yr. old boy, Ashok, of India.

If you missed the special offering and would still like to donate to the Child Fund, you may send a check (made payable to Child Fund) to Andrea Dalton, WELCA Treasurer.



Easter Flowers

Reminder: Out of respect to those who have allergies to Easter lilies & hyacinths, the Altar Guild now displays artificial Lilies as well as live tulips and daffodils. You may order tulips or daffodils by using the form below.

The cost this year is \$13.50 per plant. ***Please return the form and payment to Marcia Haag by Sunday, March 26.**

⇒ *If you wish to bring your own plant, please have it at the church by 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 8.*

COST IS \$13.50/EA.:

Tulip _____ (Qty.) Circle one: *Pink, Purple, Yellow*
 OR - “Altar Guild’s choice”

Daffodil - _____ (Qty.)

TOTAL: _____ x 13.50 = _____

OR: ___ ← check here if you will bring your own Spring flower

*** If writing a check, make payable to Marcia Haag***

Given by: _____

Given in honor / memory of: _____

We plan to pick up plant after Easter services:

Yes - No



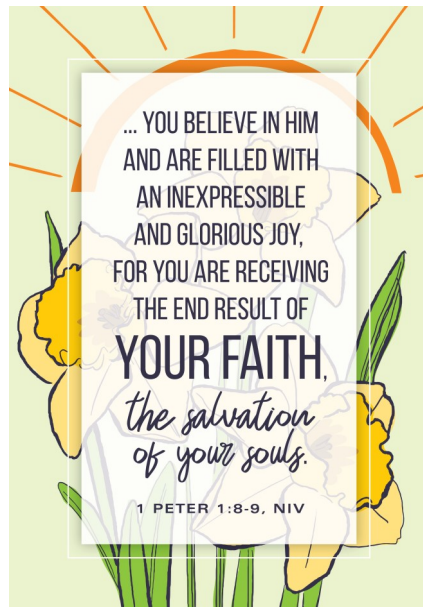
Birthdays

- 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 Mussman
- 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
- 29 Mitchell Stichter
- 30 Gayla Cordes



Palm Sunday Breakfast!

Join us for breakfast after worship on Palm Sunday, April 9! On the menu: breakfast (egg) casserole, hash brown casserole, cinnamon rolls, applesauce, juice, chocolate milk and coffee. There is a sign-up sheet posted soon for aid in planning purposes. Our confirmation students will also be assisting with serving. All are welcome to attend!



The Morrison Ecumenical Chorus will present the Lent and Easter portions of G.F. Handel's "Messiah" on Palm Sunday, April 2, at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 601 North Jackson Street in Morrison. The concert, which is sponsored by the Morrison Ministers Council, begins at 7:00 p.m.

"Messiah" has been performed in Morrison in even-numbered years since 1956. Unfortunately, the COVID 19 pandemic made it necessary to cancel the 2020 performance just two weeks before it was scheduled to occur. Consequently, it has been five years since the community has been able to take part in this Easter tradition. The singers in this year's chorus, who come from churches in Morrison and surrounding communities, are very excited to be able to sing together after such a long break.

The chorus is under the direction of Kathy Janicek, choir director at Bethesda Lutheran Church in Morrison and is accompanied by Christine Holmer of Clinton, Iowa. Soloists include Connie Swanson -DeSpain and Beth Yaklich, sopranos, Sara Dunne, alto, Eric Phend and Luke VanderBleek, tenors, Mark Kapusinski, bass and Ben Logan, trumpet.

A free-will offering will be taken to cover expenses with any extra funds going to the Morrison Ministers Council to help with their activities. We hope that many of you will begin your Holy Week observance by sharing this special concert with us.



Scholarship Fund






SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

If you have picked up an application for the Bethesda scholarship, please remember that applications are due by **April 1, 2023**.

The scholarship will be awarded during a worship service on the last Sunday of April or first Sunday of May. Per the guidelines, the amount will be 10% of the ending balance in the fund as of Dec. 31, 2022, or the maximum amount of \$500.

If you need to obtain a copy of the application, please contact the church office ASAP and one can be sent to you by email.

The Scholarship Committee

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<i>1</i> 9:00AM—2:00PM Pastor @ Synod Global Mission Committee Mtg.
<i>2</i>  PALM SUNDAY 9:00AM Worship <i>In-person & Facebook "Live"</i> *NO Sunday School 10:30AM Palm Sunday Breakfast (see pg. 8) 7:00PM Messiah Concert @ St. Peter's Luth.	<i>3</i> 9AM - 12PM Pastor in Office 9:00 a.m. Diet Club	<i>4</i> 9:00AM - 1:00 PM Pastor@ Text Study	<i>5</i> 8:30AM - Noon Quilters 9:00AM—10:15AM Pastor in Office 10:30AM—NOON Pastor @ MMC Mtg. 7:00PM Sr. Choir	 MAUNDY THURSDAY 8:30AM Bible Study 9:30AM-12PM Pastor in Office 7:00PM Maundy Thurs. Worship	 GOOD FRIDAY 12:15PM "Crosswalk" Start @ Resthve & then → PleasantView 7:00PM Good Friday Worship	<i>8</i>
<i>9</i>  Easter CELEBRATION 9:00AM Worship <i>In-person & Facebook "Live"</i> *NO Sunday School	<i>10</i> 9AM - 12PM Pastor in Office 9:00 a.m. Diet Club 6:00PM Church Council	<i>11</i> 9:00AM - 1:00 PM Pastor@ Text Study	<i>12</i> 8:30AM - Noon Quilters 9:00AM—NOON Pastor @ NIS Central Conf. Pastor's Mtg. 7:00PM Sr. Choir	<i>13</i> 8:30AM Bible Study 9:30AM-12PM Pastor in Office 1:00PM WELCA <i>(Kitchen cleaning—</i> <i>all ladies welcome)</i>	<i>14</i> <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>16</i> 9:00AM Worship <i>In-person & Facebook "Live"</i> 10:00AM Sunday School	<i>17</i> 9AM - 12PM Pastor in Office 9:00 a.m. Diet Club	<i>18</i> NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 9:00AM - 1:00 PM Pastor@ Text Study	<i>19</i> 8:30AM - Noon Quilters 9:00AM—NOON Pastor in Office 7:00PM Sr. Choir	<i>20</i> 8:30AM Bible Study 9:30AM-12PM Pastor in Office	<i>21</i> <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>23</i> 9:00AM Worship <i>In-person & Facebook "Live"</i> 10:00AM Sunday School	<i>24</i> 9AM - 12PM Pastor in Office 9:00 a.m. Diet Club 6:00PM Hosp. Comm. <i>(tentative date)</i>	<i>25</i> NEWSLETTER ASSEMBLY/ MAILING DAY 9:00AM - 1:00 PM Pastor@ Text Study	<i>26</i> 8:30AM - Noon Quilters 9:00AM—NOON Pastor in Office 7:00PM Sr. Choir	<i>27</i> 8:30AM Bible Study 9:30AM-12PM Pastor in Office 10:00AM W&M Comm. 6:00PM Meet & Eat <i>(TBA-see pg. 14)</i>	<i>28</i> <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>30</i> 9:00AM Worship <i>In-person & Facebook "Live"</i> 10:00AM Sunday School						