

Bethesda Lutheran Church  
301 West South Street  
Morrison, IL 61270

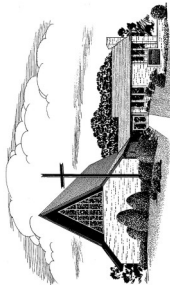
*\*Return Service Requested*

Sunday Worship Service

⤴ In-person and also Facebook "live"  
every Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

Weekly Bible Study -

⤴ Thursdays at 8:30 a.m.



# Bethesda Bits

September 2024

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](mailto:pastortsa@gmail.com)

✉ E-mail: [bethesdalc@frontiernet.net](mailto:bethesdalc@frontiernet.net)

★ Website: [bethesdalutheranmorrison.org](http://bethesdalutheranmorrison.org)

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



## POTLUCK BREAKFAST & WORSHIP in the PARK!

Join us Sunday, September 8, 2024!

Breakfast will be at 8:30 a.m. Milk, coffee and OJ will be provided. Please bring a breakfast dish to pass, and your own table service and your lawn chairs. Worship will follow the breakfast at approximately 9:30 a.m. We will meet at the Rockwood State Park, Cedar Ridge Pavilion (the smaller pavilion that is on the turn that goes down toward the lake). This day will be a multi-purpose event when we will not only spend some time worshiping in the beauty of God's creation, but we will also be utilizing this day as our "kick off" for the new Sunday school year. There are many things to highlight and celebrate on this special day, but most of all, we will celebrate and worship together as a church family. Please bring lawn chairs, and/or a blanket to sit on and, by all means, BRING A FRIEND!

*\*In case of inclement weather, breakfast and worship will be at Bethesda.*

*\*\*Also please note that we will not be able to live-stream this worship service.*



**DEAR DISCIPLES OF JESUS OF BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH,**

At the beginning of August, I was at my great nephew's second birthday party. It has been so much fun watching him grow, talk, laugh, run and imitate the adults and older children around him. He repeats the words that others say, but when asked to do so...he often refuses.

Have you noticed how children imitate the adults in their lives? That could be grandparents, parents, teachers, pastors. Those of us who are parents should be very aware of that. I know that my daughter imitates me in many ways. She has even told me how she has said things that sounded just like something I have said. I think that is kind of scary. But it can also be rewarding.

Knowing that children imitate us, what do they see when it comes to our faith life? Do we, as adults, show them the importance of time with God by reading Bible stories or reading devotions to or with them? Do we make sure they know the importance of the faith community in their life because we have brought them to Sunday school and church on a regular basis? Do we make sure we are following the promises we made to God on the day our children were baptized? Do we make sure that they are following the promises they made when they were confirmed?

Or, are we much more likely to make sure they get to their softball, volleyball, soccer or basketball games? Or that they make the play practices and the band practices so that they can excel in those areas? All of these things are important, but which is more important; secular activities or developing a faith life grounded in Christ's love?

Without a doubt, they do imitate us. In all things! How will their lives reflect what we have shown them about faith in a loving God and life in the community we call the church?

I want to remind you that our yearly Christian education, for all ages, begins in September. On September 8 we have Worship in the park with a potluck breakfast. Adult education will be having class on **Tuesday the 10th, 6:30 - 8:00 PM**, for 6 weeks. Sunday School and Confirmation classes begin on **Sunday the 15th**, following our **9 AM Worship**.

May you be blest as an example of the faith to the young people in your lives. See you at Worship and at Sunday School.

Shalom ~ ~ *Pastor Tammy*

**Bethesda Council Members for Congregational**

*Names & Contact Information*

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

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Have you had a change to your contact information in the past 2 months, 6 months, or even in the past year? Please let us know! Help us to help YOU stay on top of what is coming up at Bethesda by whatever means works best for YOU!

Updates to our church directory, whether it be a new snail-mail address, phone #s (landline or cell!) or email addresses are welcome at any time throughout the year. We can also send a digital (email) copy of our monthly newsletters and take you off the “snail mail” list, which helps save us on postage and reduces paper usage. We also send out reminders about upcoming events & activities at Bethesda, and occasionally we send out prayer requests by email if there is an urgent need.

Take this as a reminder to update your contact info if you have been meaning to and just haven’t gotten around to it yet. You can write it down and place a note in Deb’s mailbox at the church, call the office # and leave a message or speak to Deb directly, or send an email to the address on the front of this newsletter. Pick what works best for you!

*Thank you!*

## The extraordinary amid the ordinary

A violinist once performed in the New York City subway, entertaining passersby for 45 minutes. A few tossed him cash, totaling about \$30 by the time he concluded.

Little did anyone know, Joshua Bell was one of the world’s best violinists. That day, he played one of the most complex musical pieces ever written on an instrument worth \$3.5 million. Indeed, a few days earlier Bell had performed a sold-out concert in Boston, where tickets averaged \$100.

Sometimes God does extraordinary things right in the middle of our ordinary lives, yet we don’t notice. You’re offered an opportunity you almost pass up, thinking it’s not worth your time or effort. But upon taking part, you find it leads to your life’s calling. Or someone crosses your path, but overlooking their worth, you brush them aside, missing out on a blessing God had for you through them.

And what about you? Do you undervalue yourself as “nothing special,” just an “ordinary” person? Look closer; think again. For an ordinary baby born long ago to an ordinary couple in an ordinary stable in an ordinary town was none other than ... God’s Son! And you? Why, you are also an extraordinary child of God!



## September 15 & 22 - Auction/Fundraiser (to help offset cost of repairs to the elevator)

Elevator Fund  
Auction

Members are being asked to donate handmade items, baked goods & services to be sold at the event. Craft type Items will be displayed in the Fellowship Room on both dates, however baked goods will only be present on Sept. 22. There are some members that have special talents that have already agreed to provide items for the event – others will be contacted in the coming weeks. Monica Anderson & Tracy O’Shea will oversee this event. Watch for more information coming soon in your bulletins (or by email).



## Coming this Fall—Adult Bible & Book Study “SIMON PETER; FLAWED BUT FAITHFUL DISCIPLE”

The study will take place on Tuesday Evenings for 6 weeks at 6:30 P.M., beginning September 10 — be sure to check the calendar! If interested, talk with Pastor Tammy so we can order books. *(Cost for the study book is just \$11.50!)*

**Study series summary:** “He left everything to follow his teacher and possessed a passion that would change the world. That’s one way to describe Peter. Here’s another: poor, uneducated, quick-tempered, and full of doubts and fears. Doesn’t even sound like the same man. And that’s the point of *Simon Peter*, a six-week adult Bible study by Adam Hamilton. Peter was just an ordinary guy who heard and followed God’s extraordinary call. Discover how you, too, have special gifts, talents, and abilities that God can use to make a difference today.”

### \*UPDATE—THERE IS STILL TIME TO SIGN UP!

Please contact Pastor Tammy or Deb in the church office ASAP if you wish to participate so that we can order a book for you!



## REMINDER

The Bethesda Church Council did not meet in August. Their next meeting will be on Monday, September 9, at 6:00 p.m.



### ***Friends/family members battling cancer:***

- Glen Peterson
- Kathy Nielson
- Jake Nienhouse
- Jennifer Bramm-Patten
- Don Warkins
- Sena Warkins
- Kellie Kohl
- Ben Logan
- Jonelle Hook
- Ben Martin

### ***Prayers for support & healing:***

- Alan Geerts
- Natalie Buck
- Jeg Weets
- Larry Geerts
- Ellie Nienhouse
- Everett Pannier
- Mark Schuler
- Janice Mussmann
- Sandy Crouse
- Ron Wiersema
- Jamie O'Shea
- Katherine Janssen
- Pr. Kathy Burkheimer
- Tonya Leatherman
- Dulce Eastlick
- Michelle Jager
- Gavin Green
- Dorothy Andreson
- Betty Wollesen
- Jim Kozar

### ***Our sympathies to:***

- *Bonnie Phend* and family upon the loss of her brother, *Steve Phelps*
- *Deb Stone* and the Port family upon the loss of her aunt, *Karen Port*

### ***Others:***

- all military service members in the armed forces
- All who have started the new school year — teachers, students, building/grounds & tech support staff, school transportation personnel, administrators, and parents/guardians



*Jack Wesley Benson* was received as a member of the Bethesda family by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on Sunday, August 4, 2024.

Jack's parents are *Kenneth & Alesha Benson*, and his sponsors are *Derek McCart & Lilian Swanson*. Welcome, child of God!



**Meet & Eat**

**THURSDAY, Sept. 26, 2024**

Bethesda members (of all ages) are invited to join together for a time of food & fellowship. The group will meet at **"The Factory Pub & Grub"** in Sterling, 103 W. 3rd St., across from the County Market, on Thursday, September 26, at 6:00 PM. Those attending can order from the full menu—they have lots of burger & sandwich options, chicken strips, delicious home-cooked potato chips, and more!

To assist in planning, there will be a sign up sheet on the table in the Fellowship Room OR you may call Andrea at the number below. Please sign up no later than Sunday, September 22. Also, please indicate on the sign-up sheet if you need a ride. Questions – contact Andrea Dalton 772-4929.



We value our church family members, each and every one. So many talents are shared often, sometimes without others knowing who did what, but we see you. We appreciate you. We value every gift you share. This month, we send special thanks to several some members who have gone above and beyond in caring for our church and grounds and serving the church family in a variety of capacities:

- ☺ Sharon Boyles (weeding/groundwork)
- ☺ Steve & Marsha Geerts (weeding/groundwork)
- ☺ Marcia Haag (weeding/caring for potted plants by the doorways)
- ☺ Bob Stone (taking out trash every week, opening/locking building, running camera for worship services)
- ☺ Al Janicek (serving as worship assistant for 15+ years)
- ☺ Eric Phend (subbing as worship assistant when asked)
- ☺ Deb Stone (pushing buttons when Kathy is away, running sound on Sundays)
- ☺ Jan Horberg (for bringing all the donation from our "Christmas in July" collection to the schools, and also takes care of our friendship pads and communion records)
- ☺ ALL those who have signed up/volunteer to provide refreshments for fellowship hour after worship

**WE APPRECIATE EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU**





## Birthdays

- 1 Pastor Tammy Anderson
- 2 Nancy Usterbowski  
Cesslie Peterson-Pannier
- 6 Jenny Chambers  
Brianne Hamstra
- 8 Jay Green  
Michelle Zuidema
- 9 Linnea Belt  
Glenn Peterson
- 11 Nels Carlson
- 14 Allyson Hartmann  
Lauren Pannier
- 15 Larry Wiersema  
Caroline Tautkus
- 16 Gail Young
- 18 Brandon Adams  
Becca Stone  
Ellen Smith
- 19 Dale Wiersema
- 20 Cody Smith  
Larry Bush  
Marv Geerts
- 21 Doug Belha
- 25 Keith Pannier
- 26 Jerry Carlson  
Marsha Geerts
- 27 Jeff Hanson  
Brad Nye  
Samantha Schmitt

## Anniversaries

- 3 Harley & Joyce Erdmann
- 6 Matt & LuEllen Lee
- 7 Glenn & Barb Peterson  
Art & Suzanne Walaszek
- 9 Noah & Jenny Chambers
- 15 Mark & Jill Bramm
- 22 Steve & Marsha Geerts
- 24 Matt & Allyson Hartman
- 26 Tim & Vicki Hood

... he will  
**SPEAK**  
**PEACE**  
 to his people,  
 to his faithful,  
 to those who  
 turn to him  
 in their  
**HEARTS.**



Psalm 85:8, NRSV



### In-Kind Donations:

Current needs:

- Pre-packaged snacks/treats for Children's time
- Coffee (regular or decaf)



## ~ ~ ~ September Helpers ~ ~ ~

### Ushers & Greeters

Steve & Dee Janssen

### Lector

- 1 Deb Stone
- 8 WORSHIP IN THE PARK
- 15 ~Volunteer Needed~
- 22 ~Volunteer Needed~
- 29 ~Volunteer Needed~

### Refreshments

- 1 ~Volunteer Needed~
- 8 WORSHIP IN THE PARK
- 15 ~Volunteer Needed~
- 22 ~Volunteer Needed~
- 29 ~Volunteer Needed~

### Offering Counters

Al Janicek & Deb Stone continue to assume these duties. Offerings can be mailed to or dropped off at the church at any time.

### Altar Flowers

- 1 Doug & Brenda Adams
- 8 ~WORSHIP IN THE PARK~
- 15 \*OPEN\*
- 22 \*OPEN\*
- 29 \*OPEN\*

### Altar Guild

Deloris Smith & Nancy U.

### Sr. Choir Resumes

September 4, 7:00 p.m.

**New members welcome!**





Need another reason to join the choir? Consider this: Neuroscientists in Sweden discovered that singers' heartbeats tend to synchronize, which leads to a sense of emotional calm and bonding.

"Joint action leads to joint perspectives," write the researchers. "In other words, singers may change their egocentric perspective of the world to a 'we-perspective,' which causes them to perceive the world from the same point of view."

So start singing — and enjoy the many benefits and blessings of being part of a choir!



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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 9:00AM Worship 10:00AM Fellowship	<b>2</b>  <i>*Office Closed*</i>	<b>3</b> 9:00AM - 12PM Pastor@ Text Study	<b>4</b> 9:00AM - 10:15AM Pastor in Office 10:30AM Pastor @ MMC 9 AM - Noon Quilters  7:00PM Sr. Choir Rehearsal	<b>5</b> 9AM - 12PM Pastor in Office	<b>6</b> <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>  <i>*See front page!!!</i>  3:00pm Pastor/Worship @ (Resthave) 4:00pm Pastor/Worship @ (Homestead)	<b>9</b> 9AM - 12PM Pastor in Office  6:00PM Church Council	<b>10</b> 9:00AM - 12PM Pastor@ Text Study  6:30PM-8:00PM BIBLE STUDY— “SIMON PETER”	<b>11</b> 9:00AM - 1PM Pastor@ Cent. Conf. Pastor's Meeting 9 AM - Noon Quilters  7:00PM Sr. Choir Rehearsal	<b>12</b> 10:15am Pastor/Worship @ (Pleasant View)  1:00PM WELCA Bus. Mtg. & Bible Study (in Chapel)	<b>13</b> <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:00AM Worship 10:00AM Fellowship 10:15AM Sunday School & Confirmation Class	<b>16</b> 9AM - 12PM Pastor in Office	<b>17</b> 9:00AM - 12PM Pastor@ Text Study  6:30PM-8:00PM BIBLE STUDY— “SIMON PETER”	<b>18</b> 9AM - 12PM Pastor in Office 9 AM - Noon Quilters  7:00PM Sr. Choir Rehearsal	<b>19</b> 9AM - 12PM Pastor in Office	<b>20</b> <i>Pastor's Day off</i>  ⇒ NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>   9:00AM Worship 10:00AM Fellowship 10:15AM Sunday School & Confirmation Class	<b>23</b> 9AM - 12PM Pastor in Office	<b>24</b> 9:00AM - 12PM Pastor@ Text Study  6:30PM-8:00PM BIBLE STUDY— “SIMON PETER”	<b>25</b> 9AM - 12PM Pastor in Office 9 AM - Noon Quilters  7:00PM Sr. Choir Rehearsal	<b>26</b> 9AM - 12PM Pastor in Office	<b>27</b> <i>Pastor's Day off</i>  ⇒ NEWSLETTER ASSEMBLY/ MAILING DAY	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:00AM Worship 10:00AM Fellowship 10:15AM Sunday School & Confirmation Class	<b>30</b>					
Pastor away at Professional Leader's Conference, Sept. 29—Oct. 2						