



Bethel Lutheran Church

Building with the Love of Christ

Bethel Banner January 2020



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Director

Rev. Dr. T.J. Parsch, Pastor Emeritus

A pilot was flying from Scotland to England when his vision failed. At first, he thought he was blind, but then realized the full gravity of the situation—he had suffered a stroke. Talk about flying blind. After a quick “Mayday” alert the Royal Airforce scrambled, found him and attempted to talk him down safely. The pilot would have to land his plane by faith, and not by sight! After eight intense attempts, he finally managed to make a near-perfect landing.

Have you ever experienced a crisis? Maybe not mid-flight... but possibly, mid-life, mid-semester, or mid-career, and lost sight of a safe landing in your life? As we peak ahead with our best 2020 vision into the New Year, we may feel we are flying blind more than we care to admit.

Remember, we have a God with a voice to talk us in with safety and security—eternally— no matter what the situation. In Psalm 29 the Lord’s voice speaks SEVEN times— that is code for God’s perfection.

There are many voices that clamor for our attention, including our own negative commentary when we are particularly down. But God’s voice speaks with power and He speaks with peace.

“The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over many waters.”

In Genesis God’s voice says, “Let there be light,” and there was light! God wants to assure us that His voice has creational authority and power.

The voice of God breaks the chaos, frustration, and pain in our lives. It reassures us that He is in control, and he has the supreme power. His voice even can be heard from the cross, “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.”

As we pause to consider the year gone by, and dare ponder the year ahead, know that God’s voice is always there to speak comfort to his people.

It can be heard at Bethel every Sunday at 8am and 10:30 as well at numerous of our Bible studies throughout the week. If you seek a 2020 resolution, consider more disciplined attendance if it’s not been what you hoped, or try a new Bible study, or even start one, and God’s voice will be proclaimed and heard, with mercy, love, and grace. Amen.

Happy New Year!
Pastor Eichinger



Happy New Year!

Have you posted your "Ten Year Challenge" yet?

This challenge started on social media on sites like Facebook and Instagram where you post two photos usually side by side taken about ten years apart from each other. Now for those of you that know me I am not a big picture taking guy and I have not completed this challenge myself, but it did force me to look at some pictures from ten years ago and all I can say is **wow**. The idea of this challenge for the most part is to show how much you have "grown up" and spread the message of the importance of "self-love". Though I encourage the message of love for one's self, it does make me a little concerned that we place more importance on how we see ourselves and less on how God truly sees us.

"You are the salt of the earth." **Matthew 5:13**

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has gone, the new has come."
2 Cor. 5:17

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."
Ephesians 2:10



"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." **1 Peter 2:9**

These words from the Bible speak truth about who we are in God's eyes and, though it is always great to have others tell us how pretty or good looking we are, it can never compare to how truly special the Lord views us, His creations.

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.
Genesis 1:27

We have many events coming in 2020! Calendars of events are located on Facebook.com/BLCClearwater, WWW.BethelLutheranClearwater.org, or at the welcome center in the narthex. It is always exciting to see these events come to life and the many people that volunteer their time to make each one truly special.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped with our youth & family ministry at Bethel. From donations to the gift of time and talents, we would not be able to spread God's message to our young future leaders without each and every one of you.

Happy New Year!

James Gray
Youth & Family Ministry Director

Romans 12:2



UNSPOKEN

Unspoken! **Watch for the January 2020 schedule!**

High School Juniors & Seniors & college students are invited to **UNSPOKEN**. We continue our discussion of "Worth Dying For: A New Model for Dating/Relationships," by Brandon Metcalf. Text @unspkn2k19 to 81010 for more information.



MEN'S BIBLE & BREW

Men's Bible Study meets on the third Monday of the month for stimulating and topical discussion. We meet **January 20**, at 7:30pm at Lagerhaus Brewery and Grill, 3438 East Lake Rd (Boot Ranch), Palm Harbor 34685.

BETHEL BANNER MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Would you like to receive the Bethel Banner at your email address? Please send your address to BLutheranChurch@tampabay.rr.com. The newsletter link is on our website if you prefer to read it on the website. We also use this distribution list to send out notices when necessary.

LCMS APP AVAILABLE

Available on both the Apple© and Android© app stores, the easy-to-use app features links to some of the most popular information on the LCMS website, including the LCMS church locator and links to news stories, giving opportunities, LCMS social media and other ways to connect with the LCMS.

CRAFTING/SEWING AT BETHEL

We continue our crafting/quilting throughout the year. Instruction will be available. We would appreciate any donations of COTTON fabric for the projects! We meet on the first, third and fifth Thursdays at 9:30am.



NURSERY HOURS Our nursery is located in the North wing of the Education area (see an usher/Elder if you need directions). The hours are from 9:15am – 12pm on Sunday starting next week. If you are interested in staffing on a rotating basis, please contact Sasha Perez Book at SashaPerezM@yahoo.com

ADULT BIBLE CLASS

Pastor Eich will continue his Old Testament study on Sunday, January 5. Join us at 9:15am Sunday mornings. Coffee and snacks available. Thank you to all who have volunteered to provide the morning snacks.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY—JOY!

Rejoice! Every day. Real joy, genuine joy, always ours in the saving grace of Christ Jesus. Deb Burma is the author of **Joy – A Study of Philippians**. Join us on Sundays at 9:15am or on the 2nd & 4th Thursdays of each month at 9:30am. (January 9 & 23)



GOOD STEWARDSHIP

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house, Test me in this, says the Lord Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it."

Malachi 3:10

DISCOVER KFUEO — on your Lutheran Radio Station Worldwide KFUEO. Help us spread the word to people outside your congregation about what KFUEO can provide for them...Bible Studies, Apologetics, Lutheran Confessions Studies, Devotions, Sacred Music, Global Lutheran News, and much more! Help us spread the love of Jesus Christ worldwide. Find us at www.kfuo.org and follow us at [Facebook.com/KFUEOradio](https://www.facebook.com/KFUEOradio).

WORSHIP ANEW

Christ's love is shared through weekly scripture readings, favorite church hymns, prayers, and a pastor's message that reveals God's grace and truth. This presentation recognized by the LCMS celebrates the new life all people have in Jesus with a 30-minute broadcast service on Tampa's CW (WTOG) Channel 44 at 5:30 & 11:30am every Sunday morning. Learn more at 888.286.8002 or at WorshipAnew.org.

LUTHERAN FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Our charter approval by the NCUA contains a specific field of membership definition of who we serve. The specifics of NCUA rules and regulations prohibit us from allowing every person to join our credit union. So here is the guidance we can give you for becoming a member.

If You answer Yes to one of these questions you are in!

- I am a member of a congregation of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
- I am a Rostered Church Worker within The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
- I am employee or volunteer of one of the following:
- Any congregation of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
- Any District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
- Any synodical entity/agency of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
- I am a family member of one of the above members or employees
- I am the parent or family member of a student that attends one of the LCMS congregation owned schools.

LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND

Investing in a strong LCMS community

LCEF empowers LCMS ministries with every dollar invested. And with nearly 60,000 investors, we've been able to make a difference for thousands of ministries.

Securing your financial future

Our generous investors and dedicated loan customers have made it possible for us to maintain a strong capital position. We offer competitive rates and ensure your invested funds remain accessible and in your control. Supporting you around the clock

LCEF offers secure, 24/7 online access to investments and loans through MyAccount.

LUTHERAN LIFE

Lutheran LIFE is the official communications instrument of the Florida-Georgia District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Lutheran LIFE is designed to inform LCMS church and school members of the activities, the personalities and resources offered by the Synod and the District. Lutheran LIFE is published bimonthly. Editorials, new items, and photos are encouraged and should be received at our publication offices no later than the 10th of the month prior to the publication date.

Lutheran Life Publishing

971 SW Pepperridge Ter, Boca Raton, FL 33486
LutheranLife@flgadistrict.org

ALZHEIMER'S/DEMENTIA FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP

Arden Courts of Palm Harbor hosts free monthly meetings at 2895 Tampa Road, Palm Harbor. The focus is on you, the caregiver. It's a unique opportunity to share the concerns and issues that accompany caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's or Memory Loss. Meetings are held the second Tuesday at 10 am facilitated by Maryanne Fisher. To attend, RSVP each month by calling Arden Courts Palm Harbor at 727 771 1600 or by e-mail to PalmHarbor@arden-courts.com. Elder respite care will be provided by qualified staff. Memory Care of Tampa Bay is held the 2nd Friday of each month from 11am-1pm at Queen's Pizza, Tarpon Springs or on the 4th Tuesday at Countryside Mall. The Walking Club meets at the Red Robin Entrance at 10am. Countryside Memory Café meets from 11:15am –1:15pm at PF Chang's private dining room.

If you would like to place flowers on the altar, please complete a form which may be found on the table next to the flower book. Place the completed form in the 3-ring flower chart binder on the credenza in the narthex. Print your name in the book for the date chosen. Each arrangement is \$20 and can be added to your regular contribution. Mark the "Flower" line with the amount.



FLOWERS IN JANUARY

Jan 5 In grateful memory of sisters Erma Steenrod and Gertrude Matshekowske Jeanette Pedroli in grateful and loving memory of Bob Pedroli, Sr., on his 16th anniversary in heaven January 10

Jan 12 OPEN

Jan 19 In loving memory of Charles Wadenklee on his birthday

Jan 26 OPEN



MEMORIAL GIFTS TO BETHEL

In memory of **John Geheb**

Claire Geheb
Lillian Bandelow
Pete & Carol Jackson

In memory of **James Burgess**

Ruth Burgess

In memory of **Margaret Stockhammer**

Karen, Eleanor & Linda Brasted



SNOWBIRDS/SUNBIRDS

Watch for emails and bulletin announcements about our upcoming events!

We need everyone to help with the annual rummage sale. Sign up on the bulletin board between the narthex and the sanctuary.



The Way to a Happy New Year

*To leave the old with a burst of song;
To recall the right and forget the wrong;
To forget the things that bind you fast
To the vain regrets of the year that's past;
To have the strength to let go your hold
Of the not worthwhile of the days grown old;
To dare go forth with a purpose true,
To the unknown task of the year that's new;
To help your brother along the road,
To do his work and lift his load;
To add your gift to the world's good cheer,
Is to have and to give a Happy New Year.*

Author unknown



POINSETTIA HINTS

What do I do with my plant now that Christmas is over? Enjoy it in your home and then plant it in your yard. After the flowers fade, cut it back to about 12 inches. As it grows in the spring and summer, prune it back about 3 times before August 1st. This way you will have a plant that is more bushy and not so lanky. The pruning also encourages more branching which means more flowers. At the first pruning, cut to approximately 12 inches from the ground. At the second pruning, cut to about 18-24 inches from the ground. On the third pruning, before August 1, prune the tips to encourage more branching.

NEW GLASSES? NICE!

Did you know that MOST Ministries will take your old pair—or all those pairs sitting in your dresser drawers? Our eyeglass teams are requested by churches around the world. Is your Bible study group searching for a service project? In addition to an eyeglass donation, please consider making witness materials (bracelets or puppets) that our teams use to share the Gospel! Call MOST Ministries at 734.994.7909 or visit www.mostministries.org to learn more. You may drop off your old eyeglasses in the baskets located in our narthex (on the tables at either end—near the restrooms).



BETHEL LWML NEWS

I'm sending wishes to all the ladies for a Blessed New Year and to invite you all to one of our



**Lutheran
Women
in Mission**

January meetings on Wednesday the 8th at 10am and 6:30pm. On our agenda I would like to see if we can make arrangements for carpooling so more of our ladies can attend. If you need a ride or would like to provide a ride please call me, Kathy Miller at 813 765 3307

LWML MISSION GRANTS 2019-2021

Grant #6 — Mobile Medical Mercy Mission Bus for Guatemala and Child Beyond International— \$100,000

A bus named the "4M Bus" will be purchased, retrofitted, and stocked with medical and Bible school equipment. This will enable the teams to bring healing, both physically and spiritually, to Guatemalan children and adults in isolated and remote villages. The country of Guatemala is called "The Land of Eternal Spring" because of its temperate climate; however, many of its citizens live in extreme poverty with over 50 percent of the children suffering from malnutrition and having no access to any form of medical or dental care. Rev. Abdiel Orozco, Bishop of the Lutheran Church of Guatemala, and his brother, Rev. Ely Orozco, are doctors. They have developed a network of LCMS partner churches to send medical professionals and mission teams to Guatemala on short-term medical mission trips to bring the love and mercy of Jesus through the clinics, Bible school classes, and worship services. Local Lutheran churches will follow up with each person served through the medical clinic, enabling thousands of Guatemalans to experience God's healing power and grace, both physically and spiritually. For more information about this grant, go to www.lwml.org/2019-2021-mission-grant-6.

WITH WARMEST THANKS

Thank you all—your cards of love, prayer and encouragement. They mean a lot to Mike & me. We are so blessed! Wishing you all many blessings in the New Year—Merry Christmas!

Mike & Gail Gray

What is AmazonSmile?
AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at



You shop. Amazon gives.

smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. You can choose from nearly one million organizations to support.

How do I shop at AmazonSmile?

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device.

How do I select Bethel when shopping on AmazonSmile?

On your first visit to AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

How much of my purchase does Amazon donate?

The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases.



RUMMAGE SALE

JANUARY 23, 24, 25, 2020

You may bring clean usable items after January 5.

SERVING IN JANUARY

Elders

5 Communion

*Early:** Lee Tieman, Ken Drewke,
Dustin Anderson (lector)

*Late:** Paul Blake, Steve Krick,
Tom Sunderman, Erik Schulz (lector)

12

Early: * Dwayne Leininger, Mike Anstett (lector)

Late: * Dustin Anderson, Skip Dayhoff,
Phil Hubbell (lector)

19 Communion

*Early:** Jamie Munro, Fred Behnke,
Mark Thibideau (lector)

*Late:** Mike Vanhorenbeck, Paul Fenton,
Brian Wolf, Dennis Williams (lector)

26

Early: * Ken Drewke, Michael Anstett (lector)

Late: * Dennis Williams, Lee Genco,
Phil Hubbell (lector)

Ushers

Early: John Raymo, Paul Saunders,
Terry Tetzlaff

Late: John Slaughter
(additional ushers needed)

Counters

5 Dave & Kay Pedersen
Lee & Nancy Tieman

12 Steve & Renda Ester
Brian & Mary Gilchrist

19 Jeanette Pedroli
John & Sharon Raymo

26 Sylvia Harris
Ken & Dorothy Kossow

Sound/Video

5 Ben & Michelle Anderson

12 Don & Cindy Nelson

19 Cindy & Don Nelson

26 Ben & Michelle Anderson

Greeters

5 *Early:* Fred & Carol Bennett
Late: Sunday School Youth

12 *Early:* Karen Beck &
Beverly Gebhardt
Late: Jim & Bonnie Larson

19 *Early:* Arlene Doutre
Late: Board of Evangelism

26 *Early:* Jim & Dorothy Fulford
Late: Beverly Ashby

Acolytes

5 *Early:* Gabriel Rodriguez
Late: Ava Orbesen

12 *Early:* Leland Sokolowski
Late: Bella Wiley

19 *Early:* Gavin Munro
Late: Natalie Davis

26 *Early:* Elsie Eichinger
Late: Mitchell Korzenski, Jr.

Altar Guild

Early: Marianne & Kelly Craig,
Gail Leppert

Late: Jeanne & Steve Krick, Julie Myers





Ephesians 1:15-19b – For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparable great power for us who believe.

We would like to express our sincerest appreciation to you for your Christmas gifts, cards, and kindnesses this beautiful Christmas season. It continues to be a privilege and blessing to serve this congregation and to be served. May the Lord richly bless us as we work together *Building with the Love of Christ!*

With Christmas love,

*Pastor Eichinger
Jeannie Hughes
Crystal Berner
Hannah Engwall*

*James Gray
Connie Wallert
Kathy Miller
Jody Carr*

Sasha Perez Book

A Heartfelt Gifts & Greens Thank You!

The Bethel Gifts & Greens Team would like to extend a huge **Thank You** to all of the church members, their guests, the volunteers, the Bethel staff and the vendors who supported the 2020 Teen Ministry fundraiser and made it a huge success!

We had the largest number of vendors (54), located both inside and outside the church. The silent auction was very profitable, with items donated by the vendors and Bethel members. Our special emcee, James Gray, encouraged the bidding and made this a fun Friday evening event!

Connie Wallert, on the keyboard, joined by many choir members, and Dena Gray on the flute, made beautiful music & carols together. The delicious hors d'oeuvres and wine bar also contributed to the festive atmosphere! The teens provided the serving of the delicious appetizers. For the third year, child care was offered during the evening for ages 2-10. Movies and munchies were provided, along with teen companionship.

On Saturday, the volunteers and the vendors were treated to breakfast and a pork sandwich & pasta salad lunch, homemade by the Butcher's. Santa's Giftshop has become an annual shopping treat for the children to purchase gifts for family & friends for \$1! The teens were excellent wrappers & labelers of the treasures.

Rounding out the event were the Bethel Ladies Craft sale and the Bethel Ladies outstanding Bake Sale! The Wisconsin Greens were again a big hit! Over \$5000 was raised and will support the teen's trip to a mission trip in July to Kentucky. They definitely earned this donation by their hard work and dedication all weekend!

Save the Date on your 2020 calendar - December 4th & 5th for the 7th Annual Gifts & Greens Youth Ministry fundraiser!

Merry Christmas & a fantastic New Year!

RUMMAGE SALE



Thursday, January 23, 8am—2pm

Friday, January 24, 8am—2pm

Saturday, January 25, 8am—Noon

Please bring your usable, clean items to the Great Hall after January 6, 2020 (Epiphany). We need your help to make this a grand success!

Come help us set up January 19—22, and we will need you the days of the sale as well!

We need baked goods. Baked goods may be dropped off on Wednesday or early on the day of the sale. Unsold merchandise will be donated to a local mission.

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

PHONE 727 799 3010

www.BethelLutheranClearwater.org BLutheranChurch@tampabay.rr.com

January 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 New Year's Day <i>(office closed)</i>	2	3	4
5 8&10:30am Worship with Holy Communion 9:15am Adult Bible Class, Sunday School, Women's Bible Study 12-4pm Sunday Mass (paintball)	6	7 8am BBBs 7pm Elders	8 10am & 6:30pm LWML 6:30pm Life Together	9 9:30am Women's Bible Study	10	11
12 8&10:30am Worship 9:15am Sunday School, Adult Bible Class, Women's Bible Study 12pm BYC	13	14 8am BBBs 7pm Church Council	15 6pm Joy Bells 6:30pm Chancel Bells 6:30pm Life Together 7:30pm Chancel Choir	16 9:30am Sewing/Crafting	17	18
19 8&10:30am Worship with Holy Communion 9:15am Adult Bible Class, Sunday School, Women's Bible Study Rummage Sale set up	20 9am Bulletin deadline Rummage Sale set up 7:30pm Men's Bible & Brew	21 8am BBBs Rummage Sale set up 6:30pm Evangelism	22 Rummage Sale set up 6pm Joy Bells 6:30pm Chancel Bells 6:30pm Life Together 7:30pm Chancel Choir	23 9:30am Women's Bible Study	24	25
26 8&10:30am Worship 9:15am Sunday School, Adult Bible Class, Women's Bible Study	27	28 8am BBBs	29 6pm Joy Bells 6:30pm Chancel Bells 6:30pm Life Together 7:30pm Chancel Choir	30 9:30am Sewing/Crafting	31	

RUMMAGE SALE

***Have you considered including Bethel in your will?
 If you'd like more information about doing so, call Pastor Eichinger in the church office, 727 799 3010.***