



Bethel Lutheran Church

Building with the Love of Christ

Bethel Banner October 2021



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Rev. Eric T. Eichinger, Senior Pastor

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Director

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

October 2021

This month we will examine a perennial question that arises towards the end of the glorious month of October. **Is it okay for Christians to celebrate Halloween?** This is always a fun consideration that usually blips up each year as the end of October looms and children everywhere salivate at the thought of candy. Let's examine a bit of history to see if that may help us. The word "Halloween" actually comes from three distinct words: **All Hallows Eve**. So, let's break that down, shall we?

All Saints Day is November 1st, the day after October 31st. The "All" is a reference to the vast number of recognized saints throughout the centuries of the Christian church. Originally the Roman Catholic Church liked to commemorate a particular Saint on a given day, but they soon discovered a problem— they ran out of days in the year for Saints they wanted to remember! What a great problem to have. The solution was to pick one day, an *All Saints Day*, as it were, to celebrate the victory of all the saints in union with Christ.

This plays extremely well into our Lutheran theology as we define "saints" as all who believe in Jesus. So, we joyfully celebrate All Saints Day on November 1st as well and remember the names of all faithful departed that year, knowing with confidence that we will see them again, in Christ. Similarly, to Christmas Eve, or Easter vigil, the night before high holy days in the Christian Church truly begins the celebration, kind of like tailgating before for the big game. The pre-party is part of the party! October 31st is the Eve of All Saints Day. And all saints are made Holy (hallow) by God because of His Justifying and sanctifying redemptive work. Thus, the powerful Word of Christ defeating evil dark spirits is associated with All Hallows Eve. It also seems like a pretty well selected day for Martin Luther to post his 95 theses to the door of the church, challenging false doctrine. **Did you think it was just a coincidence Luther did that on Oct. 31st** which is now also known as Reformation Day?

Okay, okay, but what about all those trick-or-treating shenanigans? It seems to have gotten too far out of hand for Christians to participate. Granted, a sinful world will always find new ways to pervert the truth and push Christ out of the holi- (HOLY) day. Originally when children couldn't get candy inexpensively and at every store imaginable, it was a huge fun, awesome deal to go door to door and receive a gift. In that spirit of celebration, rejoicing, and just plain fun of Halloween; make wise God-pleasing decisions, rejoice in Christ's victory over sin, death, and the power of the devil, have snickers, and photo-bomb your favorite child or grandchild in a costume. And by all means, enjoy!

My fellow saints in Christ, Happy All Hallows Eve!

Pastor Eichinger

To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours.
(1 Corinthians 1:2)

Hello Bethel Family and Friends!



We have many events coming up the next couple of months and, with the cooler weather soon to be here, it should make for a very chill time at our church.

Sunday Mass – Starting Oct 3rd 12pm-4pm
First Sunday Mass is a pool party and BBQ at the Gray's!

Sunday Mass is held on the first Sunday of every month and starts in October.

Mass - noun: Both a property of a physical body and a measure of its resistance to acceleration (a change in its state of motion) when a net force is applied.

The name of this event was created by our Bethel Youth Council to help stir up curiosity within the youth in the church and help encourage them to participate. From paintball to pool parties, scavenger hunts to rock climbing, our 6th-12th graders have an opportunity to experience activities with peers to help enforce strong bonds that will last for years to come.

Bethel Youth Council (BYC) Oct 10th, 2021

The Bethel Youth Council is in their 5th year of existence and are very excited to see what our new board will bring to the table this year. The BYC meetings are held the second Sunday of each month starting October 10th at 12:00 PM. I would like to thank Danielle, Isaac, Ronnie, and Matthew for their years of service on the board and for helping to cultivate the next group of young leaders.

Middle School Lock-In Nov 13th-14th, 2021

We just got word that LCMS Florida Georgia District has decided to suspend the in person MSYG for 2021. With that being the case, Pastor Eich and I have decided to

hold our own Middle School Lock-In at Bethel starting Nov 13th at 12pm. This will be a Lock-In like no other we have had before. We are still requesting two parent volunteers (one male and one female) to stay overnight with us and attend early service with us the next morning. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the church office, or speak with James.

Dec 3rd & Dec 4th – Gifts and Greens

Friday 6pm – 8:30 is designated for Bethel members and their guests. It's a wonderful night filled with hors d'oeuvres, Christmas baked goods and refreshments served by our youth, wine and beer bar served by our elders, the Bethel Choir singing all of our favorite Christmas carols, wreaths fresh from Wisconsin, and over forty vendors with a wide variety sure to help you find that special gift for everyone on your list.

For parents that have been unable to attend on Friday night due to babysitting issues, we now offer FREE childcare available with a Christmas movie, snacks, and vigilant, watchful eyes!

Saturday 9am-3pm the community and children's event will be held both in & outdoors. We have over forty vendors, the Bethel lady crafters, and fresh Wisconsin greens.

Also, on Saturday, we have a Santa's Gift Shop for children to buy items for their parents, siblings, family pet, etc., with each item only \$1. Every child that goes through the gift-shop will have their own personal shopper and elf (Bethel Youth) to giftwrap and label each item.

With so many events coming the next couple of months, thank goodness the weather is getting cooler. Thank you all for your support of our Youth and Family Ministry!

James Gray, Youth & Family Director



MEN'S BIBLE & BREW

Men's Bible Study meets on the third Monday of the month for stimulating and topical discussion. We meet **October 18**, at 7:30pm at Lagerhaus Brewery and Grill, 3438 East Lake Rd (Boot Ranch), Palm Harbor 34685.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Our Women's Bible Study meets Sunday mornings at 9:15am and the second & fourth Thursdays from 9:30-11:30am. Our study is, "Calm My Anxious Heart: A Woman's Guide to Finding Contentment." For more information, please email Susie Lorenzo-Luaces at: Susie@lorenzo-luaces.com



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.

PRAYER GROUP

In addition to our Prayer Partners who pray at home at their convenience, we have a new group who meet at Bethel every Tuesday morning at 10am to pray for our church, our leaders, our country, and our people. All are welcome to join this group in the Great Hall.

WINE, WOMEN, & THE WORD

Come join other ladies of Bethel as we meet together for scripture and fellowship. We will meet on Monday, **October 11**, at 7:00 pm at the Lagerhaus Brewery and Grill of East Lake Woodlands. (Same place men meet for Bible and Brew). Would love to have you join us as we sip a glass of wine, (or diet coke), and explore what the Bible says about fellowship. If you are like me, you need it.



GOOD STEWARDSHIP

"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

2 Corinthians 9:7-8

FROM THE BOARD OF FINANCE

When writing a check to Bethel, it would aid our electronic scanning if you would use a dark blue or black ink that does not bleed through. Artistic colors or checks with a busy or dark image do not scan well. Also, please try not to sign over the bank routing number on the bottom of the check. Thank you.

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).

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

Copies of the Church Council minutes are available on the tables near the restrooms in the narthex. If you would like a copy mailed to you at home, please call Jeannie at 727 799 3010.

TAMPA BAY VIRTUAL MEMORY CAFÉ EVENTS

Are you finding the stay-at-home orders are making your care partner stir-crazy? You? Care partners connect to reminisce, share stories, and build friendships through events led by Dr. Cate McCarty, Ph.D., who has over 40 years of personal and professional experience. Every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 11:10am. Zoom is a free and user-friendly platform. With a computer, tablet, or smart phone, you can see and hear other participants in the meeting. No smart phone? No worries—you can hear and talk to others in the meeting using a dial-in phone number and entering the meeting number. You must register by visiting: www.catemccarty.com/calendar
Questions? 727.771.1600 or email PalmHarbor@arden-courts.com

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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.

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.



You shop. Amazon gives.

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 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.

Make a difference this holiday. Shop for gifts at smile.amazon.com/ch/59-1608203 to generate donations for Bethel Lutheran Church and check out our [AmazonSmile Charity Lists](#) to donate items we need most.

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

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LutheranLife@flgadistrict.org

FLOWERS IN OCTOBER

Oct 3 Dave & Jane Gehris in loving memory of Dave's mom, Bethel Williams Gehris to honor her as a wonderful mom Dila & Rafael De La Paz to the glory of God



Oct 10 In loving memory of Charles and Florence Wadenklee
John Kurnock in honor of his wife, Judith, on their wedding anniversary

Oct 17

Oct 24 Al Heindorf in loving memory of his wife, Joann, on their anniversary
Fred Cutting in loving memory of his sister, Judy Fraser, on her birthday October 19
Erika St. Jean

Oct 31 Kelly & Marianne Craig in honor of their 7th wedding anniversary

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.

Gifts to Bethel

In memory of Kenny Lewis

Beverly Ashby



In memory of Laura Moore

Ed & Jan Temme

In memory of Lee & Mary Nelson

Kay Danielson

Anthony & Candace Nelson

Don & Joan Perlich

UNSPOKEN!

This is our group for upperclassmen and college age young people. *Unspoken* was founded in order to give young adults a place to find fellowship and topical discussion. Meetings will be held on October 13 & 27 at 6:30pm. October 9 at 5pm we have a Scavenger Hunt in Safety Harbor. October 24 at noon we will prepare a meal for *Feeding the Fosters*. Social events are pop-up—share your contact information to be included in texts. If you want more info, contact Alan at 727 318 8880.

FL-GA DISTRICT LWML MISSION GRANTS 2020-2022



The total 2020-2022 Biennium District Mission Grant is \$126,093.55. Our 10th Grant is for **Luke Comfort Dog, Alpharetta, GA—\$10,000** to help cover transportation and housing of the team during disasters, tragedies, and other events they are called to serve.

Did you know you can mail your Mites to Bonnie Larson for submission to the District?

BETHEL LWML NEWS

Our first meetings with new officers went very well. If you aren't sure who we are, LWML stands for **Lutheran Women's Missionary League**. We reach out to local missions like HEP and the Sheriff's Youth Ranch, help fund missionaries throughout the world with our **MITES**, and faithfully pray for our Pastors, teachers, and missionaries. The budget for LWML worldwide is \$2,000,000. How awesome it is to be a part of this mission and see the effects. At the 2021 convention in Kentucky we saw our **MITES** in action when representatives shared information on their needs. Two of the Mission Grants discussed at convention: \$81,680 for Deaconess Ministry Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch; and, in the FL-GA District, \$5,000 to support Lutheran Family Services—Haiti. Our LWML completed a local donation of much-needed paper to First Lutheran School.

FALL RALLY NEWS—Bethel will host the LWML Fall Zone Rally on **November 6**. Plans are being made now under the theme, "The Joy of Jesus." Kathy Miller is coordinating.

All women are invited to join us, meet new friends, and see the awesome things the Lord is accomplishing through our group. If you have any questions, call Jane Otte, President, at 727 409 0137. Blessings to you all

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 3 LWML Sunday (greeters both services)

October 6 LWML meetings at 10am & 6pm

November 6 LWML Fall Zone Rally at Bethel
(8am—2pm)

September 30—October 2, 2022 FL-GA District Convention in Tampa

OCTOBER

Elders

3 Communion

Early: * Lee Tieman, Jamie Munro,
Erik Schulz (lector)

Late: * Mike Vanhorenbeck,
Dustin Anderson, Paul Fenton (lector)

10

Early:* Erik Schulz, Mike Anstett
Kevin Steidley (lector)

Late:* Lee Genco, Ralph Otte,
John Voda (lector)

17 Communion

Early: * Lee Tieman, Erik Schulz,
Mark Thibideau (lector)

Late: * Brian Wolf, Fred Behnke,
Paul Blake (lector)

24

Early:* Jamie Munro, Mark Thibideau,
Kevin Steidley (lector)

Late:* Dustin Anderson, Dexter Glenn,
Phil Hubbell (lector)

31 Communion

Early: * Fred Behnke, Dustin Anderson,
Jamie Munro (lector)

Late: * Paul Blake, Ralph Otte,
Brian Wolf (lector)

Sound/Video

Early: Josh Munro, Kaitlyn Standiford
Late: Don and Cindy Nelson
Ben & Michelle Anderson

Ushers

Dave Ekardt, Jim Fulford, Tom Tiedemann

Altar Guild

Early: Jeanette Pedroli
Late: Susie Berry, Sharon & Kevin Steidley

Counters

3 Lee & Nancy Tieman
Kevin & Sharon Steidley

10 Steve & Renda Ester
Brian & Mary Gilchrist

17 Kevin & Sharon Steidley
Nancy & Lee Tieman

24 Sylvia Harris
Jeanette Pedroli
Gail Leppert

31 Steve & Renda Ester
Brian & Mary Gilchrist

Greeters

3 Early: LWML
Late: LWML

10 Early: Karen Beck
Late: Jim & Bonnie Larson

17 Early: Evangelism
Late:

24 Early: Jim & Dorothy Fulford
Late: Beverly Ashby

31

Acolytes

3 Early: Elsie Eichinger
Late: Chloe Mahaz

10 Early: Annie Johnson
Late: Kate Lahey

17 Early: Mitchell Korzenski, Jr.
Late: Gavin Munro

24 Early: Erin Lahey
Late: **Volunteer needed**

31 Early: Luke Leininger
Late: Leland Sokolowski

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

PHONE 727 799 3010

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email - BLutheranChurch@tampabay.rr.com

October 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:15am Trustees 8&10:30am Worship with Holy Communion 9:15am Sunday School, Women's Bible Study, Adult Bible Class 12-4pm Sunday Mass LWML SUNDAY	4 9am Bulletin deadline	5 8am BBBs 10am Prayer Group 7pm Elders	6 10am & 6pm LWML 6pm Joy Bells 6:30pm Life Together 6:30pm Chancel Bells 7:30pm Chancel Choir	7 7pm Finance	8	9 5pm <i>Unspoken</i> Scavenger Hunt
10 8&10:30am Worship 9:15am Adult Bible Class, Women's Bible Study, Sunday School, Safety Committee 12pm BYC	11 9am Bulletin deadline 7pm Wine, Women, & The Word	12 8am BBBs 9:30am Winkel at Bethel 10am Prayer Group 7pm Church Council	13 6pm Joy Bells 6:30pm <i>Unspoken</i> 6:30pm Life Together 6:30pm Chancel Bells 7:30pm Chancel Choir	14 9:30am Women's Bible Study	15	16 Gideons meeting
17 8&10:30am Worship with Holy Communion 9:15am Sunday School, Women's Bible Study, Adult Bible Class	18 9am Bulletin deadline 7:30pm Men's Bible & Brew	19 8am BBBS 10am Prayer Group 1pm Evangelism	20 6pm Joy Bells 6:30pm Life Together 6:30pm Chancel Bells 7:30pm Chancel Choir	21	22	23 9:30am Gifts & Greens Planning
24 8&10:30am Worship 9:15am Adult Bible Class, Sunday School, Women's Bible Study 11:45am Safety Committee 12pm <i>Unspoken</i>	25 9am BANNER & Bulletin deadline	26 8am BBBs 10am Prayer Group	27 6pm Joy Bells 6:30pm <i>Unspoken</i> 6:30pm Life Together 6:30pm Chancel Bells 7:30pm Chancel Choir	28 9:30am Women's Bible Study	29	30 5-8pm Oktoberfest & Trunk or Treat 
31 Reformation 8&10:30am Worship with Holy Communion 9:15am SS/ABC/WBS						
Oktoberfest & Trunk or Treat Saturday, October 30, 5-8pm Tickets on sale now from an Elder Celebrate Reformation on Sunday, October 31, 8 & 10:30am Worship						

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.

**Oktoberfest &
Trunk or
Treat
Saturday**



**October 30
5-8 PM**

Festhaus Musik

Brats & Kraut, German Potato Salad

Applesauce, Desserts

Beer & Root Beer

Silent Auction

Crafts for Children

Eat * Sing * Dance * Enjoy

\$5 children/\$15 adults

Tickets available after both services.

Trunk or Treat set up at 4:30PM

(All festivities outdoors under the porte-cochere. In case of rain, we will move to the Great Hall.)