

Sermon & Bible Study Series – Fall 2017

On October 31, 2017, the Church celebrates the 500th anniversary of the Reformation—when Martin Luther and others called the Church back to the Word of God, to the Gospel, to salvation by grace alone through faith alone by Christ alone.



Paradox

A beautiful thing about Lutheran theology is “paradox”: a theology that is comfortable with letting seemingly contradictory things sit side-by-side. Lutheran theology explains what Scriptures says—but tries never to say more than Scripture says. God desires all people to be saved, but He also will cast out those who reject Him. God is invisible and omnipresent, but He also took on flesh and lived as a man. How can this be? We don’t know, but we let those things sit side-by-side, knowing it is the beautiful, mysterious teaching of God.

19th Sunday after Pentecost
October 15, 2017

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

5110 Grand Avenue, Gurnee, Illinois 60031 – (847) 244-9647

Pastor Ben Squires

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Website: www.BethelGurnee.org

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. ~ Holy Communion: 1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday of the month
Becky Lanzito & Karen Leicht - Organists, Ann Souza - Music Director,
Mandi Stilson – Choir/New Music Accompanist

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS We are pleased you chose to be with us in worship today, and pray the Lord blesses you as he has blessed us with your presence. Our goal is to help people find the right place for them to hear God’s word and serve His mission. We’d love to support you in that spiritual journey. Please take a moment to complete an attendance card and place it in the Offering plate or give to an usher. This card will help us connect with you.

HOLY COMMUNION The Lord’s Supper is celebrated according to the Lutheran Confessions based on the teaching Jesus gave his disciples and us that he is truly present in this meal. Confident that our sins are forgiven, we experience our oneness with him and each other as he gathers us at his table. His true body and blood, given and shed for us, we share in this meal as he invites in Matthew 26:26-28, “Take and eat; this is My Body ... This is My Blood...” Baptized Christians sharing these beliefs are invited to receive Communion. All others are invited to the altar rail for a blessing. Wine can be taken by common chalice, individual cup, or by dipping your wafer into the chalice. Please address questions to the Elders or the Pastor. **Non-alcoholic wine is in purple-colored cups.**

NURSERY We have two rooms available for your use. When the service is in the sanctuary, the nursery is down the hall just past the restrooms. If the service is held in the gym, the nursery is in the youth room at the far end of the gym.

SERVING TODAY

Sunday 8:00 a.m.

Sunday 10:45 a.m.

Elder:	JJ Jones	<i>Rich Arnold</i>
Comm/Asst. Elder:	Bob Souza	<i>Jack Warneke</i>
Acolytes:	Lily Erwin	<i>OPEN</i>
Ushers:	OPEN, OPEN	<i>OPEN, OPEN</i>
Lay Readers:	Ted & Margie Tatgenhorst	<i>Joan Blasko, Pat Rasmussen</i>
Greeters:	Matt & Kiwol Messmer, Plapp Family	<i>Mark & Kay Starkweather, Bill & Midge Ratzburg</i>
Fellowship:	Kreamer Family	
Oct. Altar Guild:	Diane Rogala	<i>Diane Sanders</i>
Oct. Counters:	Margie Tatgenhorst	<i>Sue Best</i>

TODAY’S FLOWERS ARE PROVIDED BY:

Bill and Eileen Smith in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary (10/14), and David and Theresa Carlson in celebration of their 36th wedding anniversary (10/17).

CATECHISM SERVICE

Today’s service uses words from Martin Luther’s Small Catechism as it teaches us about the basic elements of the Christian faith.

Opening Hymn

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

LSB 802



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3 To all life Thou giv - est— to both great and small—
4 Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light,



In light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
Nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, Thou rul - est in might;
In all life Thou liv - est, the true Life of all;
Thine an - gels a - dore Thee, all veil - ing their sight;



Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
Thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree
All laud we would ren - der: O help us to see



Al - might - y, vic - to - rious, Thy great name we praise.
Thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
And with - er and per - ish— but naught chang - es Thee.
'Tis on - ly the splen - dor of light that hides Thee.

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. C: Amen.

P: These words remind us of our baptism. What is Baptism?

C: **Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God's command and combined with God's word.**

P: What benefits does Baptism give?

C: **It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.**

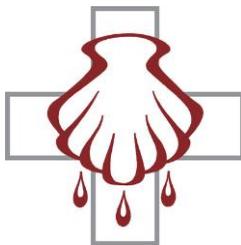
P: What does God's Word in Romans 6 teach us about Baptism?

C: **"We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."**

Baptism Verse Baptized into Your Name Most Holy

LSB 590 st. 1

Baptized into Your name most holy,
O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
I claim a place, though weak and lowly,
Among Your saints, Your chosen host.
Buried with Christ and dead to sin,
Your Spirit now shall live within.



Confession and Absolution (Forgiveness)

P: What is Confession and Absolution?

C: Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.

P: Confess and admit your sins to God the Father.

C: I have lived as if God did not matter and as if I mattered most. My Lord's name I have not honored as I should; my worship and prayers have faltered. I have not let his love have its way with me, and so my love for others has failed. There are those whom I have hurt, and those whom I failed to help. My thoughts and desires have been soiled with sin. I pray You, Almighty God, merciful Father, for the sake of the innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P: Do you believe that word of Christ's forgiveness I speak to you
is from the Lord Himself?

C: I do.

P: Receive the forgiveness Christ won for you by His Passion, death, and resurrection. By the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I, a called and ordained servant of the Word, forgive you your sins in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Absolution Verse

Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart

LSB 806

Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, Give thanks to the
Ho - ly One, Give thanks _____ be - cause He's giv - en__ Je - sus
Christ His Son. Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, Give
thanks to the Ho - ly One, Give thanks _____ be - cause He's giv - en__
Je - sus Christ His Son. And now let the weak say "I am
strong," Let the poor say "I am rich," _____ Be - cause of
what the Lord has done for us. And now let the
weak say "I am strong," Let the poor say "I am
rich," _____ Be - cause of what the Lord has done for us.
Give thanks, _____ give thanks. _____

Greeting, Collect (Prayer of the Day) and Luther's Morning Prayer

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *And also with you.*

P: Let us pray. Merciful Father, how mysterious are Your judgments and Your will beyond understanding. When we are troubled, we are not crushed. Sometimes we doubt, but never despair. We may feel dejected, but we are not destroyed. Your grace in Christ is all we need, for Your power is greatest when we are weak. Grant us Your abiding presence in the midst of what we cannot understand, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: *Amen.*

P: We pray together.

C: *I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.*

Old Testament Reading

Proverbs 3:1–8, 13–23 (ESV)

¹My son, do not forget my teaching,

but let your heart keep my commandments,

²for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you.

³Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you;

bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart.

⁴So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man.

⁵Trust in the Lord with all your heart,

and do not lean on your own understanding.

⁶In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

⁷Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil.

⁸It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.

¹³Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding,

¹⁴for the gain from her is better than gain from silver

and her profit better than gold.

¹⁵She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her.

¹⁶Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor.

¹⁷Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.

¹⁸She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her;

those who hold her fast are called blessed.

¹⁹The Lord by wisdom founded the earth;
by understanding he established the heavens;
²⁰by his knowledge the deeps broke open, and the clouds drop down the dew.
²¹My son, do not lose sight of these—keep sound wisdom and discretion,
²²and they will be life for your soul and adornment for your neck.
²³Then you will walk on your way securely, and your foot will not stumble.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Epistle (New Testament Letter)

1 Corinthians 2:1–13 (ESV)

¹And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, ⁴and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

⁶Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. ⁷But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written,

*“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined,
what God has prepared for those who love him”—*

¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit.

For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. ¹³And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Anthem**“Only Through Faith”****Adult Choir**

- Use the anthem’s music and words to help you to meditate on God’s Word and His truth for you today. Maintain this as meditative time.

*Only through faith can our hearts be made pure.
Only through faith is our hope made secure;
Faith in God’s promises, faith in God’s Son,
Faith in the cross where redemption is won.*

*Only by grace are we wrapped in God’s love;
Undeserved favor from heaven above.
Only by grace did God send us His own;
Word became flesh that God’s love be made known.*

*Only the Word can our weary souls feed,
God’s Word provides us with all that we need.
Daily we’re strengthened, uplifted, sustained;
All things will pass, but the Word shall remain.*

*Forward in faith shall our motto now be:
Death to all death on that life-giving tree!
Let us lift high our bold anthems of praise,
Fed by Faith’s wellspring through all of our days.*

Holy Gospel**Matthew 22:1–14 (ESV)**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 22nd chapter.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹Jesus [continued speaking to the chief priests and Pharisees] in parables, saying, ²“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, ³and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.’ ⁵But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. ⁷The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.’ ¹⁰And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests.

11“But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. 12And he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. 13Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ 14For many are called, but few are chosen.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: *Praise to You, O Christ.*

Hymn of the Day

Lord of All Good

LSB 786



1 Lord of all good, our lives we bring You now;
 2 We give our minds to un - der - stand Your ways;
 3 Fa - ther, whose boun - ty all cre - a - tion shows;



Use them Your ho - ly pur - pose to ful - fill.
 Hands, eyes, and voice to serve Your great de - sign;
 Christ, by whose will - ing sac - ri - fice we live;



Let us sur - ren - der to Your mys - ter - ies
 Hearts with the flame of Your own love a - blaze—
 Spir - it, from whom all life in full - ness flows:



That our whole life is of - fered to Your will.
 Thus for Your glo - ry all our pow'rs com - bine.
 To You with grate - ful hearts our - selves we give.

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 st. 1, revised, Rev. Dr. Benjamin C. Squires (2017)

Sermon

“Paradox”

Confession of Faith 2nd Article of the Apostles' Creed and Luther's explanation

P: If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 10:9

What do you believe about Jesus Christ?

C: ***I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.***

P: What does this mean?

C: ***I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord. Who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.***

Offering & Prayer Requests

In addition to the prayer requests already received, Pastor will pause here to see if there are additional requests. Prayers can be thanksgivings, joy, requests for yourself, or requests for others.

Offertory

Create in Me (Divine Service, Setting Three)

LSB 192



C Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -

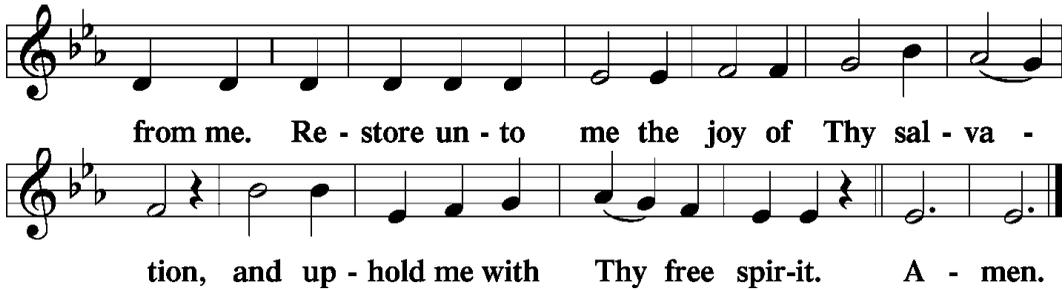


new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -



way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it

Continues next page. 



from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

Prayers

P: The Lord invites us to pray saying:

C: Our Father who art in heaven.

P: What does this mean?

C: With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.

P: Therefore, we bring our prayers to God our Father. . .

The Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Lord's Supper: What We Believe

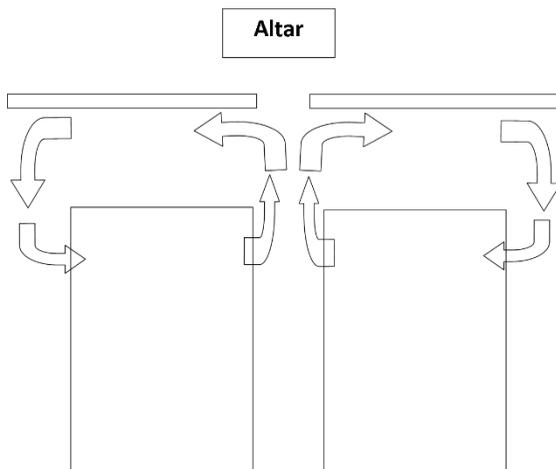
All Christians who are baptized and have been instructed are invited to receive Communion with us if you believe as we do—that the bread is the body of Christ, and the wine is the blood of Christ, truly present for us for the forgiveness of our sins.

If this is a new teaching to you, or if this is different than you believe, we ask that you wait to commune until we've had a further chance to talk. We invite those who are not communing to come to the rail, cross your arms, and receive a blessing from the Lord.



Communion Distribution

- Pastor distributes the bread, and the Elders distribute the wine—with individual cups or common cup. The individual trays also contain alcohol-removed wine in the center of each tray in the purple cups.
- Each side will be ushered from the center aisle to the communion rail, row by row, starting with the front.
- Go to the rail on your side of the sanctuary, filling in starting with the outside wall towards the center.
- Once you have received the elements, you may remain at the rail for prayer and leave at your own pace.
- Return to your seat using the outside aisle.
- Use the distribution time to prepare yourself for communion, sing the hymns as prayers to God, and maintain this as meditative time.



Preparation for the Lord's Supper

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: What is the Sacrament of the Altar?

C: **It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink.**

P: What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?

C: **These words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," shows us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.**

P: Who receives this sacrament worthily?

C: **The person who has faith in these words: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words "for you" require all hearts to believe.**

Words of Institution

Pax Domini (The Peace of the Lord)

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

(We greet one another in peace saying "God's peace" or "The Lord be with you.")

Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)

LSB 163

C Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the
 world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
 sin of the world; grant us peace.

First Distribution Hymn Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now

LSB 902

1 Lord Je - sus Christ, be pres - ent now; Our hearts in
 2 Un - seal our lips to sing Your praise In end - less
 3 Then shall we join the hosts that cry, "O ho - ly,
 4 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, And Ho - ly
 true de - vo - tion bow. Your Spir - it send with
 hymns through all our days. In - crease our faith and
 ho - ly Lord Most High!" And in the light of
 Spir - it, Three in One! To You, O bless - ed
 light di - vine, And let Your truth with - in us shine.
 light our minds; And set us free from doubt that blinds.
 that blest place We then shall see You face to face.
 Trin - i - ty, Be praise through-out e - ter - ni - ty!



1 I am trust-ing Thee, Lord Je - sus, Trust - ing on - ly Thee;
 2 I am trust-ing Thee for par - don; At Thy feet I bow,
 3 I am trust-ing Thee for cleans - ing In the crim - son flood;
 4 I am trust-ing Thee to guide me; Thou a - lone shalt lead,



Trust - ing Thee for full sal - va - tion, Great and free.
 For Thy grace and ten - der mer - cy Trust - ing now.
 Trust - ing Thee to make me ho - ly By Thy blood.
 Ev - 'ry day and hour sup - ply - ing All my need.

5 I am trusting Thee for power;
 Thine can never fail.
 Words which Thou Thyself shalt give me
 Must prevail.

6 I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus;
 Never let me fall.
 I am trusting Thee forever
 And for all.

Common Dismissal

P: Now may this true body and true blood of our Lord....

C: Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer

P: Let us pray. We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through this blessed gift, and we implore you that of your mercy you would strengthen us through the same in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn

Forth in the Peace of Christ We Go

LSB 920; tune: 616



1 Forth in the peace of Christ we go; Christ to the
2 King of our hearts, Christ makes us kings; King - ship with
3 Priests of the world, Christ sends us forth This world of
4 Christ's are our lips, His Word we speak; Proph - ets are



world with joy we bring; Christ in our minds, Christ
Him His ser - vants gain; With Christ the Ser - vant
time to con - se - crate, This world of sin by
we whose deeds pro - claim Christ's truth in love that



on our lips, Christ in our hearts, the world's true king.
Lord of all, Christ's world we serve to share Christ's reign.
grace to heal, Christ's world in Christ to re - cre - ate.
we may be Christ in the world, to spread Christ's name.

- 5 We are the Church; Christ bids us show
That in His Church all nations find
Their hearth and home where Christ restores
True peace, true love to all mankind.

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Announcements

Acknowledgments

This order of worship uses words taken from *Martin Luther's Small Catechism*, 1986 edition, LCMS.
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BETHEL



Join us for Fellowship & Fun

Friday, October 27 - 6:00 p.m.

- ◆  **Fundraiser - Balloon Pop**
- ◆ **12th annual Trick or Treat Party**
- ◆ **Chili & Hotdog Dinner**
- ◆ **Chili Cook-Off**
- ◆ **Games and Prizes to Win**



This is a Fundraiser to benefit Bethel's Preschool.

Chili & Hotdog Dinner Fundraiser



6:00 to 6:45 p.m.

Also, we would like you to taste the chili at the Chili Cook-Off and vote for your favorite. **Please register near the Hub** if you plan to attend dinner.



Trick or Treat & Games

Starts at 6:30 p.m.

We would love for you to bring a game to run at a table in the gym or volunteer to help with a game we provide. Please bring candy to share.

Adults and children can wear a fun costume, and the kids can trick or treat from table to table in the gym! We do ask that you do not wear scary costumes or masks. Also, no weapons allowed.

So you think you
can cook??

Enter Bethel's



6:00 to 6:30 p.m.

Please register to enter your chili into our Chili Cook-Off. You will need to arrive at Bethel at 5:45 p.m. with your best pot of chili and be ready to serve it at 6:00 p.m.

Please register near the Hub.

A prize will be awarded for the best chili later in the evening.