

**News from the Board of Christian Education** Our weekend VBS, for 1st grade on up to adults, will be **June 21 & 22** with a celebration at the church service on **June 23**. Preschool and those going into kindergarten will be



**Monday June 24 - Wednesday June 26**. Help is still needed in leadership roles. By breaking down leadership to specific areas, the tasks become much more doable for all members of the congregation. All leaders will have a voice in the decisions that must be made. We still need 6 more leaders to be able to make VBS happen this summer. This needs to be accomplished by **February 1**. Even if you have never been involved in VBS, you can be involved this year. It is a great way to serve our church & community and become a part of a great team. We will be making a presentation to the congregation after the service so that we can give all of the information that you may need to volunteer. Please stop by the table at the back of the church or during fellowship. Encourage each other to be a part of the VBS team.

**Sunday School** Today's lesson is a flashback to the birth of John foretold from *Luke chapter 1*. God remembered His people by sending His holy messenger Gabriel to Zechariah to announce the birth of John, the forerunner and relative of Jesus. Zechariah was not only rightfully gripped with fear, but he also doubted God's message. Would we not also doubt? After all, God had not sent a prophet or an angel for centuries. Yet God forgave Zechariah's doubting and gave him the cross of muteness to bear as a sign of the coming blessing of John, whose name means "the Lord is gracious and moved to pity." God knows us, loves us, and desires to save us, even before we are born. God does not forgive us because of our worldly righteousness, but because Jesus exchanged His perfect righteousness for our deep and abiding sin when He was killed on the cross in our place. All those who speak the truth of God's love speak about the person and work of Jesus for us. Our human thoughts and frailties do not limit God's love. Nothing is impossible with God.



**LWML Quarterly** Our order for the 2019-2020 Quarterly is due on **March 1**. If you would like to receive the 4 issues please sign up on the clipboard on the side of the Hub. Please pay \$5 to Kathy Schwartz or put it in the LWML mailbox in the workroom. There are mite boxes to support the mission projects of the NID and national LWML on the Hub. You may return your mites (coins/bills) anytime in the large mite box on the Hub.



**Transportation Needs Within the Bethel Faith Community**



As the staff of Bethel Lutheran, we receive multiple requests each week for help in finding a ride for a member/friend of the congregation. Many of the requests are for a ride to worship. Others involve a ride to a doctor's appointment, to pick up prescriptions or to the grocery store. Please consider allowing God to shine his light and glory upon you by volunteering to assist with transportation needs. Contact Linda Gifford, linda@bethelgurnee.org, 857-244-9647 for questions or to assist.

**SENIOR GAME DAY** - This Tuesday (**January 22**) is our next game day from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Come have fun and get to know your peers better. Bring a snack to share if you would like, coffee and other beverages will be provided. For more information contact Karen Leicht at (847)662-1619 or johnleicht@comcast.net.



**What it Means to be a Member Class** You may have questions about Bethel and our community, being Lutheran, or even being a Christian. Please bring your questions to Bethel's "What it Means to be a..." class. Held twice monthly after the 10:45 a.m. service, Pastor Squires, Equipping Coordinator Katrina Johns, and other leaders talk about what it means to be a member, servant, Lutheran, neighbor, even leader. All are welcome! Join us next Sunday (**January 27**) at noon in the fellowship hall.

**DEADLINE for February Big Buzz**  
**Wednesday, January 28 at 9:00 a.m.**

**Bethel Website:** www.bethelgurnee.org **Office:** 847-244-9647 **Preschool:** 847-244-9672 **Email:** office@bethelgurnee.org

**Pastor Ben Squires** Cell: 224-419-5519 / pastor@bethelgurnee.org

**Katrina Johns** - Equipping Coordinator Direct line: 224-623-0800 / katrina@bethelgurnee.org

**Linda Gifford** - Disciple Care and Property Coordinator linda@bethelgurnee.org

**Lisa Schwarz** - Office Manager lisa@bethelgurnee.org

**Donna Stutzman** - Preschool Director preschool@bethelgurnee.org

**The Lutheran Witness** Deadline is Sunday, **February 18.** Subscribe to the monthly news—and—feature color magazine of The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. It will help you to keep up, see what makes us Lutheran, be inspired, learn prominent names and hear from church leaders. Get a yearly subscription (11 issues) for \$15.96 per year beginning in May. Find forms to sign-up on the Hub.



**Building Access for Activities Outside Office Hours** As an added security measure during those times when the Bethel facility is being used for functions outside regular office hours, participants are instructed to keep outside doors locked when unattended, assign a door monitor when an outside door is unlocked, and not grant entry to anyone outside of their group. The necessity of this safeguard was reinforced on Monday, January 14 when an armed robbery took place at the Pizza Hut on Grand at the same time the Boy Scouts and Property Board were meeting at Bethel. The suspect was last seen heading east on Grand and thankfully didn't try to use Bethel as a hideout. Since some building users may not know if someone ringing the bell or coming in mixed with their group is a member of Bethel, they are instructed to question anyone they don't know to determine if they should be entering the building. While every entry situation may not be covered, here are some general guidelines:

- Outside doors should not be blocked open unless attended. If you see it being done stop it.
- If you have one, be prepared to use your door key even if there are people nearby.
- If you are entering an unlocked door and are challenged or ring for entry, please ask to have someone from the group you are joining come to the door to verify your affiliation and let you in.
- If the door monitor cannot verify your affiliation with Bethel, they are instructed to NOT open the door until your identity can be determined. If this happens to you, please do not be offended we're just being cautious!

If you have any questions, please contact Linda Gifford, linda@bethelgurnee.org. Thank you all for your cooperation as we implement measures to maximize the safety of our members, staff, and building.

**50+ Women's Christian Prayer Group** As women over 50, we are in a season when our children are leaving the nest, our parents are aging and needing more help, and we are facing a lot of questions. Where does God want me now? Who am I now? Where is He calling me to make a difference? Where is He in the struggle? The focus of this group is on loving each other through prayer, testimonies and praising our God. Listening to God's wisdom, and hearing where He wants us to be. Not fixing each other, not giving advice, not human understanding. Not self-fulfillment, rather God-fulfillment. Finding purpose and meaning in this stage of life, overcoming blocks and obstacles, and going through fear. We seek to hear God in the community of other women, in unity.



**Where:** GO TOGETHER Prayer Room  
**When:** Last Monday of each Month, 7-9pm  
**Contact:** Kirsten (kirstenpottery@gmail.com)

## This Week's Calendar

- Monday, January 21**  
 6:30 p.m.—Gideons in Fellowship Hall
- Tuesday, January 22**  
 9:30 a.m.—Senior Game Day  
 5:30 p.m.—Uline Basketball  
 7:00 p.m.—Care in Community
- Wednesday, January 23**  
 6:15 p.m.—Confirmation, FEET, Equipping Parents  
 6:15 p.m.—First Communion
- Thursday, January 24**  
 7:00 p.m.—COOL Board  
 7:00 p.m.—Radio Players in the Basement  
 7:00 p.m.—Adult Vocal Choir
- Friday, January 25** Pastor & Katrina's Day Off
- Saturday, January 26** Katrina's Day Off
- Sunday, January 27**  
 8:00 a.m.—Worship in Gym  
 9:00 a.m.—Fellowship  
 9:30 a.m.—Sunday School & Bible Study  
 10:45 a.m.—Worship in Sanctuary  
 12:00 p.m.—What it Means to be a Servant Class

### Worship Schedule

Sunday 8AM & 10:45PM

#### Communion

1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday

#### Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 9AM—3PM

Friday 9AM - 12PM

#### Last Week's Attendance

Sunday 8:00 AM—102, 10:45 AM—80  
 Sunday School—96

### Serving Next Week Sunday 8:00AM

**Elders:** Mike Bandman  
**Comm/Asst. Elder:** JJ Jones  
**Acolytes:** Owen Squires, Brooke Ratzburg  
**Lay Readers:** Ben Sanders, Diane Sanders  
**Ushers:** Don Heidlauf, **OPEN**  
**Greeters:** Robinson Family, Carla Thompson

**Fellowship:** Faitsch  
**Jan. Altar Guild:** Sheila Bunnell  
**Jan. Counters:** Margie Tatgenhorst

**Wednesday Night Greeter:** 1/23 Heather Rosenthal

### Sunday 10:45AM

Randy Gifford  
 Dave Ziegler  
 Amanda Adams, Cameron Fleming  
 Pat Rasmussen, Lori Hoornstra  
 Scott Gutzke, **OPEN**  
 The Kazarian Family,  
 The Kruse Family

Diane Sanders  
 Sue Best