

*A family of God sharing Jesus
and serving Him faithfully*

October 2016

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Our Mission Statement

As members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church who have been granted eternal life through Jesus Christ's death and resurrection, we worship Him as our Lord and seek to further His work of salvation through word and sacrament ministry in our community and world toward the goal of creating and strengthening personal faith in Him.

The Bethlehem Record

The Official Newsletter of Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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The Pastor's Page

As many of you likely know, next year is the five hundredth anniversary of the Reformation. You've likely heard the story of Martin Luther pounding the nails into the church door. And you certainly still feel the repercussions of those hammer strikes even today. I wonder though, how often you've actually read his words. After all, this was the man who God used to change the spiritual landscape of the world forever. So for this article, I'm going to simply post an excerpt from one of Luther's writings, wherein he speaks about faith. I hope that you enjoy hearing the words of Martin Luther himself, and kudos to Shirley for bringing this article to my attention.

Pastor Christopher Craig

In his "Preface to the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans" (1546/1522), Martin Luther declares that faith is a living, busy, active, mighty thing. "[It] is a living, daring confidence in God's grace, so sure and certain that the believer would stake his life on it a thousand times." Read on! — Editor



Faith is not the human notion and dream that some people call faith. When they see that no improvement of life and no good works follow — although they can hear and say much about faith — they fall into the error of saying, "Faith is not enough; one must do works in order to be righteous and be saved." This is due to the fact that when they hear the gospel, they get busy and by their own powers create an idea in their heart which says, "I believe"; they take this then to be a true faith. But, as it is a human figment and idea that never reaches the depths of the heart, nothing comes of it either, and no improvement follows. Faith, however, is a divine work in us which changes us and makes us to be born anew of God, John 1[:12-13]. It kills the old Adam and makes us altogether different men, in heart and spirit and mind and powers; and it brings with it the Holy Spirit. O it is a living, busy, active, mighty thing, this faith. It is impossible for it not to be doing good works incessantly. It does not ask whether good works are to be done, but before the question is asked, it has already done them, and is constantly doing them. Whoever does not do such

works, however, is an unbeliever. He gropes and looks around for faith and good works, but knows neither what faith is nor what good works are. Yet he talks and talks, with many words, about faith and good works.

Faith is a living, daring confidence in God's grace, so sure and certain that the believer would stake his life on it a thousand times. This knowledge of and confidence in God's grace makes men glad and bold and happy in dealing with God and with all creatures. And this is the work which the Holy Spirit performs in faith. Because of it, without compulsion, a person is ready and glad to do good to everyone, to serve everyone, to suffer everything, out of love and praise to God who has shown him this grace. Thus it is impossible to separate works from faith, quite as impossible as to separate heat and light from fire. Beware, therefore, of your own false notions and of the idle talkers who imagine themselves wise enough to make decisions about faith and good works, and yet are the greatest fools. Pray God that he may work faith in you. Otherwise you will surely remain forever without faith, regardless of what you may think or do. Righteousness, then, is such a faith. It is called "the righteousness of God" because God gives it, and counts it as righteousness for the sake of Christ our Mediator, and makes a man to fulfill [sic] his obligation to everybody. For through faith a man becomes free from sin and comes to take pleasure in God's commandments, thereby he gives God the honor due him, and pays him what he owes him.

Likewise he serves his fellow-men willingly, by whatever means he can, and thus pays his debt to everyone. Nature, free will, and our own powers cannot bring this righteousness into being. For as no one can give himself faith, neither can he take away his own unbelief. How, then, will he take away a single sin, even the very smallest?

Therefore all that is done apart from faith, or in unbelief, is false; it is hypocrisy and sin, Romans 14[:23], no matter how good a showing it makes.

— Excerpted from Martin Luther, *Luther's Works, Vol. 35: Word and Sacrament I*, ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 35 (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, ©1999), 370-371. Used with permission.

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LCMS Stewardship Article October 2016

Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again. If you believe this gospel, if you stand upon it, and cling to it, you are saved. Trust in this is the dividing line. It defines, either positively or negatively, all men. It separates and divides Cain from Abel, Job from his so-called friends, Abraham from Abimelech, Isaac from Ishmael, Jacob from Esau, David from Saul, Daniel from Belshazzar, Joseph from Herod, Lazarus from the rich man, and the tax collector from the Pharisee. What defines men is not whether they are good or bad, but whether or not they believe in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins.

The problem with man is his heart. Our hearts are fallen and predisposed to think that we can impress God. We think that if we do all the right things God will reward us, and we will escape evil. We think that God will be impressed with our gifts, that our prosperity and goodness is evidence that God loves us or that it should motivate God to love us. But we know better because God has blessed us with the faith of Abel, Job, and Abraham. We know that God's grace in Christ saves us, not our works. We know that God is not impressed with our giving. He is not impressed when we give him that which is already his. God doesn't benefit from our giving and He doesn't need it. But our neighbor does need it. And God delights in us growing more and more like Him. He blesses us, and He invites us to bless one another with our giving: so that the Gospel may be proclaimed, so that the poor may be fed, so that all God's work through the Church may be done.

So consider God's priorities in comparison to your own. And be honest. Reevaluate where you are and where God has called you to be. Look into your own bank statement. Would any accountant think that the Church was your priority? He would see a spreadsheet filled with where your money actually goes: into house and clothing and cars, into eating out and beauty supplies and entertainment. Indeed, much of it wasted on frivolous things. But would he find great percentages going to the church? Figure up the percentage. Put it in relation to the proportion of your income. What percentage of your income do

you give for the mission of the church: the preaching and teaching, the baptizing and communing, the help for the weak and poor brothers of Christ? Is it even enough for a deduction when you file your income taxes? The widow gave all she had and thought nothing of it. She was glad to do it. The rich man gave what to him was meaningless, trifle amount and desired a plaque in his honor. Why is it that the less we give the prouder we are and the more credit we expect? All your works, even your monetary gifts, done in faith please God now for Christ's sake. No matter how great or small, frequent or infrequent. They are all washed and cleansed by grace through faith on account of Christ. Whatever you do from faith in God pleases him for the sake of the Son. So reevaluate your generosity in the light of the grace of Christ. Freely you have received, freely give

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Baptismal Birthdays in October

God's blessings to you for all His gifts of grace that you have received, and we pray for many more blessings for Jesus' sake!



- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Bayleigh Broeckelman | Bianca Broeckelma |
| Brandon Broeckelman | Vance Dohl |
| Louise Feldkamp | Elvera Fischer |
| Russell Frederking | Coyla Heine |
| Marla Heine | Shirley Krueger |
| Morgan Kubick | Kyle McCary |
| Brian Meitler | Cheyenne Meyer |
| Kilby Meyer | Danyelle Murray |
| Kolton Meyer | Broderick Schofield |
| Jennifer Olsen-Dohl | Jacob Schultz |
| Kirk Schulteis | Rozella Trapp |
| Rachel Sebesta | Lois Walter |
| Malcolm Ulrich | Rhonda Watson |
| | Donald Weseloh |

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Acolyte Schedule

October- November

October

- 2 **Jacob Schultz**
- 9* **Kaden Gier**
- 16 **Valden Dohl**
- 23* **Grace Chegwidden**
- 30* **Rachel Sebesta**

November

- 6 **Marshall Hurlbut**
- 13* **Mekelle Hurlbut**
- 20 **Jacob Schultz**
- 27* **Kaden Gier**

* Communion service

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The BOCL

The BOCL meeting was held on Tuesday, Sept. 6 at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Pastor Craig, Brock Mueller, Ruth Mueller, Kylie Erhlich ,Lloyd Gier, Tyler Gier, Tara Kubick, Barb Meitler, Trey Watson, & Ronda Watson..

Pastor opened with prayer and devotion.

Minutes were read with one correction to be made, non-denomination should be made to community youth group under leadership of Marcy H.

Marcy H. has asked to be released from the board, and Dena Sorensen is willing to finish her term.

Lloyd G. will be in contact with Jude Stecklein over the issues of midweek bus supervision.

Lloyd G. attended the monthly Lincoln county fair board meeting with an offer to present a speaker on creationism, and possibly a traveling museum. This was acceptable to the fair board, contact and arrangements with the speaker are in the near future. Our sister congregations have voiced interest in this project also.

Reformation Sunday is October 30 with communion. With a noon meal to follow, Tara Kubick moved to purchase brats, potatoes and kraut for the meal, also to request German side dishes from members be put in the bulletin, Kylie E. seconded, motion passed.

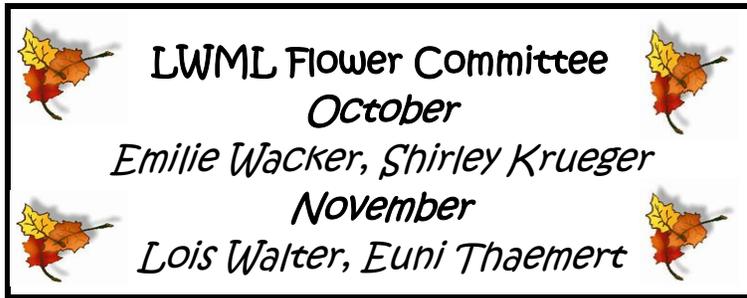
Pastor is wanting to start a men's Bible study, perhaps on Saturday mornings.

An Endowment contributions box has been completed and will be present in the back of the church and functions.

Ruth & Barb will help serve at the blood drive on Sept.26, from noon to 6:00. p.m.

The next meeting is set for Tuesday, Oct. 4 at 7:00 p.m. The greeters for Oct.will be BOCL members. Pastor closed with a prayer

Respectfully submitted Ruth Mueller



BETHLEHEM LWML MEETING

The LWML of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, met on Wednesday evening, September 7, 2016, at the Parish Hall. This was supposed to be a Bible Study evening, but instead was mistaken for a meeting night, since we had a lot of business to take care of. Lorelei Dohl gave the opening devotions followed by a short devotional & discussion. President Coleen brought the meeting to order followed by answering to roll call - - 9 members and Pastor Craig related who their 1st grade teacher was.

The minutes of the last meeting were read by Secretary Lois, and accepted as read. A few correspondence letters were read. Ramie presented the Treasurer's report. She reported \$2979.46 in our treasury, with \$1452.26 designated for the cookbooks, \$1094.25 designated for the funeral luncheon fund, and \$432.95 in the Home account. Committee reports were as follows:

1) Greeting cards - - we have an ample supply of cards at the present time, but Christmas cards will have to be ordered.

2) We are going to put 25 school kits together for Lutheran World Relief. We have received the back packs to pack the items in. Someone is going to apply for this as a Thrivent Action Team project. Ramie will be in charge of what to go into the back packs. Lutheran World Relief pickup will be at Trinity Lutheran in Salina on Oct. 6th.

3) Flowers - - The committee for inside September flowers are Coleen & Shelly. For October, the committee will be Shirley Krueger and Emilie Wacker.

4) Outside landscaping - - watering outside until Sept. 10th will be Barb Meitler, Sophia will take care of watering from September 11 - 24, and from September 25 - October 8 will be Eunice, and from October 9 - 22 will be Barb Mettlen.

5) We were encouraged to continue to save stamps for Mission of Love, and for now, Coleen said we will continue to save Campbell soup labels.

OLD BUSINESS:

We are going to change our kids' church bags - we have new ones that Shelly and Ray are going to screen print on, and then they will be filled with new items, as many of the kids are growing out of the ones we were using. We appreciate Ramie's Sunday morning youth Bible class 'stuffing' these bags.

The Bazaar Sale & Noon Soup Luncheon is just about here. It will be Saturday, October 1st. Shelly and Coleen have everything under control. Shelly applied for and received the Thrivent Action Team funds for the Bazaar grocery items. We will be making the soups, and the meats for the sandwiches on Friday morning, Sept. 30th - all are asked to be at the Parish Hall to help by 9:00 a.m. All were reminded that we would like to have a lot of items for the Bake Sale, since we are not having a quilt give-away this year. The garage sale on the cement slab will be held if we have additional members from the congregation to help with that.

The LWML furnished the fresh flower bouquets for our 135th anniversary in the amount of \$54.25. **Saturday, September 24th** the Vesper Vintage Day at the Vesper Gym will be held. Our congregation was asked to help furnish many bake

sale items for the 4H members to sell at their bake sale. All of the proceeds from our part of the Bake Sale will be given back to our church. This will be a fundraiser for the remodeling of our Parish Hall kitchen. All items are to be brought to the Parish Hall on Friday, Sept. 23rd between 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. so they can be transported to Vesper.

LWML Sunday will be on October 2nd. The committee to plan this is Marmie & Annie.

The Fall Workshop will be held at Trinity Lutheran, Hunter, on Sunday, October 16th. All members were encouraged to attend!

Our 'fall event' will be held sometime in October. Coleen Sippel will be our presenter on "Faith Journaling". More info will follow after they are finalized by Lorelei and Ramie.

Sophia Schofield and Anne Dohl were appointed to be on the nominating committee.

In November elections will be held for the offices of President & Secretary. The outside 'flower box' is being renovated by Lukas Sebesta & his family. Thanks, Sebesta family.

NEW BUSINESS:

Our Christmas party this year will be for the congregation, and we are planning on having the dinner following church services on December 11th. The committee to plan & decorate the tables is Justine Dohl, Barbara Meitler, and Euni Thaemert. Then they can ask other people to help with decorations, help with the menu, and also the entertainment. After that party is over, we will have our LWML group meet to reveal our prayer partners, draw new names for 2017, collect our various project monies, and vote for our projects funded by the Bazaar. Emilie Wacker and Marmie Schultz were appointed to be our Financial Review Committee at the end of the year.

The Spring Rally of the LWML will be hosted by Bethlehem LWML members. The date and speaker is yet to be determined. The committee of 3 to plan the meal, decorations, send out invitations will be Cheryl, Lorelei, and Sophia.

Wednesday, Sept. 14th we will meet at the Parish Hall at 7:00 p.m. to go through and clean out all the drawers and cabinets, in

preparation for the renovation of the kitchen. Some items may need to be put out for the Bazaar inside garage sale.

October 5th will be our regular bi-monthly meeting night at 7:00 p.m. We will have a short topic or devotional by Lois followed by the meeting. Euni will be our hostess.

The meeting adjourned with Lorelei leading us in praying The Lord's Prayer. Our hostess tonight was Justine Dohl, serving a tray of crackers, 2 delicious salads, and cupcakes. Respectfully Submitted Lois Walter, LWML Secretary

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Vesper Vintage Day

Thanks to all the brilliant bakers who contributed, Bethlehem Lutheran had a wonderful offering for the Vesper Vintage bake sale. It was most gratifying to step in the back door and see the kitchen filled to overflowing with baked items and canned goods.

Well over 100 items were contributed. We found that cinnamon rolls, dinner rolls, bread loaves and pies were the most sought after items. It was wonderful though that we had so much variety.

The organizers of Vesper Vintage were very pleased with our sale. I think we were one of few they have invited who have not run out of baked goods. We had only a few cupcakes left over.

And it worked out perfectly because the Midweek children were happy to devour them this past Wednesday. The final profit on the event was \$574.60 All proceeds will go toward the remodel of Bethlehem Lutheran's kitchen. THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO CONTRIBUTED by either baking or buying!

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By Declaration of the Bethlehem's Elders

We are celebrating October's Pastor Appreciation Month by Pounding the Pastor. A table has been set up in the Parish Hall for gift cards to be given to Pastor Christopher Craig in appreciation for all he does for us. (***Pound Him Good!***)

Bethlehem Lutheran's AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST MIDWEEK PROGRAM began

Wednesday, September 21. The first week was spent in introductions, reviewing of rules and re-enforcing, as we do each year, what it means to be an Ambassador for Christ. In the second week, classes started their studies for the semester. The younger children will focus this semester on the Old Testament Kings. Their first lesson was about King David and focused on the theme YOU CAN COUNT ON GOD. The older children began their study of the Apostles' Creed. They learned about the Trinity, a mysterious and magnificent characteristic unique to the Christian God and faith. The students studied Scripture passages in the Bible that reveal the nature of three persons in one being.

The AFC Midweek program has had just under 30 students participating each of the past two weeks. The numbers are down a bit because Trinity Lutheran, Hunter, has started their own midweek program, so we have lost some of our most faithful students. We really miss them, but we are glad that there is a program in Hunter that will be more convenient for them and might encourage others who have not previously attended.

Our sessions open with a delicious meal that the children always seem eager to devour. Then they go to the school for about 45 minutes of class instruction. Next, they return to the parish hall for music and a closing program and prayer. Finally, they go outside and enjoy the playground until their grownups arrive to collect them.

Thank you to all of Bethlehem's members who are supporting the midweek program with gifts of food, money, time or talent. There is no greater gift we can give our church than another generation of believers. There is no greater gift we can give God than these little Ambassadors for Christ. As the children love to sing, "We are the Kingdom!"



*Come Celebrate
499th Reformation day*



You are invited to The Bethlehem Lutheran Church annual **Brats & Kraut Dinner, October 30, 2016** following Sunday morning worship service. Brats, kraut, mashed potatoes, drinks, and table service will be provided. Any one is welcome to bring a German salad or desserts and the recipe The AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST MIDWEEK students will be singing following lunch. If you have any questions, please contact BOCL, Art & Justine Dohl or Kenny & Shirley Small.

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+ **Obituary for President Eugene E. Schmidt +**
(retired after three terms as the Kansas District President of the LCMS, from 1986 to 1992.)

Pastor Eugene Edward Schmidt, 87, of Topeka was called to eternal peace on Thursday, September 22, 2016. He died peacefully as a result of complications following surgery. Gene was born July 19, 1929, in Freeland, Michigan, to Otto and Alma Schmidt. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Carol.

His immediate family, who were blessed by his wisdom and spiritual guidance, include his brother, Les Schmidt (Helen); his children, Stephen (Jan); Sheryl (Joseph) Speelman; and Suzanne (Steve) Peterson. Eugene was blessed with grandchildren, Eric Schmidt and Jenna (Kyle) Heinen; Geoffrey and Katharina Speelman; Britta and Maxwell Peterson and one great-granddaughter, Eden Heinen; as well as nephews, Aaron (Angi; children Michael and Lily) Schmidt and Michael Schmidt; and nieces Suzie Blackburn (Brett; children Michael and Nikki); and Katy Franklin (Mike; children Adam, Sarah, Mary Kate, Claire and Luke).

All of Eugene's education, from Primary School through the Gymnasium at Fort Wayne, Indiana, and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, was in schools of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. He continued his education with graduate studies in guidance and counseling and public administration at Universities in Colorado and

Kansas. He was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of "Laws and Letters" from Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska. Eugene's first congregation was St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Durango, Colorado, where he served for five years. Eugene served the congregation of Grace Lutheran Church and School in Kansas City, Kansas for twenty years. During that time he also served the community through participation and leadership in many community service organizations. He was Executive Secretary for Missions and Stewardship for the Kansas District of the LCMS from 1980 to 1986, and retired after three terms as the Kansas District President of the LCMS, from 1986 to 1992.

Visitation will be Thursday evening, September 29 from 6:00-8:00 p.m., at Penwell-Gabel Southwest Chapel, 3700 SW Wanamaker Road, Topeka.

Funeral services will be held at 12:30 p.m., on Friday, September 30 at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 3625 SW Wanamaker Road, Topeka. Burial will follow at Penwell-Gabel Cemetery in Topeka.

Memorials may be designated to Children's Christian Concern Society or Haskel Light House Campus Ministry. Please make checks payable to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church and identify the Memorial of choice. Checks may be sent to Prince of Peace at 3625 SW Wanamaker Rd, Topeka, Kansas 66614

Former teachers at Bethlehem Lutheran School

Darwin Carl Dubke:

b March 15, 1935 – d September 11, 2016
Darwin Carl Dubke, 81, of Berrien Springs, MI was taken to be with his Savior Jesus Christ on Sunday, September 11, 2016 at Lakeland Regional Medical Center in St. Joseph. Arrangements have been entrusted to Heritage Chapel in Berrien Springs. A Celebration of Life Service was held 11:00 A.M., Thursday, September 15, 2016 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 9123 George St., Berrien Springs, MI with Pastor Douglas Adams and Pastor Dallas Dubke officiating. Burial at Rose

Hill Cemetery. Friends may visit with the family from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M. Wednesday, September 14, 2016 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Berrien Springs. Memorials may be made to Trinity Lutheran Church and School or Lutheran Hour Ministries. **Those wishing to share a memory of Darwin online may do so at www.heritage-chapel.com.**

Darwin was born March 15, 1935 in Taylor, MI to Carl & Mildred (Otter) Dubke. He graduated from Concordia Lutheran High School in 1953. After completing his Master's in Education, Darwin became a Lutheran School Teacher and taught for 35 years. On July 26, 1959 he married Verna Bauer. Darwin was a member of the Lutheran Layman's League and enjoyed photography, gardening and biking. He completed a 200-mile "Focus on the Family" ride. God and family were first and everything in his life.

Darwin is survived by his wife, Verna; children Ruth (Tim) Krieger, Jonathan (Lisa) Dubke and Joel Dubke; grandchildren Stephen Krieger, Rachel Krieger, Benjamin Dubke, Andrew Dubke, Amelia Dubke, and Foster-Godchild Joshua Dubke; siblings Denise (Robert) Rutledge, Rev. Dallas (Martha) Dubke, and Dawn Dubke.

Darwin was preceded in death by his parents and infant son Paul Darwin.

Jeff Carlson, another former teacher in our Lutheran School in the early 1970's, lost his wife, Arni, (who was a nurse in Lincoln while they were here) about a month ago in Alexandria, Minn.





Coming Events at Bethlehem

Also available online at www.BethlehemSylvanGrove.org

- Oct 13 7 p.m. Church Council Meeting
- Oct 16 ALL Elders. Greeters, Usher Meeting following worship service
- Oct 23 Quarterly Voters meeting
- Oct 30 Annual Kraut and Brats Dinner following worship service

Our Weekly Worship schedule:

9 a.m. – Sunday School and BLTeens Bible study (school)

9 a.m. – Adult Bible study (Parish hall)

10 a.m. – Worship Service (Holy Communion on 2nd and 4th Sundays and some festivals)

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
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