



BETHLEHEM
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

BETHLEHEM NEWS MAY 2024

401 West Main Street
West Dundee, IL 60118

BETHLEHEM'S MISSION...

"To share the Living Water of Jesus Christ with all who thirst."

WORSHIP

5:00 p.m. Saturday - Traditional

(Please note the new Saturday time)

8:00 a.m. Sunday - Traditional

10:30 a.m. Sunday - Contemporary at BCMC

HOLY COMMUNION - 1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays

FELLOWSHIP TIME - 9:10 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL - 9:15 a.m.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY - 9:30 a.m.

VACANCY PASTOR - Reverend Bob Pudell

Pastor's cell: 847-340-5888

Pastor's email:

pastorbob@bethlehemchurchdundee.onmicrosoft.com

WEBSITE - BethlehemDundee.org

E-MAIL - BethChurchDun@aol.com

NEW SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Bethlehem will be implementing a summer schedule starting Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. We are looking forward to worshipping together over the summer and provide some variety in our services to showcase the traditional and contemporary styles of worship. We will still have the Saturday evening service at the normal time of 5:00 pm. There will be **one** Sunday morning service at **9:00 am** with a short coffee/bible study after the service. More information to come, but looking forward to having everyone in Sunday worship together over the summer.

VOTERS' MEETING - JUNE 9th at 10:00 AM

We will be having our voters' meeting to elect our Church Council and open board positions on June 9th at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Please mark it down on your calendar. We are looking for volunteers that would like to be considered for the open positions:

Chairperson

Vice Chairperson

Finance Committee

Member at Large (1 position open)

Board of Education (5 positions open)

Board of Elders (8 positions open)

Board of Trustees (6 positions open)

Board of Deacons (renewing Slate of Deacons that are already serving, however, always looking for more)

Synodical Representative (1 position)

This year we are looking to fill all positions on every board, if possible. I know that we have a lot of talented members that would do well with serving on one of these committees.

Please reach out to me directly at 847-715-8150 if you are interested in any of these positions. Matthew Schmidt

OF MAY AND MAYDAYS

The term 'Mayday' originates from the French phrase 'm'aider' which means 'help me.' It was first adopted as a distress signal for aviation in the early 1920s. The credit for its implementation goes to Frederick Stanley Mockford, a senior radio officer at London's Croydon Airport.

The significance of the Mayday distress call lies in its simplicity and widespread recognition. It serves as a clear indication that a plane is in dire trouble and requires immediate attention. By using *Mayday*, pilots can cut through radio traffic, capturing the attention of ATCs, fellow pilots, and emergency services. This standardized distress call significantly enhances the effectiveness of rescue and recovery operations.

The Mayday call is reserved for the most severe and life-threatening emergencies. It is used when an aircraft or its occupants face imminent danger and require immediate assistance. Mayday calls are typically made in situations where there is a risk of crashing, a significant loss of control, or any other grave threat to safety.

Vocation is what you are made to do; occupation is what you are paid to do!

I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. Philippians 1:12-13

The Apostle Paul recorded his "imprisonment" for Christ. This is not to be taken metaphorically. Paul was in jail. He did nothing wrong, except speak the Gospel. About 25% of Paul's active ministry to the Gentiles was spent in jail. We should also remember though, this is exactly where God wanted Paul to be. God wanted Paul in prison. This was Paul's "vocation" for those 4-6 years. Paul's calling, believe it or not, was to be in prison.

The word "vocation" is a fascinating one we don't consider enough in the church. The word "vocation" literally means "calling." For us

Christians, our vocation means being where God has called us to be and doing what He has called and empowered us to do.

Vocations may or may not be exciting from a worldly perspective. What makes them exciting is that God has called us into them. Take the Apostle Paul as an example. The great and mighty "Apostle to the Gentiles," the man who performed numerous outstanding miracles, who met with the resurrected Christ on numerous occasions, Paul's calling for those years of his ministry was to be in prison. Paul's vocation, his calling from God, was to be in jail for many years.

Vocations from God may not always be easy for us. Nonetheless, each and every one of us has a vocation, a calling from God. Not sure what that is? Just look at your lives. What do you enjoy doing? What are you gifted to do? Many times our vocation is at the intersection of those two questions.

So, what is our reaction to our callings from God? We can be like Paul. We can accept our various vocations as callings from God, and we can serve God and others faithfully, giving witness to those around us of the mercy of Christ through our care and service to others.

This note started off with an explanation of "mayday." Bethlehem is issuing a mayday call - we need you! We need folks to prayerfully consider serving in different capacities on our various boards and on our church council. We will have a voter's meeting with elections on June 9th at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Please consider sharing the gifts God has given you by using your gifts to help lead our congregation. If you have any questions or would like any additional information, please contact either me or Matthew Schmidt. Thank you!

In His grace and peace!

Pastor Bob

VERSE OF THE MONTH FOR MAY (Acts 4:31):

"And when the disciples had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Bethlehem Members,

The Bethlehem Call Committee has been working through the process of calling a new pastor to guide our congregation. The Northern Illinois District has outlined steps that we must follow, and those steps require time to coordinate and complete. We would like to provide you an update on the steps that have been completed:

- Distribute survey to the Congregation
- Assemble Call Committee
- Call Committee meeting with Pastor Buss (District President)
- Collect and tabulate survey results
- Congregational meeting to publish survey results
- Create Call Committee covenant
- Publish Call Committee covenant to congregation
- Develop 5 pastoral characteristics for pastor candidate (based on survey results)
- Publish 5 pastoral characteristics to congregation
- Submit 5 pastoral characteristics to district office
- Develop answers on congregational self-study documents
- Submit congregational self-study documents to district office

Submitting the congregational self-study documents and pastoral characteristics to the district office was a major milestone that was completed. The district will now compile a list of candidates for the Call Committee to review in the next 30 days or so. If any in the congregation would like to nominate a candidate, please reach out to Matthew Schmidt and he will get you the information to officially submit a candidate for the district to review. **Any candidates would need to be submitted no later than May 15th.**

The next Call Committee step is to start working on the interview questions as we wait for the district to get back to us.

We appreciate your patience and understanding that we are all working to achieve the same goal of finding our next shepherd.

-Bethlehem Call Committee

CHURCH COUNCIL BOARD UPDATE SCHEDULE

June: Education

July: Deacons

September: Treasurer

November: Financial Secretary

August: Trustees

October: Education

December: Elders

NEW CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

Bethlehem is excited to announce that Mike Albach has accepted the position of Church Administrator. He will be starting in May and has already started training with Debbie Smith. We will be establishing consistent office hours once again and will communicate that information late May. We look forward to Mike getting started in the upcoming weeks.

SUNDAY SCHOOL - Operation Christmas Child Donations

Thanks to everyone for their continuous support of our Operation Christmas Child Mission. We are so grateful to all of you.

For the month of May, we are collecting small refillable water bottles (they need to fit in a shoebox), sidewalk chalk, and children's underwear for boys and girls (all sizes: ages 3-6 years old, 8-10 years old and 12-16 years old). Water bottles and chalk can be found at the dollar store.

Donations can be placed in the bin under the table across from the church office. Thank you again for your support.

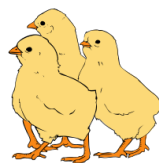
Karen Lawson, Bethlehem Sunday School

OFFERINGS FOR APRIL

March 31	General - \$5,451.19	Other - \$	847.65
April 7	General - \$3,907.19	Other - \$	180.00
April 14	General - \$3,715.19	Other - \$	561.00
April 21	General - \$3,205.19	Other - \$	17,738.15
April 28	General - \$2,748.19	Other - \$	460.00

WOMEN'S FRIENDSHIP GROUP

All are welcome! Mondays at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.



LUTHERAN CHICKS BIBLE STUDY

The Lutheran Chicks Bible Study group is currently studying the series "Women and Identity." This series is focusing on learning about women who embraced God's strength and wisdom to live whole lives. This women's study group meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month from 1:00 pm-2:00 pm. The next meeting dates are May 14 and 28. All ladies are welcome.

PILATES "Let's Get Moving"

Classes are offered every Friday at 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please arrive 15 minutes early and bring water. We'll be meeting on: May - 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
Everyone is welcome! Experience the fun of exercise and good health! Questions? Linda Bryant 630-338-6515

MAY MISSION OF THE MONTH



Habitat for Humanity builds and renovates houses in partnership with qualifying families, using as much donated material and labor as possible. Homes are sold at fair market value and financed with no-interest loans, making the monthly payments affordable.

Like every Habitat for Humanity affiliate, Northern Fox Valley selects its homeowners based on three criteria: the applicant's level of housing need, their willingness to become partners in the program, and their ability to repay the no-profit, no-interest loan.

While the vast majority of Americans feel stable and secure in their current situation, housing insecurity touches nearly half of adults at some point in their lives. More than half of all adults say they have made at least one trade-off in order to cover their rent or mortgage. Such trade-offs may include taking second jobs, cutting back on health care and healthy food, or moving to less-safe neighborhoods.

Through your support, families in your community and around the world partner with Habitat for Humanity to build the strength, stability, and independence they need for a better future--whether it be through a donation or volunteering during one of their build events. Designate a donation through your giving envelope.

~ H.I.S. "Hearts in Service" Ministry/Missions

HAPPY BIRTHDAY - May 🎂

1	Kelli DeDina	13	Vicky Wilbrandt
3	John Goskowicz	14	Judy Wendt
3	Mary Toppel	16	Alyssa Albach
3	Gracin Grimoldby	19	Graydon Schmidt
4	Denise Wandell	24	Derek Lee
4	Cisne Schaffer	26	Morgan Gallagher
10	Michael Hofbauer	28	Michelle Bauer
11	Jane Sakowicz	30	Alice Pate
12	Craig Skibley	31	Don Hoebbel
12	Ava Worden		

♥️ HAPPY ANNIVERSARY ♥️

May 6 - 34 years	Jeff & Linda Frost
May 8 - 58 years	Kurt & Jan Berghahn
May 15 - 2 years	Ken & Sue Lohman
May 16 - 42 years	Scott & Martha Lehman
May 18 - 32 years	Mike & Tracy Albach
May 25 - 20 years	Craig & Tricia Skibley
May 26 - 22 years	Pete & Cisne Schaffer
May 28 - 57 years	Dave & Marlis Davitz
May 31 - 26 years	Bob & Penny Christensen

HOME HUDDLE DATE CHANGE

Due to the Memorial Day holiday, the Home Huddle at Hopp's house has been changed to Monday evening, May 20th at 6:30 pm.

