

Bethel Banner

January 2017

Luther 500 – A Year of Celebration and Learning

2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. On October 31, 1517 Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. This is considered the beginning of the Reformation, the greatest religious movement in western Christianity. Throughout 2017, we will be learning and celebrating our heritage and history as part of the Lutheran movement.

One of the driving visions of the Reformation was the emphasis on scripture. Whereas many were unfamiliar with scripture, it was Luther translating the Bible into German that allowed regular people to read the Bible for themselves. So, this year we will be offering different ways for you to engage the scripture.

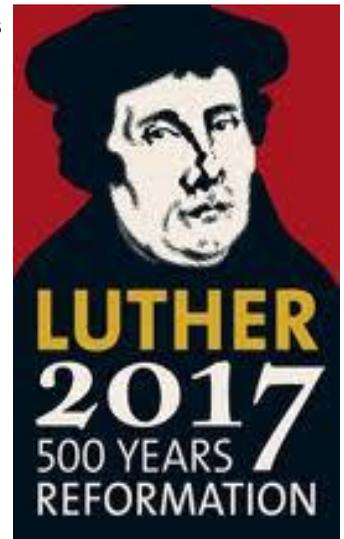
We have a group that will be reading the Bible throughout the year as part of a One-Year plan to read the entire Bible. There are such One-Year Bibles available for purchase and if you'd like to join this group, you can either purchase such Bible or go to www.oneyearbibleonline.com to see the reading plan and use your own Bible.

Another Reformation vision was the “priesthood of all believers” and this emphasized the laity leading with each other in ministry. I am excited that we will be offering Disciple I and Disciple IV with lay leaders (Steve and Debbie Miller, Charlie Moyer) this year as part of our Luther 500 observance. Look for information on these courses which will begin after the new year.

There will be a lay-led “Luther Book Club” throughout the year as well. The first book that our group will be reading is “Luther: The Reformer” by James Kittleson. Cindy Lauster will lead this group.

As lead teacher and pastor, I will be leading various Lutheran themed studies throughout the year, including “How Lutherans Interpret the Bible”, a study of “The 95 Theses”, and a “40 Day Journey” with Martin Luther during Lent. Some of these will take place on weeknights, in homes, and perhaps even as part of a weekend learning conference.

Throughout the year, in Adult Forum, we will be exploring key themes and history of the Reformation, our Lutheran theology, and how this applies to our continuing witness as Lutheran Christians today. I will



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be using a learning guide developed by the North Carolina Synod for this special purpose. Themes will include: Reformation History, Martin Luther, Lutheran Theology, Worship and Liturgy, Lutheran Ethics, Lutherans in American and the World.

During our midweek Lenten services, we will be gathering around the theme of the Small Catechism, which Luther wrote to help teach the faith in the home. Each week we will consider the key learnings of the catechism – the 10 Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion.

We will have some special concerts during the year as well. On Friday, March 10, the Thiel College choir, an ELCA college in Greenville, Pennsylvania, will be singing at Bethel as part of their Spring break music tour. Additionally, our own Richard Jeric will be performing a Reformation themed concert on Sunday, September 24. Also, we are in conversation with a former organist at Bethel, Aaron Shows, about coming "home" and doing a concert for us as well! Finally, I anticipate that we will also be offering a special Reformation concert involving our own congregation as well during the year.

Each of our ministry board areas will be considering how they can make our Luther 500 observance a part of their ministry area. Be on the lookout for ways that we will be serving, praying, worshiping, and playing as part of the Reformation year celebration.

Bryan Jaster is also looking at the ways that our youth will be involved in this observance. From "Luther" comic-books to servant events to Cross-Generational learning, our youth will be very active as well in our year-long study.

Also, 18 of us will be heading to Germany in late August for a 12-day tour of Germany and other Reformation sites, including Wittenberg, Wartburg, Erfurt, Prague, Munich, and Berlin.

We will learn not only about Luther and the Reformation, but Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and J.S. Bach.

The best part of being a Lutheran Christian is that we are "ever-reforming", meaning that the activity of God's Holy Spirit is always at work, leading and guiding us toward God's preferred future for our lives and the world.

I will be keeping this vision at the forefront of all that we do this year and ask your prayers as we move into our future with courage, faith, and eager anticipation of God's surprises!

Sola fides, Sola gratis, Sola scriptura!
Pastor Dave

Mission of the Month 2017

During 2017, we are going to offer a new way for you to support special missions at Bethel. We wanted to focus on these special missions and move away from having fundraisers for various causes through the year and often at odds with one another. So, we decided on these 7 missions. There will be a special envelope in the pews that you can use to support these missions during the year. We will highlight them during their designated month so that you can learn more about them.

February	WATTS
March	Jones/Joyner Music Fund
April	Bethel Youth Ministries
July	"Christmas in July" Community Ministries (CCAP, Faith in Action)
August	World Hunger (Harvest Sunday)
October	Bethel Youth Ministries
December	Global Missions

Council Highlights

Treasurer's Report

The November 2016 Treasurer's Report was approved. There are no outstanding financial issues.

Council Nominations for 2016 Elections

Council finalized the nominations and elected the 2017 Council Leadership Members. 2017 Leadership nominees as well as Board Chairs will be validated during January Council meeting.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Dave presided at the wedding of John Stanfield and Johanna Beatrez on Saturday, November 19. He baptized Bill Koontz, Madelyn Grooms, Isaac Shepard and Michelle Asmussen. He presided over the funeral of Serena Lee on November 23 in Berryville, VA. Pastor Dave led a group of eight at the 2016 Fall Men's Retreat, themed "Jesus, CEO: Using Ancient Wisdom for Visionary Leadership," at Graves Mount Lodge. The 2017 Men's Retreat is scheduled to return there for the first weekend of November.

Family and Youth Report

Bryan Jaster reported that Bethel youth participated in Lost and Found, the largest truly life transforming weekend retreat of 7th and 8th graders our Synod has had, on November 18-20 at the Eagle Eyrie Retreat Center.

Cross+Gen Advent – What happens every evening in every home (Deuteronomy 6) and with people who share life fully together (Acts 2) well—wonderful life happens! Our beautiful group art project is displayed in the Sanctuary for our Christmas Eve service. We all had a great time doing our versions of the Christmas Story Mannequin Challenge.

Young Adults – Approximately 30 college students received a care package which was put together and provided by our Care Package Team. Our Young Adults joined together with Clare Milburn on Thursday, December 22 to share stories, listening for God's voice for them, and an evening bowling.

Council and Board Chairs for 2017

President - **Tom Milburn**

Vice President - **Karla King**

Secretary - **Rose Pierce**

Treasurer - **Traci Shoberg**

Worship Board – **Pastor Dave**

Prayer and Care Board – **Pat Blevins**

Learning Board – **Trevor Brazelton**

Servant Board – **Julie Shanabrook**

Congregational Life – **Dave Griffin**

Ministry Support – **Adrian Pullen**

***** All Minutes from Council Meeting and Financial Information are up to date and posted on our website at www.bethelwinchester.com under the "Publications" tab.*****

Sabbatical/Extended Study Leave Policy

As was mentioned at our November congregational meeting, the Bethel council is working toward presenting a Sabbatical / Extended Study Leave Policy to the congregation for approval at our February 5 congregational meeting. The proposed Sabbatical policy is available on the Bethel website under "Publications" for your consideration.

Our Sabbatical Team will be offering a Q&A on Sunday, January 22 in between worship services in the Christianson Room. Rachel Carlson, Bill Hall, and Michelle Young are the team and they are available for any questions as well.

Please feel free to ask any of the team members or Pastor Dave if you have questions regarding this proposal.

Global Mission Ministries

Thanks to all who participated in “Bethel’s Global Christmas” in 2016. Too often we hear about a “War on Christmas” in our culture that seems to center on words we use to greet each other, or the images on a cup of coffee. At Bethel, our “Global Christmas” tradition has been centered on the things that Christ taught us:

- Reach out to the weak.
- Welcome the stranger.
- Love our neighbors.
- Share our blessings with others.
- Represent the Light which no darkness can overcome.

Each year, the people of Bethel respond to this spirit of Christmas by expressing love and generosity to those who need it most. I’m proud to be part of a congregation that can see past the distractions of the modern holiday (while still enjoying some of them), and live into its true meaning.

Souper Bowl II Fellowship and Potluck

Sunday, January 29, 10:45 a.m.

Join in fellowship and a light lunch in Discipleship Hall after our one worship service on January 29. Bring a soup, salad or sandwiches to share together.

And in anticipation of the following week’s Super Bowl Game, vote for your team by **bringing in a donation of canned soups** to be donated to CCAP.



Faith In Action Needs Drivers

Faith in Action is a non-profit organization that provides free transport to and from medical appointments for individuals with physical and financial limitations and who are without reliable access to transportation. Volunteer drivers use their own vehicles and fuel to provide this transportation. Need for this service has rapidly expanded to the level of 50-60 transports per week putting a serious strain on the limited number of volunteer drivers....More are badly needed!

In addition to transports, many of the clients are lonely (especially the elderly) and really appreciate the opportunity to share their personal stories and concerns with the driver. They don’t generally need answers, they just want a sympathetic listener and someone to chat with while being transported.

Would you like to help someone that truly needs it? If you’re a safe driver, able to sympathetically listen and willing to occasionally share your time and vehicle, FIA can really use your help even if it’s only weekly or monthly. Your help will be much appreciated by the client and you will be pleasantly surprised by the personal rewards you feel both as a driver and as a listener. All drivers have a short orientation and approval process by Faith in Action and the Valley Health System Volunteer office.

Karen Shipp is Chair of the FIA Board and Rex Ritchie is a frequent driver. Either or both will be happy to discuss FIA requirements and personal rewards with you. You might even want to ride along with Rex sometime to see how it goes.

Karen’s contact info: shipp.karen@gmail.com or 540-664-6465

Rex’s contact info: hjrrer@aol.com or 540-247-8732

Learning Opportunities

Adult Forum

Ever-Reforming: A Reformation 500 Study

After a hiatus, we will be back together on Sunday, January 8 as we begin our year-long emphasis on our Lutheran heritage as part of the Year of Reformation 500 celebration. Our adult studies will include looking at Lutheran theology, Lutheran history, and the meaning of the Reformation 500 years later!

January 8 – The Church on October 30, 1517
January 15 – The Reformation's Major Figures
January 22 – Who, What, When, Where, Why
(Reformation Basics)

Reformation 500 Events

The "Martin Luther" in Martin Luther King, Jr.

Thursday, January 19, 6:00 p.m.
Wortmann Ballroom, Roanoke College

Dr. Richard Lischer's presentation interprets the thought and practice of Martin Luther King as the fruit of his ministry as a Baptist preacher and relates that ministry back to the Reformation legacy of Martin Luther.

A Martin Luther Year Celebration Concert: Bach and Leibniz

Saturday, January 21, 7:30 p.m.
Olin Theater

Tickets are required:
www.roanoke.edu/events

Kandinsky Trio Roanoke College Artists in Resident

This concert will highlight the musicological and philosophical connections between Johann Sebastian Bach and Gottfried Leibniz. Roanoke College professors Brent Adkins and Gordon Marsh will weave words, sounds, and images into performances by the Kandinsky Trio and guest artists Julee Hickox, John Irrera, William Parrish, and Brian Thorsett.

Thiel Choir in Concert at Bethel Lutheran Church

Friday, March 10, 7:00 p.m.

The forty-voice Thiel Choir from Thiel College in Greenville, Pennsylvania, will present a concert at **7:00 p.m. Friday evening, March 10, 2017**. The performance is part of the Thiel Choir's 2017 spring choir tour. The Thiel Choir performs annually for audiences predominantly in the eastern United States and tours internationally every four years. The ensemble, under the direction of Dr. Michael Bray, reflects the diverse interests and disciplines of the Thiel College student body. In his twenty-first year as Director of Choral Activities, Bray conducts the Thiel Choir and Chamber Singers, Thiel College Handbell Ringers, teaches private instruction in voice, music history, world music and conducting. Bray completed his undergraduate degree from the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, Colorado, and earned his master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Arizona in Tucson, where he studied under Maurice Skones and Kenneth Jennings, both prominent Lutheran conductors.

Thiel College, a four-year, coeducational, liberal arts college located near the Pennsylvania-Ohio border approximately equidistant from Erie, Pittsburgh and Cleveland, enrolls 1000 students. Thiel College is a college of the **Evangelical Lutheran Church of America** and its 135-acre campus is located in Greenville, a community of 7,000.

The choir will perform a variety of sacred works by Hans Leo Hassler, Henry Purcell, Rene Clausen, Jean Berger, F. Melius Christiansen, Vincent Persichetti, Michael John Trotta, Knut Nystedt and Robert Wetzler, and arrangements of both American folksongs, hymns and spirituals. For this 500th anniversary year of the Reformation, excerpts from the writings of Martin Luther will help weave a narrative for our time.

There will be no charge for admission, however, a freewill offering will be taken. For more information about the concert, contact the church office at 540-662-3245.



. In a world of steel-eyed death, and men who are fighting to be warm
“Come in,” she said, “I’ll give you shelter from the storm” by Bob Dylan

What is WATTS? It’s 20+ places of worship that provide shelter throughout the winter from 7pm – 7am. for 35 men and women.

How Can I Help? You can help fix dinner or breakfast, wash dishes, register guests, play cards or just sleep on a cot. There will also be an opportunity to provide needed items for the week.

When is Bethel’s Week? February 20- 27th

Sign Me up!!: We encourage you to visit Our Sign-Up Genius site to volunteer @ <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a094aa8ac22a64-watts1>

Or find Judy McKiernan or Marion Schottelkorb on Sunday mornings

Isaiah 25:4 For thou hast been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress,
a refuge from the storm, a shadow from the heat, when the blast of the terrible ones
is as a storm against the wall.

Bethel Fills the Red Kettle

On Saturday, December 3, a group of Bethel members truly validated the *Salvation Army* motto that “**Sharing is Caring**” by giving their time to ring bells at Walmart. They collected an impressive total of \$535.63 which will help to support the Army’s year-round Shelter and Social Service programs. It was a very cold day so if you see any of the following folks, you might want to thank them for **Caring** enough to **Share!**

Barb Simmons; Dave, Nick & Ian Shoberg; Tom Beyer; Susan Adams; the entire Young Family; Steph Mahan, Hannah & Connor Lothrop; Shawn & Sophie Garner; Lori Milam; Debbie Miller.



Women's Ministries

All women of Bethel and friends are invited to attend Wild Women events and activities. If you are interested in receiving Wild Women e-mails, please contact Donna Turrill at 540-409-7015 or turrills@comcast.net.

First Friday Fellowship

January 6, 9:30 a.m.
Firefly Café

Please join us the first Friday of each month for Coffee/Tea and goodies as we gather as Bethel's Wild Women.

Join us at the Firefly Café in Creekside as we share stories and hopes and prepare for the Christmas season. All our welcome. Any questions - call Karen Nguyen at 540-303-1189.

Wild Women Planning Meeting

January 9, 7:00 p.m.

If you are interested in participating in the planning of Wild Women events, please join us at Bethel at 7:00 on 1/9/17. The January meeting will be to begin organizing events for April through May.

Third Tuesday Dinner

January 17, 6:00 p.m.
El Centro, 1 N Loudoun Street, Winchester

Beginning in January 2017, we will meet the third Tuesday of each month for dinner and fellowship.

Lost...

Missing Wild Woman tote bag left in the narthex. The bag is like new, beige canvas with green handles with the Wild Woman logo. If found, please return to the office. Thank you.

Men's Ministries

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, January 7, 8:30 a.m.
Backseat Bar and Grill

We meet for a time of fellowship, food, and Bible study. It is a great time to connect with other men in the congregation and share our faith with each other and support one another.

Men's Dinner Meeting

Tuesday, January 17, 7:00 p.m.
50/50 Taphouse

We will gather to plan for the upcoming year. The 50/50 Taphouse is located on Cork Street, downtown Winchester. All men are welcome to join us for this time of fellowship.

Disciple Bible Study

Courses I and IV will begin in January. Look for more details in the Sunday Bulletins. Sign ups will be in the narthex starting in January.



Youth Ministries



ELCA Youth Gathering

Underground!

Sunday, January 8, 5-8 p.m.

Nine Square in the Air, Kong and Hungry Hippo night @ Bethel – We kickoff the year with a great event designed as a casual space for friends to invite in so that no one is ever left out. Bring \$5 for food and let's kick off the new year together!

7th Day is coming March 4-5th!

Hey 5th & 6th grade families! It is our annual overnight event with hundreds of youth from our area! ***Register by February 8th online at vasynod.org.*** During 7th Day weekend participants are part of a "Shepherd Group" with other youth and adult leaders and explore a story of the Bible through drama, games, crafts, and music. In the evenings youth and adults will have time to relax in their Cottages with their congregation and other congregations from Virginia and discuss how 7th Day is going. It's a wild and authentic experience of Christian community and space to discover what life is all about together.



Winter Celebration!

High School Weekend

Last day to join us is January 2nd!

January 27-29

Winter Celebration is A Funtastical Weekend Event for ALL 9th-12th Graders! A gathering of youth with singing, worship, faith sharing with hundreds of Virginia high school youth and adults at a large retreat center called "Eagle Eyrie" (it's about 2.5 hours south in the mountains near Lynchburgh)

Registration Deadline is January 2nd!***

Registration: vasynod.org - Online pay or Make checks out to "Virginia Synod, ELCA" when you mail in. See Donna Turrill, Stephanie Mahan or Bryan Jaster for details.

Coming up in 2017!

Put in your phones!

Vacation Bible Camp – June 12-16, 2017 (mornings).

High School Mission Week–July 9-15, 2017. We are sent to listen, learn and live like Jesus together in Nicholas, Green Brier and Clay Counties, West Virginia. We help begin the rebuilding process with Community Lutheran Partners, FEMA and the Red Cross. This experience is open to all current 8th – 12th grade youth and adult shepherds. Total cost per person is \$300. Signup on our website at bethelwinchester.com.

Bethel Week at Camp - - Put in your calendars **July 30 – August 4, 2017** for our week of camp for all kids and youth! First 5 kids that are registered get a special prize during camp week + save \$\$\$ by registering early! See carolinefurnace.org for Potomac river, Horse Camp, Survivor Camp and much more.

Later Life And Legacy

Early in 2017, Bethel is offering three Free Seminars discussing subjects that many of us really don't want to talk about i.e. our Senior Years and the decisions we'll need to make as we age. On Saturday mornings January 28, February 4, and February 11, knowledgeable speakers will present information on these topics:

Seminar I - Living Arrangements (Jan. 28)

- Downsizing
- Independent Living/Aging in Place
- In-Home Care
- Assisted Living
- Nursing Care
- Memory Unit (Alzheimer's)

Seminar II - Legal/Financial Issues (Feb. 4)

- Necessary Legal Documents: Wills, Powers of Attorney, Trusts, Advance Medical Directives, etc.
- Advance Directives: Making your wishes known
- Financial Planning: Investment reallocation, LTC Insurance, Legacy Giving to individuals and Organizations

Seminar III - Final Arrangements (Feb. 11)

- Hospice Care Services
- Funeral Planning
- Burial Options
- Memorial Services
- Communications & Access to Important Information

These Seminars will be helpful not only for Seniors but for your family members that are likely to have the responsibility to see that your wishes are carried out.

LL&L Brochures are located in the Narthex Pamphlet Display Board. We sincerely hope you will do yourself and your family a big favor by registering for any or all of the LL&L Seminars. Attendees do not have to be a member of Bethel.

Feel free to contact any LL&L Team member for more information: Howard Kemnitz, Jim Shipp, Irene Cockerham, Terri Hollingsworth, Helen & Rex Ritchie and Pastor Dave.

Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please check all Seminars you wish to attend:

Seminar I

Seminar II

Seminar III

How many total people will be attending with you? (include yourself in this number) _____

The seminars are **FREE** but reservations are required and space is limited. Please register by January 20, 2017 by mailing this form to Bethel Lutheran Church at 2077 N Frederick Pike, Winchester, VA 22603 or by calling the church office 540-662-3245. You may also register online by clicking the "Online Forms" tab on our website: www.bethelwinchester.com

January Birthdays

- 02 – Matt Bowman
03 - Yeakley Pullen
04 - Clarence Hohner
Carol Cain
Rodney Forrest
Kim Williams
Justin Hoover
05 - Conner Turrill
Penny Foltz
07 - Steve Rosen
08 - Julie Shanabrook
Ian Shoberg
09 - Allen Pierce
Donna Shields
Donna Nerangis
10 - Bob Hollingsworth
11 - Stephanie Mahan
12 - Carolyn McTague
13 - Cory Carlson
Jennifer LaFollette
Marion Schottelkorb
Windra Bowman
14 - Helen Ritchie
Stephen Ramsey
17 - Michelle Young
Beth Driver
18 - Charlie Moyer
Curt Grymala
20 - Chris Temple
21 - Leah Lutz
22 - Morgan Stephens
23 - Ben Hulver
24 - Savannah McKee
25 - Susan Adams
Ainsley Justice
Karen Nguyen
26 - Karen Justice
27 - Isaiah Britton
Jim Shipp
Rodger Ramsey
28 - Tonya Harp
Ruth Jones
29 - Bobby Hawkins
30 - Kristi Riggelman
Katie Brunson
Leah Young
Jenny Stephens
31 - Gene Borrer
Adrian Pullen

January Anniversaries

- 04 - Ciro and Tracey Grassi
06 – Ron and Cherie Lauck
28 - Trevor and Laura Brazelton

Thank You!

Dear Bethel,

Thank you so much for allowing me to teach in your sanctuary each Monday and for allowing me to have my recital here. I really appreciate all of your kindness!

Betty Cunningham

Dear Friends at Bethel Lutheran,

Thank you for your generous donation of quilts for LWR's distribution overseas. These gifts of your hearts and hands are beautiful expressions of God's grace and love to people all around the world.

I extend deepest thanks for your contribution, and pray God's richest blessings on your life and work!

In Christ,
Melanie W. Gibbons
Quilts & Kit Ministry Manager

Around the Congregation

Congregational sympathy is extended to the family of Marion Schwab who passed away on November 30.

Facts & Figures

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

. . .for your generosity, support, and partnership in ministries here at Bethel, to our community, and to God's world.

"You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us."
(2 Corinthians 9:11)

Average
Worship
Attendance
November

239

Church Office Hours

The Office will be closed
December 26-January 1 and will
re-open on Monday, January 2

Designated Offering Thru November

For the World:

World Hunger Appeal
\$6,989

Global Missions
\$13,528

Harvest Sunday
\$2,077

For the Community:

CCAP
\$7,697

Jones/Joyner Music Fund
\$6,416

Good Samaritan
\$669

For the Bethel Community:

Student Missions
\$765

Jubilee/Mortgage Principal
\$42,376

Principal Balance on Mortgage as of December 31, 2015	Principal Balance on Mortgage as of November 20, 2016	Decrease in Mortgage Principal 2016
\$392,128.39	\$344,176.41	\$47,951.98

	MSP	Offerings	% of MSP	Total 2016 MSP
	Needed to meet MSP	Actual		\$528,255
November 2016	\$48,071	\$34,530	72%	
YTD as of November 2016	\$469,354	\$420,899	90%	

For more detailed information, please visit www.bethelwinchester.com.
The most current financial update will be located under the "Publications" headline.

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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**The deadline for articles for the
February issue of the
Bethel Banner
is 3:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 18.**