

PASTOR'S PAGE

Catechesis (Bible Study)

The word Catechesis comes from the Greek (and also Latin) word for “Oral Instruction” which involves some repetition and dialogue. The teachings imparted in Catechesis are those foundational to Christianity as Lutherans understand them to have existed all the way back to Christ and His Apostles.

At Bethany we call this Adult Education and for the children we call this Sunday School. Here we gather together to learn more as Lutherans who simply want to continue to grow in their understanding of the faith. Your questions, and even your doubts, are welcome!

These classes are taught by the Pastor or a Sunday School teacher. Adult and children education unpacks the teachings of the Holy Scriptures, Luther's Small Catechism, and the Lutheran Liturgy. Long-time members of Bethany are always strongly encouraged to attend.

Those new to Lutheranism or seeking to learn more can learn from the questions and contributions of those who have been Lutheran for some time. Likewise, the pastor as well as long-time Lutheran attendees will also learn and grow from the questions and contributions of those new to Lutheranism who may bring a different perspective.

Catechesis (Bible Study) is a great way for brothers and sisters in Christ to learn and grow together in our knowledge of and love for the faith handed down to us throughout the ages which is rooted in Christ and His Word.

Psalm 1 reminds us that they are truly blessed whose entire being revolves around the Word of God. Deuteronomy 6:4-9 admonishes us to make God's Word the very foundation and center of our lives, to the point of influencing our thoughts, speech, and actions. Let Christian Catechesis (Bible Study) become another avenue in this endeavor, along with regular Sunday morning church attendance.

With work, school, homework, sports, arts, housework, and family activities, we are struggling to have enough time for Bible Study, or even for Sunday School for our children. Life today keeps us very busy. And there are many necessary work, school, and family related activities. There are also many beneficial extracurricular activities (sports and music for example) available to us. But if those things dominate our lives and we pay little attention to Christ and His Word as the source of our life and faith, at the end of days when Christ returns, what will be left? Jesus said, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away” (Matt 24:35). While we need to fulfill our worldly responsibilities and even take time to benefit from fun and physically or mentally beneficial activities, none of these things should ever take precedence over our foundation in Christ and His Word. Jesus would have us place our primary focus on “the one thing needful” (Luke 10:38-42), and not focus upon our treasures (including time, etc.) on earth which are perishable, but the imperishable and everlasting treasure we have in heaven (Mt 6:19-21).

Though Pastor will be under medical leave thru the Last Sunday in September, Sunday School will start on September 10. As of now, Confirmation class will be held from 8:45 - 9:45am every Sunday morning for 5th through 8th grade, also starting September 10.

There will be 2 opportunities for Adult Bible Study. Wednesday Evenings from 6:00 - 7:00pm and Thursday Mornings from 10:00 - 11:00am. The Wednesday Evening class will start on September 27th and the Thursday morning class will begin September 28th.

We will be taking a look at the Book of Jonah - (approximately for 9-weeks)

1. Reluctant Prophet
2. Resistance of a Racist Rebel
3. Prayers on Board - Prophet Overboard
4. Finally Jonah Connects the Dots
5. God of the 2nd Chance
6. Proclamation, Transformation, Compassion
7. Grumbling of an Angry Prophet
8. Ticked Off Till the Bitter End
9. Lessons Learned From a Stubborn Preacher

Look for the signup sheet on the table in the upper narthex of church.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Steele



PASTOR'S SURGERY

As Pastor explained in the June newsletter, he will be having surgery to remove a growth on his pituitary gland on August 15. He will be out for 6 weeks and we will have guest Pastors filling in for him. Please keep Pastor in your prayers and pray for a successful surgery and quick recovery.

JULY/AUGUST MISSION OF THE MONTH – Lutheran Deaf Mission Society (LDMS)

It is estimated that approximately ninety-eight percent of Deaf people in the United States do not attend church. This is, in part, due to the limited number of deaf churches. While the number of full-time pastors serving Deaf churches has decreased, the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod has seen an increase in the number of Deaf pastors, deacons, deaconesses, and lay leaders who use sign language to communicate the Gospel message. This has happened because of programs like Deaf Pah and the Deaf Institute of Theology. LDMS will engage in evangelism and Christian education training to help Deaf Persons and their families see Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and engage in stewardship and leadership training to help Deaf Persons serve Jesus Christ. To learn more, visit their website at www.deafjesus.com

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer and the warm weather that has finally arrived. My family just finished a camping trip last week at Kohler Andrae. It is always a good reminder of how good we have it in our homes, as spending time outdoors for so long has its challenges...meal preparation is more difficult, you have to walk a long way just to use the bathroom and then have to share it with bugs, keeping cool in hot weather, sleeping on uncomfortable beds, etc. It makes me very thankful for the comforts and conveniences of home. The Lord has truly blessed us.

On to business...we are still in search of a treasurer for next year. I would like to thank Kelly Paltzer for all her hard work as well as Derek MacKenzie for making it a smooth transition to hand the position off to Kelly. If you would like more information about the position, please reach out to me, Kelly, or Derek and we would be happy to talk with you about it. It is a paid position (\$175 per month) and involves roughly 20 hours of work throughout the month, which you can do at your convenience. Since I've yet to find any volunteers, I have begun calling some accounting firms to get estimates. One said it would be at least \$1000 a month or more. I'm still waiting on another estimate but suspect it will still be substantially more than what we currently pay. I'd really like to find someone from the congregation for this position, as we really don't have much headroom in the budget to add this large of an expense. We are also looking for a Sunday school teacher, elder, and trustee. Please prayerfully consider helping. It's not a huge time commitment and is needed to keep our church running smoothly. Thank you!

Yours in Christ,

Andy Fibiger

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

8-03: Debbie Perry
8-06: Jim Herzog
8-08: Judy Albert
Daniel Menzer
8-09: Dolores Gehrke
8-12: Lori Allmann
Roxanne Taylor
Charlotte Menzer



8-13: Barbara Herzog
8-15: Kieran Fibiger
8-18: Sara Hasler
8-25: Kyle Allmann
8-27: Maggie Yang
8-30: Julie Steele

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

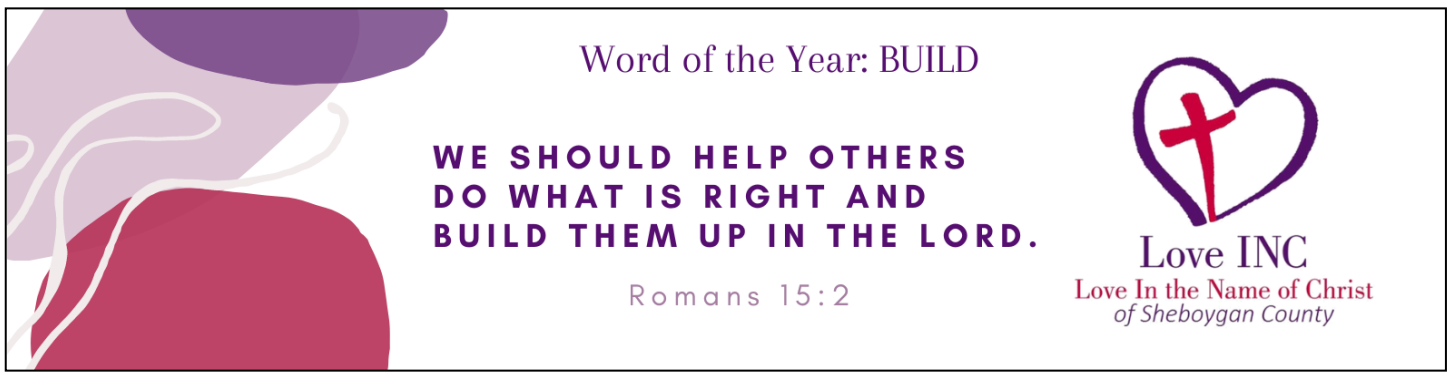
8-12: Andy & Gina Fibiger
8-16: John & Laura Tershner
8-18: Ray & Shirley Ottman
8-23: Steve & Debbie Perry



If a birthday or anniversary has been missed, please contact the church office to let us know.

CHURCH PICNIC

It has been decided that due to lack of help, we will not have our regular annual picnic in September. Instead, we will be planning a few smaller events to be held throughout the year such as bingo, kids game night, movie night, and others. Watch for information on these in the future.



August Product Drive

Products needed for Gap Ministries and New Way Program

Love INC is collecting specific items during the month of August to support our Personal Care Kit Ministry, Love Bucket Ministry (cleaning supplies), and New Way class participants.

Drop off items in the Love INC bin at church (outside Pastor's office) or bring to the Love INC office (807 Forest Avenue, Sheboygan Falls).

Please **ONLY** purchase the items listed on the list that is posted on the lower narthex bulletin board. There are multiple copies printed so feel free to grab one to take with you to the store.

God bless your generosity!



September 10 – Sunday School begins at 8:45am (for ages 3 years old and up)

September 10 – Confirmation begins at 8:45am (Pastor Steele will be teaching the confirmation students on Sunday mornings instead of Wednesdays this year)

September 27 – Adult Bible Study at 6:00pm

September 28 – Adult Bible Study at 10:00am

(These two bible studies are the same study being offered two different times. Sign up on the sheet in the back of church if you'd like to attend. Books will be available soon to pick up at church)

THOSE SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2023

Sunday, August 6

10:00 a.m.

w/Holy Communion

Elder:	Gerry Luebke
Ushers:	Ray & Shirley Ottman
Acolyte:	Katelyn Regutis
Altar Guild:	Gina & Madison Fibiger
Scripture Reader:	Sharon Werner
Door Locker:	Steve Marotz
Streaming:	Madison Fibiger

Sunday, August 13

10:00 a.m.

Elder:	Shua Yang
Ushers:	Jerry Sabrowsky, Derek MacKenzie
Altar Guild:	Barb & Karl Kaeppler
Scripture Reader:	Mary Ann Fibiger
Door Locker:	Patrick Johnson
Streaming:	Steve Perry

Sunday, August 20

10:00 a.m.

w/Holy Communion

Elder:	Steve Hazen
Ushers:	Dan Fibiger
Acolyte:	Aidan Brooks
Altar Guild:	Lynn & Gerry Luebke
Scripture Reader:	Todd Matte
Door Locker:	Ken Thompson
Streaming:	Todd Matte

Sunday, August 27

10:00 a.m.

Elder:	Lee Gumm
Ushers:	Dave & Sue Prange
Altar Guild:	Barb & Lee Gumm
Scripture Reader:	Steve Hazen
Door Locker:	Andy Fibiger
Streaming:	Grace Matte



AUGUST 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		01	02	03	04	05
06 10am Worship w/HC	07 6:30pm Elders	08 6:30pm Board of Education	09	10	11	12
13 10am Worship	14 6:15pm Board of Finance 7pm Council	15	16	17	18	19
20 10am Worship w/HC	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 10am Worship	28	29	30	31		