



Cross Currents Newsletter October 2023

A Word or Two...by Pastor Mark

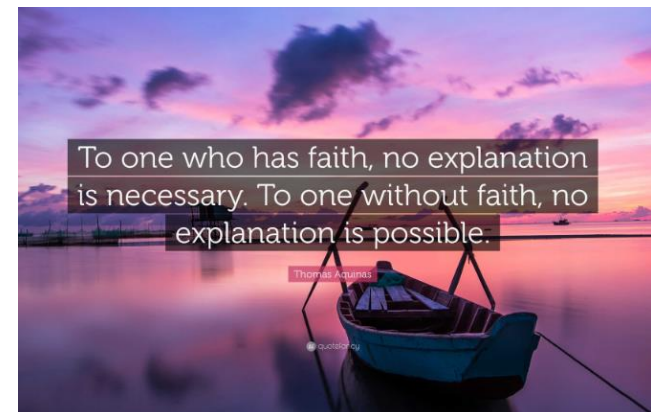
Well, I finally broke down and sent my DNA to one of those places that tracks your heritage. You pay the fee and they send you something like a test tube, which you spit into up to a certain line. When you close the lid, a solution is released that stabilizes the DNA and kills any germs present. Off it goes in a postage-paid container. Now I'm getting updates from the company as they claim they are breaking up my saliva into millions of bits of information. They promise they will be able to trace my ethnic and migratory background all the way to the Neanderthals! (That may explain some of my relatives.) I also paid the extra money to have them list what diseases I may be more prone to based on my genetic makeup. Finally, they will do a genetic family search of some kind. Who knows, I may have a long-lost relative in Spencer. All this is pretty fascinating, and just brings home the truth of scripture: "I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well." (Psalm 139:14).

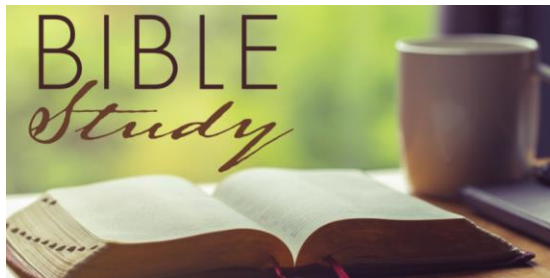
Some may say that the more we figure out how nature works, the less we need to believe in a God who is behind it all. But that's based on faulty logic that says: "God is complicated, we have made cell phones which are also complicated; therefore, we have made God." No, it just means we have used our God-given rational ability to make complicated stuff. Or more to the point, you might say, "We have discovered the building blocks of life; therefore, we have figured out

life without God." Again, it only means we have delved deeper into what God has already put there.

By now you may be sensing my deeper point, which is this: you either have faith or you don't. A lack of faith leaves you with nothing but measurable truth, what you can sense with your body or think with your mind. But faith recognizes infinite possibilities that are not exhausted just by discovering some of them. Science, in fact, starts with faith. A scientist has a notion that something might be possible based on what they are perceiving, and through experiment and peer review they are able to add to their knowledge. Faith informs believers in Christ that what they see in the glorious history of the church points to infinite spiritual reality, the knowledge of which grows during our lifetime through scripture, prayer, the sacraments, and life with other believers.

Both my brothers were scientists. My oldest brother, who is gone now, was a physicist and chemist who worked for government agencies on everything from rocket nosecones to medical standards issued by the FDA. My other brother is a retired geologist. Both serious Christians. Why? Because they knew that while some of their colleagues might have peeled back the layers of nature and not seen anything spiritual, a person of faith could look at the same data and exclaim, "My God, how great thou art." Or as someone once elegantly put it, "To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary. To one without faith, no explanation is possible." (*Thomas Aquinas*).





Faith and Life Bible Study

Right now, our midweek Bible study, Faith and Life, is going through the history of the Christian Church in Bible study

form. It's getting exciting as we travel through the 1400s now, coming ever closer to the explosion of the Reformation in the 1500s.

Faith and Life Bible study is a "no threat" get-together, where you don't have to have any special knowledge about the scriptures. It is informal, laid back, fun, and welcoming. And we have coffee and treats every week. We meet in the fellowship hall Monday nights 6:30-8:00 PM, or Wednesday mornings 9:30-11:00 AM (same content at both). Check it out! You won't be disappointed.



Non-Lectionary Sermon Scripture in October

On Sunday, October 15, our message at the 9:30 worship service will be another from the ones not included in the lectionary. It was likely left out because of its sensitive content, but we will examine it on that day. It is

the story of the desperate action Lot's daughters took to have children after the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. Their mother had been turned to salt from the explosion, and they were left in a cave with their father. For all they knew, they were the only people left on earth, and in those days not having children was considered a terrible curse. So, out of desperation and not any perverted reasons, they got their father drunk into a stupor and had relations with him in order to make the thing happen. We will see how Lot reacted and what came from their pregnancies. The story can be read in Genesis 19:30-38.



Fifth Gospel – What's Scary, What's Not?

October 29th will be a fifth Sunday of the month, which means another Fifth Gospel event! The last Sunday of

October is always Reformation Sunday, so we will certainly honor that day. But also, since it is around Halloween, we are inviting the kids to wear their trick-or-treat costumes to church! The theme of the day will be What's Scary about the Bible, and What's Not? Death is scary, so are ghosts (yes, the Bible has them), and God's anger at sin can be pretty scary, too. But God's love for us is not scary. In fact, it's the only way we can walk through life and into eternity unafraid.

Giving Minute

A lot of people find it difficult to give time or money in these days of hectic schedules and inflation. But it's really not that difficult for most if you simply do it. You make time for what is important in your life. If God is really important, you will find the time to take an hour out of your week to be with other Christians and support the worship of the church. If you want its various ministries to stay around, you can find a way to give regularly some amount, just as you always find a way to purchase other needs. The point is that it's not the amount, but the joy of giving that leads you along the right path and makes giving possible.

October Mission of the Month **Upper Des Moines Opportunity**

Items Needed: Non-perishable food items, shampoo, conditioner, toilet paper, dish soap, body wash, bar soap.

Parents: Bringing items to church as a family is a great way to teach your kids about caring for others.



Coffee Fellowship

Volunteers Needed for October

If you (or you & a friend) would like to share rolls, cookies, bars, or other goodies during Sunday fellowship, please sign up on the calendar on the

bulletin board outside pastor's office. Plan to bring enough to serve 100 people.

October 1

Milestone Ministry Team

October 8

Julie Christensen

October 15

_____ **Volunteer Needed**

October 22

_____ **Volunteer Needed**

October 29

_____ **Volunteer Needed**

BLCW St. Luke Auxiliary Offering – Sunday, Oct. 1st

A special offering will be received during coffee hour on Sunday, Oct. 1st. Please make checks payable to St. Luke Auxiliary if you wish to support this project. They are currently in need of a new grill to use when they have "grill outs" for the residents.

Prayer Partner Breakfast - Sunday, Oct. 1st

The Milestone Ministry Team will kick off the 2023-24 Prayer Partner Program by hosting a breakfast in the fellowship hall of the church starting at 8:15 a.m. on Sunday, October 1st. Confirmation students, their families, and prayer partners will gather to learn about each other, share get acquainted activities, as well as a light breakfast. We are thankful for the adults who have accepted this very special task. They have made a commitment to pray regularly for their confirmation student, pray for the parents as they nurture the faith of their child, and to maintain contact with them through occasional calls, cards, and emails. As Christian adults, we know the power of prayer. Through the Prayer Partner Program, we will share the knowledge with our young people.

Kings Kamp Teacher/Helper Meeting – Sunday, Oct. 1st

Please meet after church in the Sunday School room.



Kings Kamp Starts Wednesday, October 4th, 3:30-5:00

It is designed for 3-year-olds - 6th grade.

Those coming from other schools are welcome - come when you can! (3-year-olds enrolled in preschool, must be potty trained). The theme this year is "I Spy Jesus".

Registration forms are on table under bulletin boxes.

Snacks for Kings Kamp needed!

Home baked or purchased

No nuts please!

40 each week

If you would like to help with Kings Kamp in any way - please contact Betsy or Julie! Deb Mechler will be providing Good Shephard training on Wednesday, October 4th at 1:00 for teachers.

Come & Go Bridal Shower, Sat., Oct. 7th

for Rebecca White, bride to be of Nathan Ludwig at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Royal from 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

The couple is registered at Target & Amazon.



Scripture for October



Sunday Morning Practices for the Children's Christmas Program Start Oct. 8th,

8:30 a.m. With Breakfast Followed by Practice at 8:45

For all children, including those who cannot be at King's Kamp
All ages will practice together.

Dates of Practices:

October 8th and October 29th

November 5th and November 12th

December 3rd and December 10th

Christmas Program is Sunday, December 17th at 9:00 a.m.

Senior Choir begins Sunday, October 8th Approximately 10:50 a.m.

It's So Much Fun To Sing! How could anything be more fun? Please come and join us for the first time or perhaps you have sung with us before. We would enjoy having you share your musical gifts with all of us! Maybe you cannot join us every week because of little ones or big ones. Practice with us when you can. We will begin working on music for Christmas. I can't believe it is just around the corner. Come and celebrate God's gift to us!!!

Confirmation Class Starts October 8th, 11:00-11:45 a.m.

Regular confirmation classes will begin on the second Sunday of October, the 8th, a week after the Prayer Partner Breakfast. We will meet in Room 5 at 11:00, and go until 11:45. This will enable the pastor and kids to be at coffee hour for a half hour after worship. This year confirmation class will concentrate on Luther's Small Catechism.



Sunday School Starts October 8th

Children are dismissed after the Lord's Prayer or after communion on those Sundays. Following Sunday School, children will be walked to the front of the church for choir practice. Typically, all activities will be completed by 10:50. Our Sunday School offering this year will be going to Ingham Okoboji Bible Camp to help with cabin upgrades. **We are seeking volunteers to help with Sunday School.** Please consider signing up to help one Sunday per month! Curriculum is provided! Please see Betsy to sign up.

OCTOBER SERVICE ASSISTANCE

Acolytes

October 1	Daniel Boblit
October 8	Grant Meyer
October 15	Zander Burks
October 22	Khloe Combes
October 29	Daniel Boblit

Altar Guild

Connie Huberg	Connie Lundbeck
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Liturgical Colors

October 1, 8, 15, 22	Green
October 29	Red

Ushers

Nick Toft	Art Toft
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Scripture Reader Chair

Kent & Mindy Means

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council September Meeting Minutes



The Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Meeting was called to order at 7:02 P.M. on Tuesday, September 19th, 2023 with Devotions lead by Pastor Mark Wilms. Members present were Lisa Shiley, Pastor Wilms,

Mark Joenks, Connie Lundbeck, Brandon Swanson, Kathy Hegwer, Betsy Schoelerman, and Amanda Mugge.

Secretary's Report: The August secretary's report was reviewed and a motion to approve was made by Lisa. The motion was seconded by Kathy and carried by council.

Treasurer's Report: The August treasurer's report was reviewed and a motion to approve was made by Mark. The motion was seconded by Kathy and carried by council. A motion was also made by Kathy, seconded by Lisa, and carried by council to not renew a yearly subscription to the Hartley Sentinel the Everly/Royal News, a copy is kept at the Royal library should someone want to access the paper.

Youth Report: The youth report was given by Sadie. She is currently working on Bible studies for the youth group. Betsy shared that Pastor Deb Mechler is willing to come in on October 4th to train Sadie on the stories for King's Kamp and Sunday school, we thank Pastor Deb for her time. Currently Sadie is looking to hold youth group on Wednesday evenings.

Pastor's Report: The Women's Thank offering service is Sunday, September 24th. Pastor Mark will be gone on October 1st for his nephew's wedding, Pastor John will be filling in for the Sunday service. Confirmation classes will begin on October 8th. We currently have four confirmation students. October 21st there will be a funeral service for Brayden Huberg, the grandson of Greg and Tina Huberg.

Tech Report: The time of worship will be added to the Bethlehem Lutheran Church website.

Finance Report: No updates.

Outreach Report: The Harvest Festival will be held the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

Education Report: There will be a King's Kamp meeting on September 20th for the head leads followed by a teacher meeting on September 27th. King's Kamp begins October 4th.

Property Report: No updates.

New Business: No new business.

Old Business: Interviews continue for the Church secretary position. The Lavonne Schuknecht bequest has been received by Bethlehem Church. A Motion to apply the donation to Church flooring for the sanctuary and/or the fellowship hall was made by Kathy, seconded by Brandon, and carried by council.

Talking Points: A motion to adjourn was made by Lisa at 7:49 P.M., seconded by Connie and carried by council while closing with The Lord's Prayer.

The next council meeting will be held Wednesday, October 18th, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amanda Mugge, Secretary



BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

Erlinda Ott, Teresa Mohlis, Nancy Anderson, Roland Mortensen, Randy Roghair, Carly Fletcher, Bailey Houston, Taylor Kingery, Linda Yungbluth, Becky Smoot, Betsy Schoelerman, Ellie Thiesen, Connie Claus, Nick Logan, Michael Kamradt, Logan Thiesen, Larry Treinen, Anton Nielsen, Travis Santage, Lisa Swanson, Magan Tunink, Pamela Virelli, Jerry Larson, Lana Peterson, Andrew Thiesen, Melissa Allenback, Sheryll Lanning, Barbara Fletcher, Kent Thiesen, Cole Hickey, Dane Zittritsch, Camden Gunnerson, Ty Schoelerman, Luke Tolzin, Briar Peterson

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Jay & Carma Betz, 31 years; Rick & Jill Hickey, 39 years; Jared & Amber Leonard, 24 years; Alex & Shelby Blok, 3 yrs; Tyler & Mattie Prescott, 2 years



Prayers

For a safe and fruitful harvest.
May God give strength and joy to our workers in the fields as they take in a bountiful crop.

Communications

- **Pastor:** Rev. Mark Wilms
- **Church Office:** 712-933-2229
- **Pastor's E-mail:** pmamlw@royaltelco.net
- **Pastor's Cell Phone:** 507-251-8993
- **Pastor's Home Phone:** 712-933-5545
- **Lynn Wilms Cell Phone:** 507-251-9242
- **Secretary's E-mail:** blc@royaltelco.net
- **Secretary's Office Hours:** 8-5, Tues/Thurs/Fri
- **ebsite:** www.royalbethlehemlutheran.com
- **Kitchen and Hallway Phone:** 712-933-2244

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Bethlehem Lutheran Church is committed to making disciples for Jesus Christ through our thoughts, words and deeds.

OUR VALUES STATEMENT

We are a discipleship driven ministry, inviting all people to become disciples for Jesus Christ, nurtured by scripture and prayer. We are a community of caring and forgiving people who create a nurturing and Christian environment where everyone feels welcomed. Working cooperatively, we serve as a leader in partnering with families, businesses and other churches to maximize the outreach services available to the Christian community. We strive to serve as a cornerstone of the community.

October

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:15 Prayer Partner Breakfast 9:30a Worship & Communion 10:30a Fellowship 10:30 Kings Kamp Mtg for Teachers/Helpers	2 6:30p Bible Study	3	4 9:30a Bible Study 1:00p Deb Mechler providing Good Shephard Training 3:30-5p Kings Kamp	5 1:00p Altar Guild	6	7 9:30-11:00 Bridal Shower for Rebecca White, bride to be of Nathan Ludwig
8 8:30 Children's Breakfast & Christmas Practice 9:30a Worship 10:30a Fellowship 10:50a Senior Choir 11:00a Confirmation	9 6:30p Bible Study	10	11 9:30a Bible Study 3:30-5p Kings Kamp	12	13	14
15 9:30a Worship 10:30a Fellowship 10:50a Senior Choir 11:00a Confirmation	16 6:30p Bible Study	17	18 9:30a Bible Study 3:30-5p Kings Kamp 7:00p Council Meeting	19	20	21 10:30 Funeral Service for Braden Huberg
22 9:30a Worship 10:30a Fellowship 10:50a Senior Choir 11:00a Confirmation	23 6:30p Bible Study	24	25 9:30a Bible Study 3:30-5p Kings Kamp	26	27	28
29 8:30 Children's Breakfast & Christmas Practice 9:30a Worship / 5 th Gospel Sunday 10:30a Fellowship 10:50a Senior Choir 11:00a Confirmation	30 6:30p Bible Study	31				