We are very excited to be starting with THE STORY! It seems that you as a congregation are as well. On the weekend of August 24 & 25 Pastor Jeff had interested people fill out commitment cards. We had a tremendous return on these cards from all of you expressing your desire to be involved in learning how your story connects to God’s story!

On this same weekend, Pastor Jeff also had the children come up for a short message. He asked the children to take a blank piece of paper to draw what their world would look like if they were God. We assume that most of the kids did this, but we received one letter back on a piece of paper we handed out to one of the children that really put into perspective the amazing understanding of children and their faith.

“If I was God, I would probably not make the world. I would make a mansion and a place like Hawaii to live in. I would also make a family for myself. I would make my favorite foods. Life would not exist, Heaven would not exist, and love would not exist. **God’s way is better than mine. Mine would be a selfish, mean world.”

~Lily Wegner

This is a truly amazing testimony! This child understands that she dare not imagine a world where she is God, because it would be infinitely less great than what God has already created.

We desire that all people know how they fit into God’s incredible creation and His story. We desire that all people come to have an understanding like Lily’s, where they know that they have a loving, merciful God who has already provided us life, eternal life, and a loving relationship with us. We desire for you to know, as Lily said, that “God’s way is better than mine.” THE STORY is going to help us do just this.
“News articles may inform us. Novels may inspire us. Poetry may enrapture us. But only the living active Word of God may transform us.”

Charles Swindoll

“We must allow the Word of God to confront us, to disturb our security, to undermine our complacency, and to overthrow our patterns of behavior and thought.”

John Stott

“There a total other face of Scripture showed itself to me. Thereupon I ran through the Scriptures by memory, I found in other terms an analogy, what God does in us, the power of God with which He makes us strong, the wisdom of God with which He makes us wise, the strength of God, the salvation of God, the glory of God.”

Dr. Martin Luther

“We were given the Bible to humble us into realizing God is right and the rest of us are just guessing.”

Rich Mullens

Here are just a few quotes about the subject of our study this upcoming year. They are just a few words from people whom I really admire which speak on the power behind the Scriptures. I believe God inspired people over many years to write these words to all people a story about His plan and how He changes people along the way. How His Law and His saving gift in Christ can deeply penetrate into us and change us. And when such a message of power and goodness is received, how clearly we can see the direction we should be heading in life.

Please notice the refrain from the various quotes above concerning the power of the Word of God. They seem to echo what the writer of the Hebrews speaks of concerning the Word of God. It is said to be powerful, a word from which we get our word “energy”, or the ability to do work. The Word is described as penetrating, able to puncture and expose what is inside of us. God says His Word is discerning, able to penetrate deeply into our minds and thoughts so that everything is exposed. In verse 13 there is a term which is translated, “laid bare or exposed”. Here there is a wrestling imagery. The term can mean the grip a wrestler has on the neck of another wrestler where the neck is bent backward so the person’s face is looking upward or a victim’s head and neck before the knife goes through their throat for a sacrifice. That is kind of brutal sounding isn’t it? Such is the power of the living active Word of God.

I am sure you have your own favorite quotes on what the Bible says. My prayer throughout this next year that we spend in The Story you find God speaking to you, the members of your family, and your small group in a way that does effect you as you once again or for the first time see the time line, the chronology, and the purpose of His action and His message in His Word. And in doing so we see not only His power behind the story of our Salvation, but in doing so we can come up with our own quotes on how deeply God, in His Word, transforms for their good the people who receive it.

For the Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart and no creature is hidden from His sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of Him to Whom we must give an account.

Hebrews 4:12-13
MATURING
ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

**Sunday**
9:30—10:30am

**Breakfast Bible (Parish Hall)**
Pastor Jeff & Pastor Mark

9/8 The Beginning of Life as We Know It
9/15 God Build A Nation
9/22 Joseph? From Slave to Deputy Pharaoh
9/29 Deliverance

**First Place 4Health (Room 101)**

**THE STORY**
This will be a different study than the one most Small Groups are doing. It is an “optional” format without a DVD. Led by Carolyn-sue Wolf and Mary Lou Nichols

**Wednesday**
6:00—7:00 am

**Bethel Brother’s Bible Study (Room 101)**

**THE STORY for MEN**
A Bible study that goes along with THE STORY but developed just for men. Focuses on the role of men in God’s story and how to apply it to your story. All men are invited to attend. Led by John Lovell & Phil Zobrist

7:00pm

**Living Beyond Yourself**
By Beth Moore
Begins Wednesday, September 4
You can know the freedom of a life filled with the fruit of the Spirit. In this 11-week study, Beth will challenge us to develop the fruit by maintaining an intimate relationship with the Spirit of God. As we walk with God, He develops in us the fruit of the Spirit. A Spirit-filled life truly results in living beyond yourself. Call the church office (263-2417) or Berdie Remmele (263-7543) if you would be interested in joining the class. We will order a book for you.

**Friday**
6:30am

**Men’s Bible Study T.G.I.F. (Room 101)**
Please join us on Monday, September 23rd at 7pm at Eli’s Coffee Shop (on Jefferson in Morton) as we discuss this month’s book selection, One Thousand Gifts by Ann Voskamp. This is a New York Times best seller that beckons you to leave the parched ground of pride, fear, and white-knuckle control and abandon yourself to the God who overflows your cup. Any questions can be directed to Sheila Lovell @ 309-925-5347.

Monthly Scrapbooking Group
Room 101
**Friday, September 6th**
Scrapbooking Group
Open Workshops
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
First Friday of every month
Come for an hour or stay the whole time, but most of all come to fellowship with other scrapbookers and have fun!
For more information, contact Kathy Mulvey
# 309-251-9148
mulveys4@comcast.net

“Maintaining a Balanced Life”
Intouch Home Care Services, a program of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, is hosting a series of programs to help you stay “Intouch” with your needs as a caregiver and the needs of your loved ones. The programs are designed to inform, provide resources, and address concerns of individuals caring for aging parents and seniors providing care for their spouses. Part 2 will be presented at Bethel Lutheran Church on

**Thursday, September 19, 2013**
from 6:30pm-8:30pm
in the Parish Hall

The Program will include:
**Life Balance** - Physical, Social, and Mental Well Being
    Presented by:
    Intouch Home Care of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

**Safety at Home** - Fall Prevention
    Presented by:
    IPMR

**Elder Law** - Wills, Powers of Attorney, and Advance Directives
    Presented by:
    Tim Kirk, Attorney Heyl & Royster

Dessert and social to follow the program with presenters available for specific questions. RSVP’s are appreciated to help us plan for handouts and refreshments. Please call Paulette at 309-264-9229 or the church office at 309-263-2417.

To learn more call Paulette or visit www.LSSI.org/Homecare
Let’s Celebrate!

201 people have logged in to eBethel! We are so excited! Many Ministry Coordinators are discovering the advantage to using ebethel, so it is getting used more and more!

If you have never logged in to eBethel, please do. Simply go to our website, www.blcmorton.org and click on “eBethel” this will take you to the instructions to log in. If you are having any problems, please call Tammy Curtis #264-8534.

New email? New Cell Number? New Anything?

When you do log in to eBethel, YOU are able to update any of your information. You can do this whenever and wherever you want (or re-member). This will assure that the church has YOUR correct information at all times.

THIS is the place YOU are able to find people’s contact information, communicate with people in your groups, view the current church calendar especially when wanting to reserve a room. YOU are able to see what is already scheduled.

eBethel is a fabulous tool but only IF we all use it. Challenge yourself to get in there weekly. Please feel free to contact Tammy Curtis at anytime if you have any questions #264-8534.

BETHEL STAR ARTICLES DEADLINE

Please be reminded the article deadline for the October edition of the Bethel Star is Friday, September 20th. Folders will meet at 8:15am on Friday, September 27th to assemble. Extra copies are made available in the church foyer and can also be accessed on our church website at www.blcmorton.org Go to multimedia then file downloads. You can also read the Highlights there each week.

Are you on Facebook? So is Bethel! Like us on Facebook and get instant updates to what’s happening at Bethel, pictures, and notes from the pastors. You can post your stories about how God is working

SODA CANS

Please continue to bring your empty/washed soda cans in. A volunteer has stepped up to recycle them.

Bethel’s Monthly Blood Pressure Screening
Blood pressure screenings are held immediately following church services in the Church Library on:
Saturday, September 14
7:00 pm

Sunday, September 15
9:00 am and 11:45 am

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SODA CANS

Please continue to bring your empty/washed soda cans in. A volunteer has stepped up to recycle them.
NO TRADITIONAL HYMNAL SERVICES ON WEDNESDAYS IN AUGUST

*************************
Communion is served the first and third weekends of each month in all weekend services. Common cup is made available.
*************************

The E-Church — You can listen to Pastor Jeff’s or Pastor Mark’s sermons again anytime you want on Bethel’s website. Just go to:

www.blcmort.com
1. Right side of page click MEDIA
2. Left side of page click LAUNCH MEDIA PLAYER
3. Highlight message you want
4. Click on DOWNLOAD AUDIO
5. Click on OPEN
6. Sit back and listen
This is a great way to receive the word of God if you aren’t able to be in the pews. Help spread the word to college students, business travelers, the homebound, and those that might be looking for a church home.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

If you are involved in the ministries of Bethel Lutheran Church, hopefully you are thankful to be a part of a very active and growing church life. Please stay reminded to reserve any rooms through the church office and then be courteous to abide by the posted schedule outside each room and stay within its time frame. Thank you for your cooperation.

USED CLOTHING NEEDED

Any kind of used clothing or blankets that you would like to pass on to those in need, please drop them off in the barrel at Fortman’s Barber Shop located at 332 Detroit Avenue in Morton.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

07/25/2013 to 08/28/2013

MEMBERSHIP INS

Infant Baptism
Tenley Joy McConkey
Jillian Faith Powell
Joshua Paul Remmele
Avery Grayce Weghorst

Child Baptism
James Allen Renken
Jenna M. Samp
Troy Eric Samp

REJOICING MILESTONES

Birthdays 80+ Years
09/11 Doris Schulzki 83
09/15 Pat Owen 82
09/23 Hilda Hagemeier 82
09/27 Bob Reinken 84
09/28 Eleanor Meyer 86
09/29 Mary Ellen Brandt 87

Anniversaries 50+ Years
09/07 Don & Pam Meints 50
09/20 Ron & Barb Wahl 54

A complete list of member birthdays with addresses is outside the church office. Stop by and take a copy.
Youth Pumpkin Festival Cookout!
Stop at the Brown’s house (222 N. 2nd Ave. in Morton) any time between 5:00 and 7:00 PM on opening night of Pumpkin Festival (Wednesday, September 11) to get some food, meet with friends, hang out, and play some yard games. It’s just a couple of blocks from the festival. Call Mr. Brown at 263-2417 for more information.

Young Adult Ministry News
- **Care Packages** – The first care package event for our young adults will be on Sunday, September 22. Donations of pre-packaged snacks and goodies will be received in the church kitchen starting on September 15.
- **Addresses**—Please update the church office or your ACS account with current addresses for young adults so they will receive a care package from church.

High School Against the Flow Plans
- September 4 –ATF: The World Begins
- September 11 –Pumpkin Festival Cookout at the Browns
- September 18 –ATF: Service project
- September 25 –ATF: Released-Moses

Confirmation Begins
Bethel’s confirmation instruction for the 2013/2014 school year has begun. It’s an exciting year with new curriculum, new activities and new students. Here is what’s happening this month...
- September 4 –Class: *The Creed or Who is God?*
- September 11 –Cookout at the Brown’s
- September 18 –Class: *The Bible*
- September 25 –Small group leader meeting. Students have the night off.

Looking ahead—the annual CID lock-in at the Shirk Center at Illinois Wesleyan will be on November 8 & 9. Mark your calendar now.

If you missed orientation and would like to get signed up for Bethel Confirmation, call Scott at the church office at 263-2417.

First KIC night & Parent Info. Meeting September 4!
5th & 6th graders will meet in the church parish hall from 7:00-8:30 PM on Wednesday, September 4 for the first KIC night of the year. Parents will meet in the church sanctuary at the same time for an information meeting.

Bethel’s youth will be participating in the all-church study: The Story. KIC, Jr. High, High School and Young Adults will all be studying the same materials and topics as the rest of the church each week at Sunday morning Bible study. The high school group will also cover the topics on Wednesday nights at Against the Flow.
At the July 16, 2013 Foundation meeting, the Board authorized the formation of a **new Foundation fund**. This fund will be known as the **Queenwood Facility Interior Furnishings Fund** and is intended to complement the expected capital campaign for the new Queenwood facility and the efforts of the Queenwood Vision Team.

The money in this new fund will come from designated memorials and special gifts and is not intended to be used for “bricks and mortar.” The Foundation will not be implementing a campaign for this fund. Instead it is available for memorials and special gifts to be directed to the interior furnishings of the Queenwood Facility. Examples could include Baptismal Font, Narthex furniture, Nursery amenities, etc.

Questions about the above or the Foundation, contact Jim Bockhaus, Chairman, at 263-0068.

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**MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY**

Sounds of Praise (Bethel’s bell choir) and the bell quartet are both in need of one ringer for the September 2013 - May 2014 ringing year. Prior music reading is helpful, even if it was piano or band lessons many years ago. Rehearsals are Thursday evenings, 5:15-6:30, and ministry of music during worship services is once per month for each group. If you are interested in more information please contact Elaine Stien at 309-241-6003 as soon as possible. Our first rehearsal for the bell choir will be on Thursday, September 5th.

**WELCOME TO BETHEL’S CHOIR**

The Bethel Adult Choir’s schedule at the beginning of our new year is a bit non-traditional. The first performance will be on Sunday, September 15th. We will meet in the Parish Hall at 7:45am to review JE-SUS IS MY LORD. We will sing it in the usual Ministry of Music slot during the Early Service, and then in the Call to Worship slot for the Late Service.

The regular choir rehearsal will be on Thursday, September 19th at 7:00pm in the sanctuary. If you have any questions regarding the choir or would like to join us, feel free to call Joe Nohl (266-7224) or Miki Farwell (263-8278).
Prayer Team: A prayer team for THE STORY is being formed. This commitment will involve praying throughout the 31 weeks for the people who signed commitment cards for their participation in THE STORY. 268 people have signed commitment cards so far. You will pray at your convenience and where you are most comfortable. There will be no set times or places. If you are interested in being part of this team, Please contact Elaine Stien #346-4856 / elaine.stien@gmail.com or the church office #263-2417 / bethel@mtco.com.

You can connect to a Small Group at any time throughout the study. Call Church office # 263-2417 to get connected.

THE STORY main book is available on Kindle. We recently found this out and have been told it is $4. If you would prefer to have it on your Kindle, please feel free to return your book and if you had made a donation, we would be happy to return that to you.

There are 2 Community Groups. One is at Eli’s Coffee Shop on Tuesdays at 6:30pm and the other is at Red Rock on Wednesdays at 6:30pm. If you know of anyone who may be more comfortable attending a group in one of these settings, please invite them to attend. They are open to the community. Please contact church office #263-2417 with any questions.

Commitment Cards are available at Welcome Center if you are still interested in making a commitment to your participation in THE STORY experience.

Below you will find graphs designed to communicate to you the worship and giving trends of September’s Sermon Series “By Divine Design”
Dear Bethel Congregation … Please accept my deep thanks for supporting me with a scholarship to continue my education towards becoming a DCE. I really appreciate this gift and am looking forward to the coming year. It will be a great help to put the money towards my DCE and Theology books. I am excited to go out into the world soon and be wherever God calls me to begin ministry. Thanks again for all your financial aid, support, and prayers. I appreciate it very much! God’s Peace,

Michael Sinn

Lorrie and I would like to thank you all for making Dylan’s benefit at our church in Clinton such a great success. Whether you attended the benefit in person, sent a donation or prayed for its success, it was absolutely wonderful! We were able to raise just around $4,500 to help Dylan with his continued fight with Osteosarcoma. Thank you and may God Bless you all.

Sincerely,
Kim LeBaube

Thank you for all the prayers for my recovery and special thank you for making the trip on the day of surgery to pray with my family - you are appreciated! Your special ways and generous heart make a beautiful difference. Thank you so much!

Kay Curtis
(Todd Curtis’ mother)

Thanks to all who helped make the workday at Bethel School a great success! Especially the following young people:

Eli & Evelyn Mulvey
Grace, Maggie & Jack Brennan
Meagan & Madison Makuta
Kat, Sarah & Markus Bolens
Kamden Edwards
Zach Collins

Many hands helped to get a lot of work done and the school grounds look great!

Thanks again,
Bethel Church Trustees

We just want to send you a follow-up report about Vacation Bible School. We were blessed with 170 children this year. Attendance each night was between 137 and 151. We all had a fabulous time and learned some great Bible stories, songs, and life application, too! I have heard families repeating to their children to Stand Strong! What a great lesson for all of us. Thank you to the church for supporting this ministry!

Angie Stock
Emily Wegner
Rachel Chaffer

Dear Bethel … Once again we are being extremely blessed by God who has surrounded us with an amazing church family. We cannot express our thanks and gratitude enough to all of you. Many of you have sent Dylan and our family cards with such great messages. My brother and his friends had a benefit concert for Dylan which I am sure many of you donated yet again, and some even made the long drive to Clinton to attend it. We also need to thank Jan Davis and all the Bethel ladies who supported Dylan with the jewelry sale she had a few weeks ago. We thank everyone, too, who has come to visit us either at home or at the hospital and, of course, Pastor Mark and Kayla for the surprise visit in Memphis when all our craziness began again. Your prayers and love you have given our family help us so much to keep going on this journey that God has given us. We hope that Dylan will be done with his chemo treatments soon and that God will restore him back to complete healthiness. We are truly overwhelmed by all of the support we have been given by each and every one of you.

Yours, again, for all of your kindness.

Yours in Christ,
The Baileys

Thank you to those who baked or made monetary contributions for the Lutheran Hillside Village Ice Cream Social. The residents are most appreciative of the assistance that the event provides them.

Sandy Elsas
Linda Stidman
Bethel LWGP Representatives
There are two events planned in the next two months that will be available to anyone wishing to be involved with standing up for the LIFE of others. Starting September 25 through November 3, **40 DAYS FOR LIFE** will be Peoria's sixth Annual Fall Campaign. This is a prayer vigil at Peoria's abortion facility, National Health Care, 7405 N. University Street. It has been proven that this peaceful, prayerful, and effective pro-life campaign has been embraced by more than half a million people worldwide, saving 5,928 lives from abortion, led to the conversion of 69 abortion workers, and seen 23 abortion facilities close. Contact Karen Guth (309) 453-7493 or www.40daysforlife.com/peoria.

**HEART OF ILLINOIS LIFE CHAIN** will be held Sunday, October 6 from 2:30 to 3:30pm. This human chain will stretch from the abortion clinic to the Metro Center. The Peoria Area Lutherans for Life will be participating in this event and all members of Bethel are encouraged to be part of a quiet display of support for ALL LIFE. Any questions may be directed to Judy Honig www.secretary@mtcalvarypeoria.org or Deb Lekamp www.lakamps@gmail.com.

**E-Giving:** You can now make your contributions to the church through e-Bethel! With a few clicks of your mouse you can easily, consistently and securely donate to Bethel Lutheran. With e-giving you can manage how much you give, how you give, how often you give and to what funds you give at any time from the convenience of your home computer. No more checks to write or envelopes to fill out. You can also access your giving history and view/print your contribution statements. To start giving electronically follow these steps:

1. Log-in to e-Bethel.
2. Click the “Giving” button at the top of the page.
3. Click “Give Now” and answer the questions.
4. Click Continue.
5. Divide your contribution as desired among the funds listed.
6. Click Continue.
7. Select the payment method you prefer and put in the needed information.
8. Click Continue.
9. Review the terms of the contribution and if correct click process.
10. View your receipt and you are done.

You will also receive a receipt through your e-mail. If you have set up a reoccurring contribution and wish to change the payment method, fund distribution or amount you can click the “Manage Scheduled Giving” button under “Giving” and make the desired changes. As the contributions are processed through the system they will appear under your giving history which you can review at any time by clicking “My Giving History”. We are excited about e-giving and we hope that you will be too!

Questions??? Contact is Ruth Reinken at 309-266-7952.

Suggestions for ideas of upcoming events may be directed to:

- Eleanor Jacob 263-2506
- Shirley LeBaube 266-7216

You may want to reserve a weekend to provide altar flowers for our weekend services to celebrate a special event in your family’s life or to remember someone special. Contact Malena Rogers to reserve your date.
The lists below indicate the individuals that have committed an entire school year to volunteering to help support the Bethel church staff in sharing God’s Word and encouraging your child in their Christian education. There is a sign-up sheet located on the church library windows where we are still in need of HELPERS, and additional 2nd GRADE and KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS. Any questions or concerns may be directed to Pastor Mark at 309-263-2417. We look forward to a new school term of growing our children in the ways of our Lord!

Our Sunday School Coordinators are:
Kathy Mulvey mulveys4@comcast.net 309-251-9148
Angie Stock angie_stock@yahoo.com 309-202-5622
Nico Drake ndrake25@yahoo.com Cell: 217-766-6713 or Home: 309-263-2025

Preschool Teachers: Sarah Osterman and Nico Drake
(Kayla Anderson will be available most Sundays to help in class.)
Kindergarten Teachers: Christina Huthmann, Ingrid Huthmann, and Lydia Johnston
(We need one more kindergarten teacher.)
1st Grade Teacher: Linda Hall and Jen Schmidgall
2nd Grade Teachers: Angela Gilles (We need one more teacher for 2nd grade!)
3rd Grade Teachers: Angie and Jarrod Stock and Malena and John Rogers
4th Grade Teachers: Reenie and Jeff Hohulin and Miki and Todd Farwell

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HABITAT FOR HUMANITY …

Bethel ’s work dates for the Ornell ’s house located at 511 E. Seneca Place in Peoria are scheduled for:

Saturday, September 7th

We will need a maximum of 8 volunteers on this date.

We are looking for people to be added to an ON CALL LIST for Habitat for Humanity that would be available to work during the week days when needed. If interested in having your name added for either or both purposes, please all George Neal (256-1534) or Bob Gleason (339-8519). Thank you!

New Church Update

Recently the Queenwood Vision Team was formed to begin the process to consolidate our ministry on Queenwood Road. This Team has several subcommittees of which one is the Facilities Subcommittee. This committee’s members are Phil Zobrist (Chairman), Ken Newman, Scott Stidman, Stu Schmidgall, and Colin Burk. If you have any questions on matters dealing with needs assessment, architects, or construction please feel free to contact any one of them. The Facilities Subcommittee has met 4 times to get organized and to start the process of hiring an architect and builder. In the past two weeks the subcommittee has interviewed 4 local architect/builders. The subcommittee has decided to seek formal proposals from 2 firms so it can decide on one to recommend to the Voters in September. Updates will be placed in the Highlights as thing develop and the subcommittee encourages your comments. Be sure to put September 9th on your calendars so you can attend the Voters’ Assembly and take part in the process to choose a design/build firm.

LWGP DINER BOOKS

The Lutheran Women of Greater Peoria is offering the Peoria Dining Tour Coupon Book again this year. They are available in the church office during regular business hours until Sunday, December 15th. Coupons are valid until November 1, 2014. The cost is $30 with check made payable to LWGP. Ten dollars from each book will go equally to LWGP, the Lutheran Hillside Village, and Lutheran Social Services of Illinois. There are over 250 valuable BUY-ONE — GET-ONE FREE COUPONS VALID AT LOCAL AREA RESTAURANTS. There are 15 new restaurants this year and 95 restaurants total. These books make great birthday or Christmas gifts for family and friends. Last year we were able to divide $3,700 between two organizations. Thank you in advance for your support of this great fundraiser.
PUMPKIN FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR BETHEL NIGHT

Our church will be volunteering at the Pumpkin Festival again this year, but in a new area - the Pumpkin Grille Express Tent on Thursday, September 12th from 6-8pm. We need 25 volunteers in order to fill the shift. The Pumpkin Grille Express will be located at the Morton Community Foundation (the corner of First Avenue and Jefferson Street - Dr. Patton’s old office). They will be serving a new item, Pulled Pork Pumpkin BBQ sliders, among various other things that will be served in the Pumpkin Grille. Our Chamber rep is our very own Wayne Menold and our church reps are Frank and Rosalie Westerfield (231-3763). Please put your name on the sign-up sheet posted on the church office door and include your e-mail address and contact phone so you can be reached if any changes. Wayne will also be needing volunteers for the 4-6pm shift on that day if that is a better time fit for anyone. This always proves to be a great time of fellowship and a great opportunity to serve the Morton community.

AUGUST MISSION MOMENT

As I was assembling and painting crosses last week, I was thinking about what I was going to say to you during this ministry update. I noted that all of the crosses had some sort of flaw in them, like a knot here and there, and I thought how much they were like us. Christians are not perfect by any means. Like the crosses, we all have flaws. Oh, paint can cover up the flaws, but they are still there. God sent Jesus Christ to Earth to die on the cross for our flaws and to give us forgiveness through faith and hope in Jesus Christ. What better way to return some of that love, than by having a cross in your yard, to show others in our community, that we are Christians. The cross also gives you an opportunity to witness about Jesus to anybody that asks about the meaning of the cross. The crosses will remain around the circle in front of the church, through the Labor Day Weekend. Please take as many as you need, and remember that they are FREE!! Last year when I spoke to you we were approaching the 800 cross mark. Last week we assembled the 2010th cross. The method of spreading the word is working. Word of mouth and witnessing about your love for Jesus Christ, is what makes this ministry grow. Keep up the good work.

Dave & Nancy Westermann

2014 HAITI MISSION TRIP

Are you looking for a mission trip to attend where you can serve as the hands and feet of Jesus in another country? Maybe you just want to escape the cold, winter air of Central Illinois in January for something more tropical? Pastor Mark will be leading an international mission trip to Haiti from January 9-16, 2014. We can take anywhere from 12 to 30 people. The cost of the trip will be around $1,500, which includes all meals, housing, and airfare. During the course of this week we will construct an entire house and work on various other projects that need to be attended to at the Gift of God Orphanage in Port-Au-Prince. If you have any interest in attending this trip, or you would like more information, please contact Pastor Mark as soon as possible! Deadlines for this trip will begin in September!
Greetings and welcome to the new school year!
As with every new year, we enter with excitement and enthusiasm. The students are back in the building and things are off and running. Our sports teams also, are already in full swing and some, such as baseball, have already competed.

For those of you who were at our teacher introduction and commissioning services on August 11, saw many familiar faces and some new ones. We are blessed to have the strong, stable staff that we have, but we are also excited to welcome new teachers to our school family.

New teachers to Bethel this year are Allison Richter, Rachel Chaffer and Joan Rauch. Allison has relocated to central Illinois with her husband Ben from Arizona. Allison has 5 years in early childhood education as a preschool and kindergarten teacher and also as a preschool director. Allison will be teaching both of our pre-k classes this year.

Rachel is a member of our congregation who is taking her first steps into preschool teaching. Rachel and her husband Todd have two wonderful boys who we are blessed to have as kindergarten students this year. Rachel will be teaching one of our Monday/Wednesday 3-year-old classes.

Joan Rauch is not new to our school, but she is going to be stepping into one of our classrooms as a teacher for the first time this year. Joan has been a valued teacher aide for us, and she is also a veteran math teacher with twelve years experience at Christ Lutheran School in Indianapolis. Joan will be helping us out a great deal by teaching one of our 7th grade math classes.

Back at our school after a brief stint of retirement is Mrs. Sharon Rumbold. Mrs. Rumbold is an esteemed teacher who taught in our first grade from 1983 to her retirement in 2009. Sharon has graciously offered to teach our Tuesday/Thursday 3-year-old class and we are thrilled to have her back in the building!

As we progress into this year we want to keep our mission of helping our students know Jesus, grow in Jesus, and show Jesus to others. With that in mind, our theme for this year is Live IT!, based on Ephesians 4:29 & 32:

*Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. We appreciate your prayers and support as we move into a new and exciting journey this year!*

Excitement grows as we prepare for the start of another fun-filled school year. Teachers and students alike have prepared for what will surely be an action packed, stimulating, watch-me-grow kind of year. With home visits complete, rooms readied, and supplies bought, we are anticipating what will surely be one of our best learning years yet. We are very excited about our new teachers that have joined our staff … Rachel Chaffer, Allison Richter, and Sharon Rumbold. Our first unit “I Am Special” will focus on how God has made each one of us unique and different. We will also start with our color weeks and nursery rhymes. We ask for your prayers as we venture into this mission that we might always glorify God in our work.
Bethel Lutheran Ministries  
425 N. Missouri Avenue  
Morton, IL 61550  
(Return Service Requested)