



Bethel

by God, each other, family, friends and community

July 31, 2023

Bethel Lutheran Church, White Rock, SC



WATCH FOR GOD. That was a theme during vacation bible school a few years ago. I was reminded of this theme this week and thought it might be a good time to challenge myself to consider where I have experienced God lately. Matthew shows Jesus teaching about the kingdom of heaven/God throughout these parables. Often, we assume the kingdom is something far off. We believe we will get to the kingdom in the afterlife. Lutheran theology brings us a different truth. We believe the kingdom is here now too...If this is true, and it is according to the scriptures, I have been thinking of where I see God or experience God's kingdom here and now. Here's what I came up with:

-Bethel's four-week Bible study. We gathered and folks were genuinely excited to discuss the scriptures.

-Summer attendance. I do not like to get caught up in numbers. Still, I celebrate when we gather to worship God.

-My garden. Tomatoes are coming in and feeding my family. No horn worms yet.

-Fostering. We are currently caring for our fourth foster placement since late March. It is a joy and privilege to be part of their journey.

-Teamwork. You'll hear more about it soon. Just know, this Little Free Library has been a collaborative effort between numerous committees and individuals at Bethel and beyond.

I want to hear from you. Where have you seen or experienced God and God's kingdom lately? Keeping watching for God.

Peace,
Pastor Megan

AUGUST MEETINGS

Sunday, August 6

8 am: LMM

11 am: Prayer Group

Sunday, August 13

Blessing of the Backpacks

during Worship

Homecoming Planning

Meeting following Worship

Wednesday, August 16

1:30 pm:

Music and Worship

Committee Meeting



BLOOD DRIVE

Bethel Lutheran Church

2081 Dutch Fork Road White Rock, SC 29177



Monday, August 14, 2023
8:30AM - 12:30PM

To make an appointment, please scan the QR code on the left or visit www.RedCrossBlood.org and enter Sponsor Code: **BLutheran**

Pro Tips: Complete **RapidPass** & **HYDRATE!**

Schedule a blood donation appointment today:
Download the Blood Donor App | RedCrossBlood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767
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August 27 – 6:00 pm
Ice cream, bananas, and bingo!

Congregation Life and Youth are sponsoring a special event for everyone.

Build your own banana split and BINGO night at the picnic shelter (inside if it's horrible outside).

If you have any fun Bingo prizes to donate, bring them!



Harper and Maggie went to Lutheroad day camp hosted by Mt. Tabor in Little Mountain. Area congregations have been hosting this fun week of camp for years and Bethel joined in the fun this time. Harper and Maggie both had a blast and look forward to more camp in the future!

Photos: Harper and Maggie in their small groups doing skits about God's love. The whole group of kids singing songs at the closing.



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

8/3 Harvey Stone
8/3 Raven Shealy
8/12 Vicki Sanders
8/13 Luther Kibler
8/14 George Bitterwolf
8/15 Becky Smoak
8/17 Ingrid Cannon
8/19 Ebby Long
8/19 Sarah Cheesman
8/22 Robin Duncan
8/22 Blease Graham, Jr.
8/31 Gabriel Faust

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

8/5 Irene and Claude Leviner
8/7 Diane and Robby McCartha
8/9 Ginny and The Rev. Dr. Jim Aull
8/12 Frances and LaVone Derrick
8/18 Ingrid and Danny Cannon
8/24 Casey and Jason Derrick



**CONGRATULATIONS
to Aleena Stone & Drake Upchurch
on their marriage!**

Drake and Aleena were married by Pastor Megan with a small ceremony at Bethel on Saturday, July 1. Drake will be deployed at the end of July. We hold them in prayer as they start this new life together and as Drake is overseas serving our country.



Patsy McCartha, Harvey Stone, Grady Slice, Phil Wunder, Pebble Briggs, Vannie Toy, Sue Elliott, Russell Miller, Claude Leviner, Irene Leviner, Bertha McCartha, Paul and Bonnie Bates, Bella Raniszewski, Ronnie Taylor, Sheri Southworth, Teresa Abshire (Bertha McCartha's niece), Tracey Sikora (Richard Torres' sister), Sheri Johnson, Betty Rhodes (Donna Torres' sister), Drake Upchurch (Aleena Stone's husband- currently deployed), and Richard Chouinard.



Homecoming and Golden Age Sunday will October 8. Bishop Aibescher will join us. Mark your calendars.

September Save the Dates:

Sunday, September 10
Council Meeting following worship
& Sock Hop sock collection

Sunday, September 17
Lutheran Men Sunday

Saturday, September 23
Lutheran Men Barbeque



Altar flowers are needed for various dates for the remainder of the year to beautify our sanctuary. Please call or email the church office if you would like to sign up and see what dates are available.



Altar Flowers

**GAMECOCK LUTHERAN
Alumni & Friends**



St. Andrew's Lutheran Church
1416 Broad River Rd. Columbia, SC 29210

RSVP Appreciated!

Join us for an evening of BBQ, reconnecting with old friends and meeting new ones, and learning more about what's happening in campus ministry! Pastor Jesse and students will share stories about what's going on at Gamecock Lutheran.

There's no cost, but a free will offering will be collected to support the ministry. RSVP is not required, but is appreciated. You can do so at GamecockLutheran.com/bbq or by scanning this QR code.



Dear Bethel Women of the ELCA,

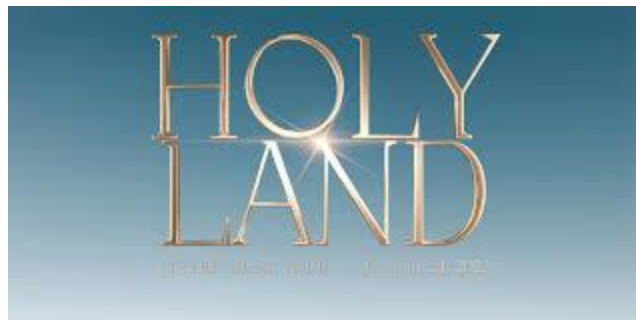
Thank you for supporting the ministries of Women of the ELCA, both in our South Carolina Synod and in the wider work of the Church, with your gift of \$100 for your Regular Offering, \$100 for Convention Project - Camp Kinard, \$100 for Convention Project – Tanzania, \$100 for the SC WELCA Nursing Scholarship at Newberry College, and for \$100 for the Wolves Pantry at Newberry College. Your faithful commitment benefits many people and makes a real difference in the world. Thank you!

Your generosity and support to the mission of WELCA is a blessing to many!

Thank you for all you do,
Virginia Herlong, Treasurer SCWELCA

We also donated \$100 towards the purchase of fans for the picnic shelter here at Bethel.

Love to all!
Bethel WELCA



Holy Land Travel Opportunity

"Five gospels record the life of Jesus. Four you will find in books and the one you will find in the land they call Holy. Read the fifth gospel and the world of the four will open to you."

-St. Jerome (347-420 A.D.)

Rev. Bobby Morris (Mt. Pilgrim, Prosperity and Old Testament professor at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary) will be teaching an "Advent Pilgrimage Into the Fifth Gospel" this December 4-16. Pastor Bobby has traveled and taught in the Middle East since 1998 and is excited to offer this travel experience at a special price and special time of year and with the special opportunity to travel and interact with some of our students from Southern Seminary in Columbia, as well as pastors and individuals from across the SC Synod.

Following is a link to the information/registration page online, where you will also find an orange button/link to download the full

brochure: <https://www.jcbs.org/tours/jc23120423m56135>

You may also contact Pastor Bobby at 803-271-2777 or bobbymorris@outlook.com