



# Bethel

by God, each other, family, friends and community

September 28, 2023

Bethel Lutheran Church, White Rock, SC

This month we will celebrate Homecoming at Bethel. Disciples, new and old to Bethel, will gather for worship. We will celebrate those in their “golden years” (though I’m told not everyone considers them golden). I’m amazed by the fact that we have a half a dozen or so members above 90 and one quickly approaching 100. We will enjoy fellowship and a feast and reminisce about the years of old. We will celebrate 261 years of worshiping God as part of the body of Christ. So much history fits into those years. I have been here just a little over two years and already feel like we have a lot of history together.

What I know about Bethel is you are a people who love your church and call this community family. You have great pride in the place you call your home congregation. Some of your ancestors built the former buildings and some built the one we worship in now. Many of you have taught Sunday school, served on council, maintained our property, taken care of one another, and kept this place going. Many of you stood up when the church faced conflict or trials and stuck through it remaining here today leading and serving Jesus in this place.

Church looks different now than it did 20 years ago when I was in Lutheran youth getting ready for college. The church certainly looks different than it did 50-60-70 years ago when many of you were growing up here. The world has changed. We have all changed too. Still, we gather to celebrate where we have been AND where we are going. We do not live in the past. Instead, we trust God and continue forward as church in a changing world.

My vision for Bethel continues to be for us to grow together in community as disciples of Jesus. No matter our age we are still learning new things. Luther is a firm believer that faith formation is lifelong. My hope is that you will consider how God is calling you to be part of this community. How is God calling you to serve? How is God calling you to nurture new and old friendships? How is God calling you to reconcile or heal from old wounds? What is God teaching you through this changing world?

My hope is that we can continue to celebrate where we have been and ask ourselves what the future looks like. Is there a mission or ministry you feel God tugging us towards? Is there a way to utilize our buildings or property so that others can experience the blessings of this place?

As we celebrate 261 years, may we never stop dreaming about ways we can serve God here in this place. May we remember all the things those who have gone before us accomplished, all the things you have already done, and may we look forward with hope and faith that God is still at work. Thanks be to God!

Peace,  
Pastor Megan



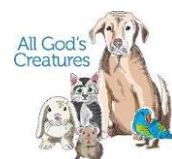
## HOMECOMING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8

Our guest preacher will be Bishop Aibescher. We will have a delicious lunch after worship provided by Congregational Life. Please invite your family, friends, and former members to worship and lunch.

**RSVP no later than  
October 2.**



**Blessing of the Animals** will be on Wednesday, October 4 at 6:30 pm on the front lawn. Bring your pets and invite your friends (animals or people). All of God's critters are welcome for this brief service and blessing.



**LUNCH BUNCH-** All are welcome to gather at Higher Ground on Tuesday, October 31, at 11:00 am for lunch and fellowship. Please RSVP to Pastor Megan no later than Thursday, October 26 so can make a reservation.



### Out of Office:

Robbin and Pastor Megan will be out of the office Monday, October 23 and Tuesday, October 24.



### BOOK GROUP

will meet on Sunday, October 22, at 1:00 pm. We will discuss *The extraordinary Life of Sam Hell* by Robert Dugoni. Our next meeting will be January 21 and we will discuss *Pope Joan* by Donna Woolfolk Cross. Join us for these discussion and for fellowship!



### LUTHERAN MEN FISH FRY

Saturday, October 28

### CAMPFIRE WORSHIP IS BACK:

On Sundays, October 29 & November 19, we will have evening worship and a hot dog roast at 6:00 pm under our picnic shelter.

Since October 29 is Reformation and nearing Halloween, feel free to dress as your favorite reformer or wear your costume. ☺



### NOISY OFFERING

will be held Sunday, October 29. Contributions will be made to Harriet Hancock Center located in Columbia, SC.



### OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/2: Kaye Derrick	10/3: Kirk Lowman
10/7: Carl Derrick	10/15: Clint Lowman
10/18: Casey Derrick	10/22: Donna Brown
10/25: J. Howard McCartha	10/29: Donna Torres



### REFORMATION AND LUTHER THEMED BIBLE STUDY & FELLOWSHIP SERIES:

Our summer Bible study series was meaningful to those who attended. One person suggested we have a quarterly series. Join us for our next series

**Wednesdays October 18, 25, November 1, 8.**

Each evening will include dinner and study. We will gather from 6-7:30 pm. Come to one or all!

We will have chili and bread the first night. If you would like to donate food or bring something to share, please let Pastor Megan know.



**Prayer List:** Patsy McCartha, Julie Allen, Harvey Stone, Grady Slice, Phil Wunder, Pebble Briggs, Vannie Toy, Sue Elliott, Claude Leviner, Irene Leviner, Bertha McCartha, Paul and Bonnie Bates, Bella Raniszewski, Ronnie Taylor, Sheri Southworth, Richard Torres, Sheri Johnson, Betty Rhodes (Donna Torres' sister), Glenda Brown (Ron Heater's cousin), Nicole Ganz (friend of Patrick George), Faiz Family (friends of Ron Heater and Patrick George), Daniel George (Patrick's brother), and Richard Chouinard.

**Currently deployed:** Drake Upchurch (Aleena Stone's husband), Brittney Bingham (Becky Smoak's granddaughter).



Save These  
**DATES**

**Sunday, Nov. 5 - All Saints Sunday**

**Sunday, Nov. 12 – Annual Meeting**

**Sunday, Dec. 24 at 4:00 pm—Christmas Eve Worship**

